

The Grosse Pointe Unitarian

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VOLUME LXII, Number 11
January 8, 2012

Editor: Tom Roberts
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January 15, 2012

10:30 AM

Our Work to Do

Reverend Shelley Page
Cynthia Luce and Andrew Hartz, Worship Associates

We will celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday by reflecting on Dr. King's visit to Grosse Pointe in 1968 and considering the work we are called to do today to realize his dream of justice and equality in our community and our world.

January 22, 2012

10:30 AM

James Luther Adams and the Five Smooth Stones of Unitarian Universalism

Reverend Karen J. McFarland
Jim Moir, Worship Associate

James Luther Adams was the leading Unitarian theologian of the 20th century, ending his career at Harvard and having among his students Christopher Hedges, who wrote *War is A Force That Gives Us Meaning*, in addition to many others. His encounter with early Nazism in Germany in the late thirties and the anemic response by church leaders there, led to his concern about such an occurrence happening in our own country. His observations about our faith tradition and both its strengths and weaknesses are still very timely.



Wonderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

The great thing about January is the sense of permission to begin again. We can begin again in our lives any day, of course, but the start of the New Year seems to give us that jump start. I find early January to be a time for reflection and intention setting. I've never been good at resolutions which feel like solemn vows with the potential to usher in disappointment, when I cannot fully live into them. I do, however, like to set an intention with care.

This year, I am so aware of the doomsday mania that is building up around the prophecies of world-as-we-know-it ending in December, 2012. I'm truly not too worried about a coming Armageddon. Our world is constantly transforming, and our lives today are indeed different than in past decades. As some would say, nothing is certain except change. So, in the midst of this unsettling time, how do I want to live? What is my intention for 2012?

I will tell you my choice. I will be living in 2012 with as much love as my heart can hold, letting more and deeper love inform my thoughts, words and deeds, accepting that I will not be in a state of perfection about this, but will be actively opening my heart to the healing beauty of love. I will savor the beauty of the earth and the wonderful people all around me, each and every day. I will work to alleviate the suffering of others, believing we can create a world more fair and more just. I will see what the year brings to me and endeavor to learn more about love in the process. And, yes, I plan to enjoy myself. I will be fully alive and deeply grateful for this mysterious gift called life.

I am living into this intention by engaging in some important self-care and professional development work right off the bat. I will be participating in a Clergy Well Being: Balancing Your Ministry, Renewing Your Life workshop with experts from the Alban Institute, an esteemed interfaith congregational life consulting group. All ministers need to step back once in a while to reflect on the balance between their ministry and their personal lives to assure health, wholeness and satisfying effectiveness. This workshop in Santa Barbara, California provides a wonderful intentional way to engage seriously in this reflection and I am looking forward to it. I am also looking forward to staying along the Central Coast with Myron for a few days after the workshop, savoring the beauty of the earth and engaging in an extended Sabbath time of rest, recreation and rejuvenation.

My trip will last from January 16-30. During that time, I will not be checking emails or keeping up with goings on here at GPUC. However, if an emergency arises, Candy Dunn will know how to reach me. I am already looking forward to my return to you, filled with fresh energy, new insights and stories to tell. May your 2012 get off to a strong, intentional start as well!

Blessings,
Reverend Shelley Page



Religious Education Lessons

Religious Education News

Happy New Year! Janus is the Roman god of time and January is named after this god. We are to look back and look forward but be mindful of the present. As you are in the present and looking forward to the future a valuable habit to acquire is reading. To obtain some wonderful parent/child material and to visit the online UUA Bookstore, follow the link through www.uua.org

The following books are some of my favorites:

- *Full Circle-Fifteen Ways to Grow Lifelong UUUs* by Kate Tweedie Erslev
- *A Child's Book of Animal Poems and Blessings* by Eliza Blanchard
- *Come Into the Circle* by Michelle Richards
- *The Little Book of Wholeness and Prayer* by Kimberly Beyer-Nelson
- *Questions for the Religious Journey* by George Kimmich Beach
- *Sunday and Every Day*, Editor, Patricia Frevert
- *Bless This Child* by Edward Searl
- *A Child's Book of Blessings and Prayers* by Eliza Blanchard
- *What if Nobody Forgave?* By Colleen M. McDonald

So, make a resolution to visit this website www.uua.org and check out the list of books. May this New Year bring you opportunities to read and share with your children. This may change your life and bring you closer to your journey with your children spiritual faith, Unitarian Universalism.

Religious Education Lessons:

Lower and Upper Elementary students will study Buddhism on Sundays, January 15th and January 22nd.

Junior students will be studying Abraham's Faith Tree on Sunday, January 15th. Rebuilding the Tabernacle; Exploring Judaism will be the lesson on Sunday, January 22nd. The juniors will also be receiving their Church Pal profiles in the mail to be completed and returned to Mrs. Artis.

Senior students on Sunday, January 15th will attend the church service and then join Laurie Arora in Room 2 to discuss the service. On Friday, January 20th, the seniors are asked to attend the *Circle Circle Dinner* with their families and bring friends to the dinner. On Sunday, January 22nd, students are asked to attend the church service.

Dates to remember:

Circle Circle Dinner, Friday, January 20th

RE Committee Meeting, Sunday, January 29th at 9:15 a.m. in Room 1

Spaghetti Dinner, Sunday, February 12th

-- Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

Topics for Reverend Shelley's future Forums include Immigration, the Environment, the Library Millage Vote, Mental Health, and a Unitarian Universalist common read discussion. If you would like to help with any of the Forums, please let me know.

New UU Classes led by Reverend Shelley Page are held at noon on Sundays, January 15th, February 5th, February 19th, March 4th, and March 11th. A light lunch is provided for a \$3 donation. Children's lunches and child care will be provided at no charge. Classes are limited to those that have pre-registered.

The Writing Workshop, facilitated by Mary Beth Smith and Pat Gillis, will meet in the church library from 5 until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 16th. Bring your writings for discussion and receive helpful hints or just come and listen. If you require child care, please make arrangements with Julie Artis in the RE Wing ahead of time.

Sunday Morning Meditations led by Zachariah Bobby meet in the Religious Education wing at 9:30 a.m. Child care is provided starting at 9:25 a.m. Zach asks that you bring comfortable clothes, an open mind, and a cushion.

The Women's Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, January 19th, at 5:30 p.m. at the church, to discuss *Moloka'i*, by Alan Brennert. Kelly Boll will lead the discussion. *Moloka'i* is the story of a young Hawaiian girl who is quarantined for leprosy, and discovers that her life has just begun. Refreshment Assistant: Karin Garrett

The Grosse Pointe Library Millage Vote proposal will be presented after church on Sunday, February 15th by Mary Beth Smith and Ed Frederickson. Ed is a millage committee member, who will offer facts and figures in order that we may make an informed decision, when we vote on Tuesday, February 28th.

The UUA's Green Sanctuary Program is about *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*, our Seventh UU Principle. If you are interested and know of speakers that could participate in a forum series about greening our church and taking care of the earth, please contact Jill Crane or Andrew Hartz. On Friday, February 17th, at 7p.m., we will begin our journey into being a Green Sanctuary with the showing of the documentary, *Food, Inc.*, which criticizes the food industry for putting unsafe food on our tables. We will view the film then have a discussion about it afterward. The following reviews shed light onto the seriousness of the health risks that we face:

"After you see what IBP is doing to cattle, what Tyson is doing to chickens, what farmers are doing to us and what Monsanto is doing to farmers in the new documentary *Food, Inc.*, you may never eat again." ... Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel

"It might Change Your Life." ... O - The Oprah Magazine

"This does for our eating habits what former Vice President Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* did for global warming." ... John Griffin, Montreal Gazette

"A mind-boggling, heart-rending, stomach-churning expose on the food industry." ... Amy Biancolli, San Francisco Chronicle

Effective Parenting programs are being offered to GPUC members through CARE of Southeastern Michigan. Each of the following 3 programs is 8 sessions long, is given at our church and is free: Early Childhood (under 5 years), School Age (5-12years), Teenage (12-18years). Participants will need to purchase a book called "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting" which costs between \$12 and \$17 each. Please contact Jill Crane or Julie Artis if you are interested in these programs.

The Men's Book Discussion Group has not met in some time, so if you are interested in re-forming the group, please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact John Artis.

Child Care is available for all Adult Religious Enrichment Programs. Please sign up on the appropriate sheets in the foyer and see Julie Artis in the RE Wing to make arrangements.

Attending Adult Religious Enrichment events enlightens us and broadens our sense of fellowship

Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment

Meet Reverend Karen McFarland

Rev. McFarland graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry and has served churches in Logan, UT, Brighton, MI and Woodstock, IL. Her major field of study is feminist theology and she has been lucky enough to have studied with most of the major thinkers and writers in this field. Before becoming a UU minister, Karen was a professional musician, playing and teaching viola and violin. She free-lanced with many orchestras and chamber music groups all over the country. Now no longer playing, she keeps her hand singing in the Gaia International Women's Chorus, the Ann Arbor UU Church Chalice Singers and the Ann Arbor Women's Chamber Chorus. Rev. Karen lives in Dexter, MI on the Huron River and enjoys watching the wildlife and passing of the seasons as they effect her yard and ecosystem.

Rev. Karen is married to a forest ecologist and has adult twin sons, one living in Ann Arbor and the other in Royal Oak. She is currently writing her autobiography with the idea not of producing a great work of literature, but in the hope that interesting stories can be handed down to her descendants who may not have any idea what it was like to live before television, space travel or texting.

One Last Opportunity to Update Your CPR Skills

Beaumont Medical Transportation EMS technicians will return to the church for one more class on this life-saving skill. You never know when you might be able to save a life. At church, at school, at work or at home, using CPR is a lifesaving skill that we should all learn. This is an especially good opportunity for babysitters to learn CPR, and teenagers are welcome too. In addition, our instructors will demonstrate how to use the church's AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) device. The class is FREE. If you have questions, see or call Jo Ann Kelly (313) 821-0467, or Candy Dunn (313) 881-0420 in the church office to sign up. The class will be held in the church gallery on Tuesday, January 17th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

-- Jo Ann Kelly for the Care Committee

Pathways to Membership Workshop

On Saturday, February 11th from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., a gathering for potential new members will be held at the church. Reverend Shelley Page and volunteers from the Membership Committee will conduct the workshop with the purpose of providing concrete steps to membership. The agenda will include: sharing stories of spiritual paths and backgrounds, giving information about “growing, and being an explorer in religion”, understanding the UU history, principals and purposes, as well as GPUC expectations for time, talents and stewardship. Lunch will be served. Please call the church office to sign up (313) 881-0420.

-- Jane Hoey, Chair, Membership Committee

How's Your Hearing?

Did you know that GPUC has hearing devices which are dedicated to our sound system? These devices are small, easy to use and, with adjustable volume control, amplify all the sound that comes through our sound system. They are available at the greeting table where name tags are kept. They do require a small ear button (either single or for both ears). We invite you to try the system with an available loaner ear button. If you like it and wish to continue using it, we ask that you buy your own ear button for \$15 and keep it with you. If you already have a hearing aid, it is necessary to remove it when you use this device. Simply pick up the device and give it a try. If you have any questions call me at (313) 886-7888.

-- Bob Dupuis for the Membership Committee

GPUC Alliance Luncheon

It's FREE - well, almost! Only a dollar (\$1.00) lets you attend the January GPUC Alliance luncheon on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Our speakers will be ... us! If you've read a good book lately, seen a movie or ballet, had a baby, taken a trip or have a sorrow or joy that you'd like to share with friends, then bring yourself, your story (or just your ears to listen), and a bag lunch on Tuesday, January 10, at noon in the Annex. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided by the Alliance. Reservations are being accepted by Shirley Reeves (313) 822-4651 any time. Don't forget to bring your lunch and a dollar for tea or coffee and dessert!

-- Phyllis Reeve for the Alliance

Matt Watroba and Robert Jones Concert

The Outreach Committee of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church is sponsoring a concert performance by *Matt Watroba* and *Robert Jones* on the evening of Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16th, at 7:00 p.m. Our chapel is a perfect venue, offering the intimate atmosphere and excellent acoustics that will make this event very memorable. Matt and Robert will present a show with broad appeal for all, even the most sophisticated aficionados of folk and blues. Rest assured, you will not be hearing those tired 60's folk songs. This is material that will surprise with its freshness and timeliness. You can expect to be entertained by a virtuoso performance that includes laughter, inspiration, some awe, and perhaps a little enlightenment. We have set the ticket price as low as possible at \$10.00, and sales are open to the public, so you are advised to buy or reserve your seats as soon as you can. Ticket reservations are available by emailing Larry Peplin at concert@gpuc.us, or by stopping at the concert ticket table in the foyer after services. Ever since their first meeting over twenty years ago, *Robert Jones* and *Matt Watroba* have been musical partners. Their relationship started when they hosted "Folks Like Us" and "Blues From the Lowlands", back to back radio shows on WDET-FM in Detroit. During the twenty-plus year run of those programs, they started performing together and, in doing so, discovered a friendship based in mutual respect and a love for traditional American music. Over the years, Matt and Robert have traveled the nation extolling the virtues of and performing the music they loved. For Matt and Robert, American Roots Music (Folk, Blues, Spirituals, Work Songs, etc.) is the music that America and the world have in common. It is a genre that reflects history, social change, migration, hopes and dreams. It is music that is rich and diverse, directly outspoken, and powerfully moving. As talented as they are individually, Matt and Robert form a terrific synergy when onstage together. This is an opportunity that you should not pass up.

-- Larry Peplin for the Outreach Committee

Unique Opportunity to Purchase Hymnals in Honor of People Special to You!

As you may know, the Church is acquiring new, contemporary hymnals, which we will use in addition to our current hymnals. The new songbooks are titled "Singing the Journey." The choir has been singing selections from these new books for more than a year, so you have heard some of the music we will all soon be able to sing together. Some of the money for the new hymnals was raised at our Auction in November. However, there will be a campaign to raise additional needed funds, from Sunday, January 15th through Sunday, February 12th. The hymnals cost \$20 each.

Purchasers can dedicate the hymnal(s) they buy in honor or memory of loved ones. Bookplates will be placed in these hymnals, commemorating the dedications. Checks should be made out to GPUC, with "Hymnals" in the memo line. We hope to dedicate and begin using the new "Singing the Journey" songbooks on Sunday, March 11. Order forms will be in the Order of Service on January 15 and thereafter, and can be mailed to the Church office, with check attached, in care of Candy Dunn, Church Administrator. Hymnal orders/purchases may also be made in the lobby before and after church services, beginning on Sunday, January 15th. If you have any questions about purchasing/dedicating a hymnal, please contact Vicky Keating (313) 567-4601 or Candy Dunn (313) 881-0420.

-- Vicky Keating for the Hymnal Purchase Committee

Help the Ravendale Community Center with a CLICK of a button

Shazaaam Marketings 10 year Anniversary, Million Dollar Challenge is gifting 10 worthy 501c3 charities with \$100,000 each, in pro bono marketing support, public relations and social media services to help charities spread their messages, raise funds and mobilize supporters.

Ravendale Community Center is one of the nominees eligible to become one of ten recipients to receive this grant. Ravendale is located on Harper Avenue in Detroit, not far from the Grosse Pointes. They are dedicated to revitalizing and maintaining the local community's self determination. Current activities include:

- Job training and referral programs
- After school programs for school-age children
- Seniors programs
- Personal development programs

In order to make this grant a reality, Ravendale Community Center needs your vote as well as that of your friends and family. Please vote at www.shazaaam.com/contest/index.php and share this link with others. Voters may only vote once, and you must vote for 10 charity choices - one of them being Ravendale - from the website list. Gifts like this have helped organizations raise millions of dollars to increase their visibility and mobilize thousands of supporters. Voting lasts through Sunday, January 22, 2012, so please make your vote count for Ravendale Community Center. Thank you for your support!

-- Kathleen Ruhl for the Outreach Committee

2011/Crossroads East Giving Reaches New High

We're happy to report that once again, we have set a new record by giving 13,044 pounds of food to Crossroads East in 2011. This topped our 2010 total of 10,204, by 2,840 pounds. Here are a few highlights: We continue to be probably the largest supplier of fresh protein foods, giving 294 dozen eggs and 150 gallons of milk this year. Our weekly bread pick-ups from Kroger on Saturdays (46 in all) collected 3,631 pounds of breads and baked goods. Two 'special collections' held by the Grosse Pointe Music Academy at their concerts brought in another 465 pounds of canned goods. The giving spirit at GPUC seemed to become an 'epidemic' this year with cash and check contributions, as well as canned goods dropped off on First Sunday Food Sharing days. In addition, a very special thank you goes to our generous and compassionate team of Resale Shop Volunteers who, in the fourth quarter of the year, put us on their radar and provided significant contributions that played a major role in those final 'over-the-top' pounds we were able to purchase. Our food-sharing model was also presented at a conference, and distributed state-wide to all UU congregations. You may view the document by clicking on the blue link FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARING at the bottom of the "*Community Outreach: Our Projects in Action*" page on our website. SO...where do we go from here? UP! We're hopeful that at this time next year, we will be submitting news that once again we have broken our old record, as we have done for six consecutive years. The generosity and caring that exists at GPUC makes that possibility highly probable. THANK YOU, everyone, for doing your part to make this possible, and for your trust in our efforts to move forward in your name and make the most of what you have given.

-- Janet and Larry Peplin for Crossroads East Outreach

Meeting for the Clark and Merit Schools Committee

On Sunday, January 22, 2012, the Clark and Merit Schools Committee will meet after church to report on the tutoring programs at the schools. All interested members and friends are welcome to attend. There are still a few vacancies for those who are interested in tutoring. For further information, contact Susie Boynton at (313) 885-0824 or Jo Ann Kelly at (313) 821-0467.

-- For the Outreach Committee

'Twas the Season of Service and Giving

The generous donation of time, goods, and money from the Grosse Pointe UU's created a wonderful holiday season for many Detroit families and children. Twenty-three families and the Resale Shop donated enough children's books to give Clark and Merit Schools each five big boxes of wonderful books. Also, the schools were thrilled with the extra large gift bags of mittens and hats, and they distributed them right away to children who had none. Our thanks go to the twenty-nine families for their donations. The Ravendale Community Center was astounded by the donation of 37 overflowing Christmas baskets and they were profoundly grateful. We purchased 42 hams, 40 loaves of Pepperidge Farm hearty breads - they added a full box of fish-shaped sandwich breads that children like - from the \$1,864 in cash contributions. A special thanks to Janet Peplin, Super Shopper, who used some of the cash to purchase eight extra Christmas baskets in addition to her own and 15 hams. The 16 volunteers who received, checked, tagged, and delivered the baskets helped make the project a resounding success. To top it off, the Outreach Committee voted to donate the remainder of the money--\$801.49--to the S.A.Y. Detroit Family Health Clinic for Homeless Children sponsored by Mitch Albom (www.saydetroit.org or 313.993.4700). We helped many people have a happier holiday!

-- Susan Boynton for Outreach

Newsletter Schedule

The second newsletter for January will be published on the 22nd. Publication dates for February are the 12th and 26th. The editors always appreciate receiving your articles several days in advance of the publication dates. The email address for submitting articles is newsletter@gpuc.us.

-- Tom Roberts for the Editors