

# UUTC UPDATE

APRIL 15th, 2016

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## GETTING UNDERSTANDING by Rev. Dr. Paula Gable

Sunday, April 17th at 9:30 and 11:00am — *coffee time between services*

We read in the Hebrew scriptures, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Proverbs 4:7." In fact, all of the world's major traditions (and most of the minor ones) proclaim that wisdom is an end goal of the religious life. Sometimes, we find teachers in strange and unexpected places, and their impact can be life transforming. We will explore how one "gets wisdom" ... only to find that her ever-present companion is compassion.

## BETH WOOD & ROBBY HECHT TONIGHT @ 7:00PM!



Complete **calendar** of events [HERE](#).

### NEXT WEEK at UUTC

**Chair & Wall Yoga**— Mon 4/18 @ 3:15pm

**Morning Meditation** — Tues 4/19 @ 7:00am

**Men's Group** — Tue 4/19 @ 9:00am

**Dream Group** — Tue 4/19 @ 2:30pm

**SMART Recovery** — Tue 4/19 @ 6:00pm

**Eclectics Jam** — Wed 4/20 @ 9:30am

**Being Group** — Wed 4/20 @ 1:00pm

**Positive Parenting** — Wed 4/20 @ 5:30pm **RSVP**

**Morning Meditation**—Thurs 4/21 @ 7:00am

**Women's Sharing** — Thurs 4/21 @ 6:15pm

**Living the Tao** — Fri 4/22 @ 10:30am

**Vitality Yoga** — Fri 4/22 @ 1:30pm

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES . . . COME ON!

The Stewardship Team is hosting a Congregational Celebration on **Saturday, April 16, from 3-5 pm** at UUTC. The purpose of this event is to thank Members and Friends for so faithfully supporting the mission of UUTC. Fiscal year 2016-17 offers us a particularly significant opportunity to shape UUTC's future, because it is a year in which we will recruit and hire our new settled minister. Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to submit your pledge.

**Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend, regardless of whether or not you have submitted your pledge.** There will be refreshments, music, door prizes, and a full skit by the "UUTC Players". Among the door prizes is a 16"x24" photo on canvas by R.K.



Young titled "Meditation Point," which many will recognize as a favorite spot from The Mountain Retreat in Highlands, NC.



The Stewardship Team has worked very hard at organizing and implementing a successful campaign this year. The team members would like to celebrate with you. Join Us!

## GAME NIGHT! • FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH, 5:30PM

Mark your calendar for April 29th's Game Night! Hot & cold options for our meal this month, along with whatever delectable somethings are brought by others! This is just a time to have some fun and enjoy each other. Bring your favorite game! Childcare provided. Please sign up at the front counter so we know how many sandwiches to prepare. If tea or water is not attractive, please feel free to bring the beverage of your choice.



If you (or your child) has food allergies, please bring something you know is safe to eat.

# UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

## WE DON'T HAVE TO SAY A THING (OTHERS DID IT FOR US):

"Desmelik is a prime example of the stream of talent that is creating vibrant and vital music that needs greater exposure." -*lonesomehighway.com* "It should be clear by now, the music of Dave Desmelik deserves much more attention. This American singer-



songwriter indeed writes not only roots music of a high level, but also writes roots music that sounds different from his peers, yet remains in this genre with an eye for tradition." -*dekrentenuitdepop.blogspot.com (Netherlands)* "Deep Down The Definition, the seventh solo effort from the Brevard, NC based singer/songwriter, is a remarkable collection of 14 new tunes, and it cements Desmelik's status as one of the gems of Western North Carolina's flourishing Americana scene." *Joshua Cole - Mountain Xpress*

"[Music]... is my therapy and if there is a god, then he or she or whatever it is knows I need this therapy. The power of music grabbed me early in life and I am so glad it has not let go of me." — *Dave Desmelik*

Intrigued? Join us on **THURSDAY, April 28th at 7:00pm**. Suggested donation: \$15.00. Come support this talented musician!



## FELLOWSHIP ON TAP • THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST @ 5:30PM

Ann Rabb has endorsed the CHUBurger. Need we say more? Come enjoy the **Oskar Blues** **ambiance** and food truck cuisine with a few of your favorite people! We had a great crowd last month, and a good time was had by all—DESPITE the

CHUBWAGON being down for the day. We ate lots of hors d'oeuvres (peanuts) and finally figured out **we**



**could order pizza.**

Find out who the old movie nuts are, who the root beer drinkers are, who the beer snobs are....Come join us for some refreshing conversation and fun!

## UUTC IS A LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER. EXACTLY WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

“To us, paying a living wage is a moral issue. Living wages are part of a broad effort to end poverty and to create a more just and sustainable local economy.” — The Living Wage Coalition of Transylvania County (LWCTC)

[Data compiled by NC Justice](#) shows that 28.8% of children in the county lived in poverty in 2014. Fully 52% of renters in this county spent 30% or more of their income towards rent, on average, from 2010 to 2014. These statistics are just a taste of the full report—but clear examples of why Living Wages are so **important to people who support justice, equity and compassion in human relations.**

LWCTC meets monthly on Thursdays here at UUTC. This is one way in which we support this initiative. More importantly, however, is that we put our money where our mouth is by compensating our employees at a Living Wage level\* for Transylvania County. (*\*Able to live without public assistance.*)

This is possible ONLY because of the commitment of Members and Friends who live their Principles through fiscal support of UUTC. Thank you for helping UUTC be a beacon in Transylvania County.



# STEWARDSHIP

## CONVENIENT, FRUGAL ONLINE GIVING

UUTC offers an electronic donation service through the secure payment processor Vanco. You may make a one-time donation or recurring donations on a schedule of your choosing. Vanco can process your donation through your bank account or use a credit card for convenience and points! **Over a third of the congregation** has chosen to donate through Vanco – you can also; click [GIVE](#) on our website [uutc.org](http://uutc.org) and follow the simple directions. Dave Roberts, the UUTC Treasurer, will be happy to assist you. Click the icon above to take you to the site.



Finally, don't forget that we have in-house experts if you would like to make a gift of stocks, or if you would like to consider UUTC in your planned giving. Talk to **Dave Roberts**



about stocks, or **Jim Null** if you would like more information on planned giving, especially in your will. And thank you for helping make UUTC stronger every day!

## [PLEDGE](#) for 2016-2017 — Keep your life simple!



### THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS SOUP LUNCH to benefit the Bread of Life Community Kitchen will be held on **Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 2 PM** in the

Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church. Diners will be invited to pick out a hand-crafted bowl donated by a local potter to take home after the soup lunch. Cost is \$18 for soup and a bowl, or \$5 for lunch only. Live music will accompany the event. Come have a good time for a good cause!

**EMPTY BOWL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We need a few good table bussers, dish dryers, and more for the Empty Bowls Soup Lunch. We'll need help unpacking, washing, and organizing bowls on Friday, April 15 beginning at 3:00 pm. We'll need folks in time slots from 9-11 am, 11 am-1 pm, and 1-3 pm on Saturday, April 16 to help set up, serve, and clean up. If you're interested, please contact Lauren Sims-Salata at 883-9025 or [lsims@brevardfumc.org](mailto:lsims@brevardfumc.org). It's great fun for a great cause!

# SOCIAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

## SOCIAL ACTION OUTREACH FOR APRIL—THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

The mission of [The Children's Center of Transylvania County](#) is to create, maintain and operate a center that coordinates a multidisciplinary approach for services for children who are at risk of or victims of neglect and abuse in Transylvania County. The number of children in crisis in this county is staggering. The Center partners with the police, sheriff, schools, the Department of Social Services and the health department to provide counseling for children and their families, offer a safe visitation site for children going through the court system, children in foster care and children in need of the basic necessities of life. They are the only agency in Transylvania County that does not receive city, state or Federal funding.

## SUPPORTING WITHOUT SPENDING, PART I (2nd Edition)

Social Action isn't just for people with larger amounts of disposable income. In fact, as Unitarian Universalists, supporting the causes we believe in *is spiritual practice*.

With the advent of **TEAM MEETING NIGHT**, the Social Action Team is now available to people who may not have been able to participate before. If you'd like to be more involved "hands on," this would be a great place for you to plug in and provide feedback on what is important to you. Think hard about your values—you will be happiest when you plug into things that are truly important to you. If Social Action is not currently working in a direction you would like to support—maybe they need **You!**

Get your creative juices flowing—what do you want to see in this community? Fewer invasive species in the forest? A cook out for the homeless to attend? What would you enjoy doing? Talk it up!



## SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

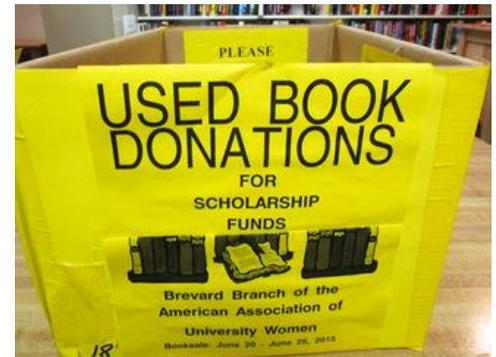
Our Social Action Team is discussing the refugee issue and reports the following: Spartanburg is the nearest city relocating refugees. We understand that Asheville is being looked into. Financial support and providing packets to help folks get started are needed. Our own UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) partners with several organizations through Refugee Crises Relief Fund and RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services). UUSC has a four star top rating from Charity Navigator. If you'd like to know more about the Syrian refugee crisis and how UUSC is involved, click [HERE](#).

## SUPPORTING WITHOUT SPENDING, PART II (UPDATED!)

Two ongoing ways in which you can help local education are the **Box Tops for Education** program and the **AAUW Book Drive**. Box Tops for Education can provide up to \$20,000 per year to eligible schools based on the collection of these coupons. UUTC gives our collection to either BES or BMS.



The AAUW Book Drive raises funds for scholarships for women who attend our local colleges—Brevard College and Blue Ridge Community College. The local chapter has been conducting this drive for 47 years—a real history of support for education. Last week you generated **“the biggest haul we have ever gotten.”** **KUDOS to all those who brought books!**



## SORTING OUT REFUGEES FROM MIGRANTS

*By Susanne Rolland for the Social Action Team*

In recent years almost 60 million people have been forcibly displaced globally, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This has created worldwide crisis, with response thus far inadequate to the challenge. UNHCR and independent relief agencies addressing the problem are inadequately funded for coping with a displacement this large. How we might help through well-focused contributions will be discussed in a second article. Today we concentrate on sorting out **refugees and migrants**.

Refugees and migrants are terms used almost interchangeably in much of the media, but it is critical to understand the difference. **Refugees** are persons fleeing armed conflict or persecution. **Migrants** move to better their lives, join family, seek education, [etc.](#) They are free to return home. The great waves we have watched pouring into Turkey, Greece and Europe are refugee driven, but there are migrants among them. Our neighbors to the South who come to our borders are mostly migrants, but there are refugees among them, fleeing repressive governments and drug violence.

According to the Geneva Convention on Refugees, a **refugee** is a person who is outside his/her country because of well-founded grounds for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Refugees are defined and protected in international law. They may be called status seekers until considered for the status of

## ***SORTING OUT, CONTINUED***

refugee by the country where they formally make a claim for sanctuary or right of asylum.

As UNHCR points out, countries develop their own immigration laws and procedures to deal with refugees, but countries have responsibilities toward anyone seeking asylum at their borders that are defined by international law as well as national law. Local politics often complicate meeting international responsibilities. The proportion of asylum seekers who are rejected varies from country to country and year to year. If they do reach a hoped for destination, as [Wikipedia](#) informs us, "some governments are tolerant and accepting of onshore asylum claims; other governments arrest or detain those who attempt to seek asylum, sometimes while processing their claims."

A refugee camp or nearby city is often the first refuge for the fleeing. Many are neither resettled nor naturalized, remaining in risky, makeshift circumstances year after year. This presents many challenges for the refugees in such a limbo and for the aid organizations seeking to help them.

We can help by encouraging our government to admit more refugees and participating as we can in resettlement efforts here. The need for more and larger monetary contributions is great. This is the most serious human crisis of our times and cannot be met unless people in the more privileged countries of the world do more. There is talk, discussed by Bono in a [New York Times](#) opinion piece on April 12th, of the need for an equivalent of the Marshall Plan to respond to the need. Many people would like to give to help this terrible situation but are unclear what would make a difference. There is expert help available for guidance and that will be discussed in a subsequent article.

## **INTERIM CONTRACTS**

Our Interim Search Task Force and others want to make sure that everyone is aware of the terms of Interim Minister UUA contracts. These contracts require that Interim Ministers have two months of paid vacation, a period in which many make the transition from one congregation to another. Because of this, Paula will serve her last Sunday on May 29th. This has been part of our commitment to her since her hiring and will be part of our commitment to our next Interim Minister.

**Happiness**  
comes through  
**DOORS**  
you didn't even  
know you left  
**OPEN**



## BEGINNING APRIL 18TH: YOGA WITH KASHMYRA ASNANI

UUTC is partnering with Kashmyra Asnani to provide some yoga workshops and classes. The workshops are one-day events that introduce different types of yoga, so that you can find a “fit” to what works best for your needs. [Chair & Wall Yoga](#) will be offered on **Mondays** at **3:15-4:30pm**, beginning April 18th. [Vitality Yoga](#) will take place on **Fridays** from **1:30-2:45pm**, beginning April 22nd. **YOU CAN NOW SIGN UP AT THE FRONT DESK.**

Chair & Wall Yoga is open to all fitness levels, including those who may need walking aids or wheelchairs. With regular practice, students will see improved range of motion, flexibility and strength and reduced stress. Vitality Yoga focuses on youthful posture, correct movement mechanics, deep breathing and building core strength. This class is moderately paced, and students must be able to get down to and off the floor safely.

**For the scheduled slots in April, come test the waters! Find out if these classes might be a good fit for you. Kashmyra will work with you to increase your wellness. Suggested donation during this trial period is \$10 per class.**

Pick up a brochure at the front counter for more information and check the [Public Calendar](#) online!

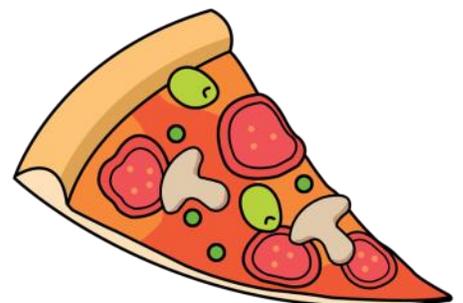


## TEAM MEETING NIGHT TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH!

GMAC (Governance and Ministry Advisory Council) thanks everyone for all the feedback. We WILL try out Team Night, beginning Wednesday, April 27. Pizza from 5:15 on, child care, team meetings at 6 p.m. The only team that opted out is Membership, because they have so many people who are on several teams.

**This will be for ARE, CRE, Music, Social Action and Worship.** If previous meeting times have kept you from participating in these teams, call them today to get involved!

Other teams may join too, as desired. **After April**, we'll meet on the **3rd Wednesday of the month**. (There was a calendar conflict on April 20.) Questions? Contact [gmac@uutc.org](mailto:gmac@uutc.org)





*"We are the certain and the seeking, the lifers and the newcomers, the beloved and the brokenhearted, the insiders and the rejected, all of whom have found a home in the extraordinary, yet intimate, communities of Unitarian Universalism."*

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host

*Our mission is to create a community that encourages free spiritual discovery and growth, celebrates personal and religious diversity, and promotes active, responsible involvement in the larger community.*

**Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.**



Read the latest UUA Southern Region Newsletter [HERE!](#)



**SOUTHERN REGION**

### **KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!**

VIEW our [church calendar](#). This is the calendar which has ALL events.

For previous issues of the UU Update, contact the office at [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).

SEND news for this newsletter by 10:00am on Wednesdays.

### **CONTACT US**

Our Minister is the Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable. To reach her out of the office, call **828-553-9410**.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon and by appointment. The church telephone number is **828-877-6121**. Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our website is [www.uutc.org](http://www.uutc.org). Our church is located at 24 Varsity Street, at the corner of South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).