

# News of *Hope*



## New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

February 2019

57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

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"You cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it, and responsible for changing it."

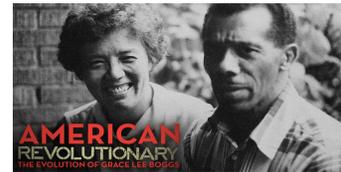
Grace Lee Boggs  
1915-2015

Activist and author Grace Lee Boggs was a Detroit citizen who believed change only comes by unifying small groups of local people rather than by large revolutions. She committed most of her life to rebuilding her beloved city of Detroit through a sustainable, intergenerational, multi-cultural community movement called Detroit Summer. She believed change is only possible when we recognize that, before we can become part of the solution, we have to see ourselves as part of the problem.

As we search our souls for how to create answers to the questions plaguing our county and our world, it is imperative we think about what Grace Lee Boggs has tried to teach us. How easy it is for us to find the faults of others! How easy it is to preach to someone what they should do, or say! We can often find deficiencies in the thoughts and actions of others. Boggs is telling us we need to look at ourselves first.

In January we held a service at New Hope where each person present took the part of a person who was enslaved, or a person who had experienced discrimination during the time of civil rights for all. It is very difficult for us people with white skin to truly imagine what it feels like to be singled out and discriminated against because of our skin color.

Ms. Boggs is telling us that racism will never be conquered as long as we white folks think about it as somebody else's problem, as a history that has nothing to do with us or our ancestors, as taken care of because the correct laws have been passed. Unless we own the fact that racism exists and harms people of color, we won't be able to eradicate it from our society. It sounds so simple to do. Yet we know that it is not.



White privilege is so engrained in all aspects of our lives that we don't even notice it. None of us gets followed around a nice store by a security guard. We don't worry about drug busts in our neighborhoods. For most Unitarian Universalists, middle class membership is taken for granted. Very few UU's have to apply for food stamps, or experience homelessness, or have to call around for a doctor that accepts Medicaid, or a landlord who will take a housing voucher. Hardly ever are we denied a mortgage for any reason other than we cannot afford it. The more we learn about others' lives, the more people we meet who are different from us, the better able we are to identify with the problems of others and then to create fairness and justice.



When we learned about Bahai' in January, one of the things I loved was their belief that all humanity is one; slowly we are all working our way to recognizing and honoring that fact. In order to make it happen, we must raise up the folks who have been held down. We must take the hands of all our neighbors and find the values and ideas we hold in common. We must focus on our oneness and accept our differences.

I admit that it is easy for me to sit here at my desk and write about these things. At New Hope on Sunday mornings, it can be uncomfortable to talk about racial problems, but it is important for us to do so, often. It is also important for us to continue our social justice work in all the ways we can. In the example of Grace Lee Boggs, we can be a small, unifying group that works for equal rights for all, right here in New Hudson and in South Lyon Township.

So at New Hope in January, we collected for the Guest At Your Table Program so the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee can reach out to immigrant groups here and to under-served people around the world.

During the month of February, we will be collecting shoes-all kinds of shoes- old shoes, barely worn shoes that pinch your toes, summer shoes, winter boots, athletic shoes and shoes for all ages. Soles 4 Souls will refurbish and reuse your shoes to cover the feet of people who cannot afford shoes and who are at risk for diseases which enter the body

through feet. They will recycle the soles and heels and turn your shoes into road-bed material. They will reclaim the metal and plastic parts. Your old shoes can do a world of good!

On Sunday mornings we will continue with our theme of Gratitude during our services, learning about other religions and customs and sharing our own ideas and family traditions. We will create some stories and artwork. We will have some fun together and laugh and play. New Hope is a great place to spend some time. We all hope you'll join us!

*Love, Kathy*

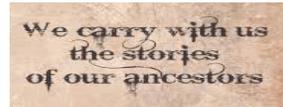
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### Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for February 2019

Meditation Group meets every Sunday before services at 9:30 AM. All are welcome.

#### SUNDAY, February 3, 10:30 AM – “Gratitude for Gramps”

In Canada, February is Aboriginal Story Telling Month. First Nations sponsor events in the schools, libraries and community centers. At New Hope today, we will tell some of our own stories about our ancestors. Those who came before us gave us gifts of wisdom and knowledge and truth. What did your grandfather or grandmother teach you? Come and share your story!



#### SUNDAY, February 10, 10:30 AM - “Looking For Love”



Looking at all the commercial hype around Valentine’s Day makes it is easy to believe that this holiday is only about romance and sex appeal. In reality, there are lots of different kinds of love in the world, and we experience many of them throughout our lifetimes. Let’s discuss what love is really all about!

#### SUNDAY, February 17, 10:30 AM – “Reverend Suzanne Paul Speaks”

On this special morning, the Reverend Suzanne Paul, New Hope’s founding minister, returns to share her stories and her wisdom about Friendship. Though Suzanne retired several years ago, New Hope is always in her heart. We are pleased to welcome her back into our pulpit, as our long-time friend and former leader. Do join us for a wonderful morning!



#### SUNDAY, February 24, 10:30 AM – “LOSSES and losses”

Sometimes we experience what we think of as a BIG loss and it turns out not to be so difficult after all. Sometimes we loose something that doesn’t really seem significant, until it is gone. Why do we feel this confusion and how do we cope with the reality of it? Being human can be very confusing. What do you think?

KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



\*Our Services are held on Sundays at 10:30 a. m. Services last until 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend regardless of faith, race, age and sexual orientation. We hope you'll stay for coffee and conversation after Services.

### February dates to remember

Lunch Bunch – February 6, 12:30 pm at Draft Horse Brewery

Book Club – 2/7/19, 7 pm. The book is "Small Great Things" by Jodi Piccoult. March date is 3/ 7. The book is "Sing Unburied Sing" by Jessmyn Ward.

Board Meeting - February 11 at 6:30 pm  
Women of Hope - 2/21/19, led by Sue Myers

**Note: The next poker dates will be:**

Wednesday, March 13 through

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 PM until 2:00 AM

**Please sign up now to work a shift. Our budget thanks you!!**

## Social Justice

February is our month to collect used or almost new shoes for Soles for Souls. Start digging through those closets and under beds.

Thanks,  
Deb E.



## Greeter Sign-up

To welcome everyone who comes each Sunday, we seek two Greeters to be here by 10:15 each week: One near the front door to show them where to hang coats, the sign-in sheet, hospitality area and the community room. The Second to give the visitors a visitor's bag, name tag and tell them about the congregation. This will help our congregation grow in size and community.

Two of the services in February are open and everything beyond is wide open for greeters.

Anyone can send me an email to let me know which Sunday they'd like to be greeter: [kzaenger@comcast.net](mailto:kzaenger@comcast.net)

02/03/19 \_\_\_\_\_  
02/10/19 Corinne & Mike  
02/17/19 Bonnie  
02/24/19 \_\_\_\_\_



## Hospitality

Please consider signing up for Sunday hospitality. The duties are simple and are posted on the refrigerator along with the sign up sheet. Many thanks to those of you who continue to provide this valuable service to our congregation.

02/03/19 Jill  
02/10/19 Corinne  
02/17/19 Bonnie  
02/24/19 \_\_\_\_\_