

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
1105 Elm St.
Youngstown, OH 44505 330.746.3067

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Staff:

Rev. Matt Alspaugh, Minister
Kristina Spaude, Student Minister/Intern
BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education
Heather Best, Office Administrator

UUUO The Steel Chalice
unitarian universalist church VOL. 71, No. 5, May 2016
YOUNGSTOWN OHIO

**SUNDAY SERVICES—11 AM—SANCTUARY
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

May Worship Theme: “Blessing”

When the world seems stingy to us, we are stingy to others. Those who feel blessed have little trouble sharing blessings with others. Our tradition takes this calculus seriously. As UU minister, Rev. Don Wheat, puts it “The religious person is a grateful person, and the grateful person is the generous person.”



So this month the question in front of all of us is not simply “Do you notice the blessings all around you?” It’s also, “How are the blessings in your life leading you to bless others?”

May 1 - "Ministry"

May 1, UUYO welcomes guest minister Rev. Patricia Shelden. Rev. Shelden offers community ministry with her practice, Living With Losses. She has also been the Community Minister Affiliated at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland since 2005.



Worship Leader: Rev. Patricia Shelden
Worship Associate: Sarah Lown
Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

May 8 - "Leaving a Legacy"

Kalu Kalu once said, “the things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remains as your legacy.” Most of us would like to make an impact on this world after we are gone. Dan Betts will share inspirational examples and actionable ideas on how each person can leave a financial legacy to the world in general, and to UUYO in particular.



Worship Leader: Dan Betts
Worship Associate: Jan Elias
Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

May 15 - "Breakfast With the Enemy"

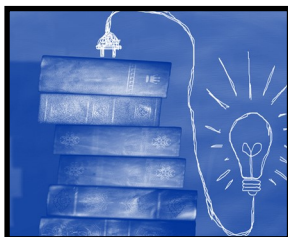
What happens when a liberal is seated across the breakfast table from a conservative and the conversation turns to social issues, politics and religion? Everybody can imagine what DOES happen ... but in this Message we'll investigate what SHOULD happen to create more meaningful conversations.



Worship Leader: Tom Beck
Worship Associate: Gina Vance
Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

May 22 - "How Did We Get Here?"

Over the course of the year, Intern Minister Kristina Spaude has been digging into UUYO's history, talking with longtime members of the congregation, combing through the archives at Meadville Lombard, and looking into other resources. During this service, we'll hear about what she's learned and what it means for us today.



Worship Leader: Kristina Spaude
Worship Associate: Monica Hite
Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

May 29- "Observing Memorial Day"

In light of the fact the USA has been at war in Afghanistan and Iraq for more than 15 years, how should we observe Memorial Day? Former Marine and civilian contractor in Afghanistan (and now candidate for UU ministry) Bob LaVallee will reflect on war, mourning and the possibility of change.



Worship Leader: Bob LaVallee
Worship Associate: Kristina Spaude
Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

LEADERS:

Members of the Board of Trustees

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Gary Davenport, Treasurer
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Linda Mohn

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Jeanne Tucker, Caring
Lowell Satre, Endowment
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Linda Mohn & Carole McWilson, Hospitality
Diane Barnes, Nominating
Jan Grigsby, Welcoming Congregation
Eugenia Pierce, Women's Alliance
Sarah Lown, Worship Associates Coordinator

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to build a diverse and transformative spiritual community, help people live lives of wholeness, and promote justice, peace, and religious freedom.

Unitarian Universalist Association Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm
Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-4:30pm

Dear Members and Friends of UUYO,

In one of our last meetings before Rev. Matt went on sabbatical, I was thinking about my time with the congregation and what I've learned and asked him what he thought were the next items of focus for the congregation. Although my internship will be ending soon, my learning will not, and I was curious to hear about where you might be headed next.



Among the items that will be focused on in the nearer future is the membership process – from welcoming people in all through signing the book and active involvement, this is an area where things are going well and there is potential to grow even better. Karen Lapidus is taking the lead in this effort, with my continued support and Matt's as well – along with all of yours. It's been exciting to see so many new people coming through our doors these last few months and to hear some of their stories in our Newcomers' Circles! Ideas for new programming – for both newer friends and longtime members – will be in consideration, so please reach out with ideas and interests of things you would be willing to facilitate or lead! Helping bridge the connections from walking through our doors and becoming actively involved in the church takes intention on our part and we are thankful for all of you who help others through this process. This is a key to helping the congregation be the dynamic body it aspires to be.

Another item of focus will be on the importance of shared ministry. The work of the church belongs to all of us, not just the professional staff. The church is nothing without the people! Ministry can take many forms – from our Religious Education teachers, who model so well what shared ministry is about and looks like, to our Board, our Worship Associates and coordinators, our Care Team, and our FUN!raising team, which is going to be bringing back the All Church Auction and doing other fun-raising (and hopefully fund-raising!) over the course of the year. There is potential for more areas of shared ministry that will continue to surface while Rev. Matt is on sabbatical and when he returns. There are so many ways to get involved – we'd love to talk with you if you'd like to explore options! This is another key to helping the congregation be the dynamic body it aspires to be.

Looking to the future and planning is another item for focus. The future needs everyone – sharing a mission and vision and hope for the future – to have a part. Thinking about what we want and making plans for how to get there requires reflection, discussion, and intention, as well as big, beautiful dreams. Next stop: the road to possibility! Where will we go?

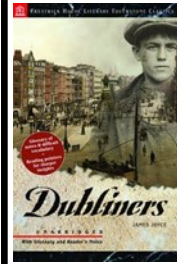
I'll be around much of May, except the weekend of May 15, when I will be returning to Chicago for graduation! One more item will be checked off the list in anticipation of ordination (at this point, at least a year and a half away). And I am thrilled to share that I have accepted a residency position at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, where I will do chaplaincy under supervision for a year.

As always, I look forward to seeing you in church!

In faith,
Kristina Spaude

Book Club - Wednesday, May 18 at 7:15pm

The UUYO Book Group will meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the home of Melissa Smith.



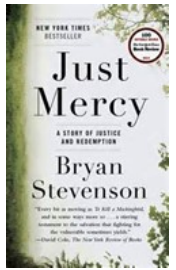
In May we will discuss *Dubliners*, a collection of fifteen short stories by James Joyce, published in 1914. This collection of stories describes Irish middle class life in and around Dublin in the early years of the 20th century.

In June we will discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. This title is the current UUA Common Read selection. A Common Read "invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

From the publisher:

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.

Contact **Louisa Berger** for further information (bergermom@gmail.com).



Annual Church Picnic—Sunday, June 12, 12:30pm

We will hold our annual picnic June 12 from 12:30pm until dark. It will be held at Mill Creek Park—Chestnut Hill Pavilion.

Bring sports equipment and any board or card games you enjoy. In the food area, bring a dish to share, cold drinks, and your own table settings. Come and enjoy each other's company for a relaxing afternoon and evening.



Newcomers' Circle—Sunday, May 22 at 12:15 pm

Join us for a brief discussion about Unitarian Universalism, UUYO, and you. This is a particularly useful gathering for visitors and newcomers, but people who've been around awhile are welcome too! Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us in Schweitzer Lounge, about 15 minutes after the service ends, and stay for as long as you'd like. See **Kristina Spaude** (kspaude@uuyo.org) or **Karen Lapidus** (kluure@prodigy.net) for more information.

This 'n' That

Beatitude House is hosting their 17th Annual Wine Taste and Auction Friday, May 6th at the Embassy in Boardman, Ohio to celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include generous wine tastings; appetizers; a full-course dinner and dessert; the opportunity to bid on live and silent auction items; and admittance to the After Party, featuring jazz musician Stan Miller. With exciting food, friends, and entertainment, this fundraiser is sure to be an exciting evening out and helps support life-altering services for homeless women and children.

Advanced reservations are required and should be made by May 2nd. Visit www.beatitudehouse.com/events or call 330-744-3147 to reserve your seats today!

Clare Puskarczyk, Ph.D., is showing movies every Wednesday and Friday evening this month from 7 to 9 pm near Park and Fifth on the Northside. DVDs present Consciousness Studies and the integration of Spirit and Science. There are two flights of stairs, no elevator. It is essential to RSVP (small space). Fruit juice and herb tea are provided. You may bring drinks/snacks to share. Clare's is a vegan, organic, non-GMO household. There is no fee. Questions? Contact Clare at 330-746-8004.

May 28, 2016 Landscaping Work Party Saturday

This UU work party will include mulching and other landscaping tasks. If you have rakes, shovels, loppers or any other tools that could help spruce up our landscaping, please put your name on them (on masking tape perhaps) and bring them. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch too. Beverages will be provided. If we're lucky, we'll also be blessed with cookies and other goodies for dessert. Mazel tov!

June 4, 2016 Clean-up and Organizing Saturday

Save the Date for the next **UUYO Building and Grounds Work Party** 10am – 2 pm on Saturday, June 4. Lunch (vegetarian option will be included) will be provided.

It has been several months since the last B&G event so there are plenty of jobs, both indoors and out, for willing hands to tackle.

At 1:30 pm there will be a meeting of the **Kitchen Team** where we will discuss changing the focus from just the kitchen to building-wide oversight.



Bits from the Board

IT'S FUN!RAISING TIME AND WE NEED YOUR HELP !



Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000 in addition to our regular stewardship campaign. This effort will help us pay the bills AND expand programming to help to make your experience at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown more meaningful and joyous.

FUN!raising. We're expanding our Equal Exchange to include new featured items along with custom ordered items and UUYO t-shirts. (See Louisa Berger or Ellen Satre for details.)

More FUN!raising. We're planning to host a qUUIz Show along the lines of the NPR "Wait, Wait" game show featuring local celebrities and surprise guest panelists. (See Sarah Lowry for details.)

Even more FUN!raising. We hope to hold a Book and Collectibles Sale later this Fall including books, CD's, DVD's, jewelry and collectibles. (See Linda Mohn for details.)

BUT FIRST, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE OUR ALL-CHURCH TALENT AUCTION A SUCCESS !

Our first Fun!Raising event will be the All-Church Talent Auction scheduled for June 18th. Along with a talent auction featuring services and activities provided by your fellow UUYOers, we'll have prizes, silent auction baskets and items donated by businesses and members of the congregation, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes and door prizes.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP !

We'll need volunteers to gather auction items, prepare and serve the hors d'oeuvres, help set up and take down the chairs and tables and decorations, work the cash bar, serve as cashiers, assistants to the auctioneer ... and help with lots of other jobs big and small to make the event a success.

PLEASE DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED ... PLEASE VOLUNTEER NOW !

Talk to any Board of Trustees member to volunteer. Email Andy Crabb at president@uuyo.org or Tom Beck at TBeck@uakron.edu. You can call Tom at 330-631-5125. Tell Office Administrator Heather Best you can help so she can pass your name along to Andy or Tom. But however you do it, **PLEASE VOLUNTEER TODAY !**

We're calling it FUN!raising ... and it's a lot more fun when everybody helps.

Tom Beck

Farmers' Market—Saturdays 10am-1pm

We are located at 901 Elm at Baldwin. This is to be near the Community Coop Grocery Store. Items are from local farmers. You can also visit us on Facebook. If you have any questions, contact **Jim Converse**, Market Manager, at 330-518-6970 or jwconverse@gmail.com.



Alcoholics Anonymous

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM in Channing Hall.

Stretch and Creative Movement

Tuesdays—5:30—7:00 PM—Channing Hall—**Susan Miracle**

Singing before the Service: Sundays 10:40am

Join us at the piano, as we sing the hymns for the morning. You do not have to be good at singing, just willing!



Auction Information

Please stop at the Auction Table in Channing Hall and pick up an Auction Donation Form. There is also a sign-up sheet at the table for one pre-auction event: Ralph Malmer's Birding Adventure which takes place on May 7, 2016.

The Auction Donation Form can also be found on our website uuyo.org under the "Connections" tab. Select "Connections Overview," which is the first option in the drop-down list, then select "Auction Donation Form" from the list on the left.



If there is an item or event you would like to see offered at the auction, please enter your request on the "I'd Love to See THIS in the Auction" sheet at the Auction Table or send a message to auktion@uuyo.org with your request. Those who wish to contribute to the auction but have not decided on what to offer can use requests on the Auction "wish list" for inspiration!

Building a Community of Belonging and Engagement Membership Updates

Many thanks to all who participated in the membership ministry sessions from the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Institute! We have already begun to implement some of the good ideas that arose from our "think tank."

On April 10th, we held the first of four **Hospitality Team Refresher Trainings**. Linda Mohn, Heather Best, BeckyAnn Harker and I led Team #2 in considering the nuts and bolts of the team's responsibilities, as well as best practices for greeting newcomers and visitors.

We will be offering the next trainings on:

Sunday, May 15th for Team #3

Sunday, June 5th for Team #4

Either Sunday, July 3rd or July 10th for Team #1

Hospitality Team members will receive more details via email invitation closer to these dates.

One of the concepts that the UULI course emphasized is the importance of building relationships among the members and friends of the church. In fact, having friends in church and sharing common experiences is the most important indicator of happiness within a faith community. With that goal in mind, we will be implementing a program that will give us an opportunity to spend time together considering our monthly worship themes together.



We will be holding **Connection Circles** during coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month. All will be invited to sit with 3-4 people for 20-30 minutes or so to consider a few of the questions from the materials that the church receives from the theme-based ministry program of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Sarah Lown, our Worship Associate Coordinator will be choosing the questions. Our first session will be on Sunday, May 1st when we will consider "Blessings." The questions will be included in the weekly email update that we receive from Heather via email on Friday, for those of us who like to ponder ahead of time. Participation in the Connections Circles is optional, of course. This idea was sparked from the recent successful and meaningful Death Cafe discussions.

Please don't forget to wear your name tag! If you don't have one yet or have misplaced yours, add your name to the list on the Visitors' Table and Heather will make you a new one.

Karen Lapidus
Membership Coordinator

Writing as Spiritual Practice Will Not Meet in May

There will be no meeting in May due to Liz and Matt's sabbatical. Look for details about the June meeting in the June newsletter and a future weekly update or contact **Liz Hill** June 5 or after at liz@lizhill.net, [330-333-1619](tel:330-333-1619).



Hospitality Team Schedule for the Month of May:

Team 2 is responsible for May 1.

Hospitality Team 2

Communicator: Anita Wesler

Facilitators: Ralph and Marcia Malmer

Millie Brewer Gerard Kelly Sarah Lown

Lynn Coleman Kadey Kimpel Patricia Natali

Kate Fitzgerald Alison Locketti Trudee Weatherby

Cathy Kajut Jon Locketti Anita Wesler

Margaret Haushalter

Team 3 is responsible for May 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Hospitality Team 3

Team Communicator: Linda Mohn

Facilitators: Diana Shaheen & Susie Beiersdorfer

Audra & Jason Carlson Karen Lapidus

Sarah Lowry Dianna Mason

Marcellene Hawk Mayhall Susan Miracle

Wendy & Andy Pfrenger Gene Pusateri

Davin Stilson Mary June Tartan

For questions, contact **Linda Mohn** (lmohn2005@yahoo.com)
or **Carole McWilson** (carolemcwilson@aol.com).

Share the Plate

This program designates half the loose collection at Sunday services to one specific charity per month. Recommendations for recipients of Share the Plate are solicited from the congregation (forms on back table in Sanctuary).

For May the Share the Plate recipient will be the Youngstown Pride Center. The Center was founded in 1999 in Youngstown, Ohio, with the Akron Pride Center kindly acting as our mentor. As an LGBT community center for the Greater Youngstown area, The Center offered peer support groups, monthly business meetings, and a recurring discussion forum to which we invited speakers and encouraged discussion of many topics; e.g., marriage equality, women's health, religion, legal protections, investment, and HIV. Among the distinguished guests have been mayoral candidates and Judy Shepard. For several years, The Center operated from the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Youngstown, Ohio, before moving to the Stonewall Community Center on Poland Avenue. Each month, the board and general membership meet to discuss new ways to strengthen the community.



May Friendship Day Celebration of Church Women United

May Friendship Day dates back to May, 1933, when two independent groups planned luncheons to focus on "Child Health" and "Children of Migrant Families". In 1939, the two groups merged under the National Council of Church Women, which called for an annual observance "to strengthen a growing sense of unity, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the power of Christianity in the day of need." In May 1945, a few years after the founding of Church Women United, the celebration was formalized as May Fellowship Day. In 1999, the movement of Church Women United changed the name of the celebration to May Friendship Day, as "we continue to celebrate unity in our journey toward wholesomeness in communities."

This year, UUYO has the honor of hosting Church Women United's annual May Friendship Day luncheon May 6, 2016 from 8am to 3pm. Please consider volunteering to help set up, serve and clean up after this event. Please call **Eugenia** at 330-953-3086 or 330-503-4039 to volunteer. For event information or a registration form, please contact **Janet Smart** at 330-799-0303.

Matt's Musings

Liz and I spent the first part of our sabbatical in Ireland, on pilgrimage with a small group of lay people and clergy. We were invited into a time of spiritual reflection in a terrain filled with ruins from Paleolithic, pre-Christian (Celtic), Catholic, and Protestant history. This was a lesson on the permanence and transience of religion. Most religions see their ideas as permanent. Yet religions themselves are transient, replaced through power, or through a more appealing alternative. Even as new religions replace older ones, the remnants of the old remain, subtly modifying the new. One site we visited had a restored pagan holy well near the ruins of an early Catholic monastery, next to an abandoned Protestant mausoleum, whose grounds are used today as a Catholic cemetery.

I began to draw comparisons to our American religious landscape. How much has religion been intertwined with politics and power? What are the costs, for religion, when it moves toward or away from power? What happens when religion changes so much it no longer serves the spiritual needs of ordinary people?

As we watch the presidential election cycle unfold (trying, and failing, to explain Trump to our European contacts!), religion seems to have taken a subdued role. Having the support of Christian conservatives seems no longer essential in the Republican race, and religion matters less in the overall race. I find this a hopeful trend.

As we wandered in silence among the ruins, I pondered the layers and ruins of my own individual spirituality. For many of us, spirituality is a journey, a pilgrimage, involving its own impermanence, change and growth. Even as we let old ideas and beliefs fall into ruin, replacing them with new ones, we never completely let them go. Those old ways remain, even if only as objects of rejection. Perhaps it the integration of past into present that brings us maturity, depth, and uniqueness.

A big goal of the sabbatical for a minister is disconnecting from the everyday to have time for what is not everyday. In an increasingly interconnected world, this disconnection is difficult, even half a world away. I've been trying. I avoid Facebook, I've cut back on email, I don't answer my phone (even in the middle of the night). But I continue to pay attention to UUYO postings and emails. It is good to see all the activity, the variety of speakers on Sundays, and lots of energy around events like the auction. A sabbatical gives the church community a chance to see what you can do well on your own, as well as what is better done by the minister or other staff. I look forward to conversations about what you and I have learned, when I return in early June.

Reflections

The end of the church year is coming quickly. The last official church day is on June 12, when services will move downstairs. RE as we have known it this year will also be over then. This brings me to ponder summer. Summer is a time when, historically, UU churches have taken off, with informal gatherings, perhaps, and no Religious Education. We have been changing that at UUYO. Though the services tend to be less formal, we still have great speakers and services lined up. So, what to do with the children? Childcare is still available for the youngest children. We have had a One-Room Schoolhouse, multi-aged activities for children and some youth. We have had a curriculum for the summer, we have had monthly themes for the summer. By the time this prints, I will have met with the teaching team and made some plans, but summer is a great time for other people in the congregation to share their time and talents with our children and youth. Do you have some great craft or lesson or skill you'd like to share one Sunday in the summer? If so, please let me know!



We do have an exciting outing planned for the middle school and high school youth (really, for the Bibleodeon class and high schoolers). Easy Street Productions is putting on Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and we are going to see it. It will be a nice way to wrap up the Bibleodeon curriculum.

There will be more for me to share in next month's newsletter, after the meetings and the planning are done for this month. Planning summer, looking ahead to next year, another possible Coming of Age class... so much to ponder, yet not planned or ready to share. Hang on to that cliff until next month...

--BeckyAnn Harker

Director of Religious Education

Women's Alliance—Saturday, May 14, 12:30pm

Selah Restaurant will be the next meeting place for Women's Alliance. It is located at 130 S. Bridge in Struthers, OH. 44471 (next to the railroad tracks). All are invited. Call Eugenia at [330-953-3086](tel:330-953-3086) or [330-503-4039](tel:330-503-4039) for information or directions.

May 2016 UUYO Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	2	3 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 6:30 pm Membership Ministry 141 (YR) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	4	5	6 8:00 am Women United Mtg (CH)	7
8 HT Team 3 starts 11:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Rental (CH & Kitchen) 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Event Planning (SL)	9 6:30 pm Healthy Leadership 101 (BR) 7:00 pm NO MEETING for Writing as Spiritual Practice	10 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	11 7:00 pm UUYO Board Meeting (BR)	12	13	14 12:30 pm Women's Alliance 7:00 pm Pride Center Movie Night
15 9:15 am Hospitality Team 3 Refresher Training 9:30 am Adult Forum - More Books 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	16	17 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 6:30 pm Membership Ministry 141 (YR) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	18 7:15 pm Book Club Meeting	19	20	21 Steps of Change (CH, Sanctuary, Kitchen)
22 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Newcomers' Circle (SL) 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Event Planning (SL)	23 6:30 pm Healthy Leadership 101 (BR)	24 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	25	26	27	28 10:00 am Landscaping Work Party
29 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	30	31 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)				