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A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701 309-828-0235 <u>uubn.org</u> office@uubn.org

This Sunday's Worship Service:

3/31 - All Ages Easter Service - Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration and Ozzy Vannoy, Worship Associate

Join us in one of the following ways:

- In person
- **Zoom Online**: Click here The passcode is 616389.
- Telephone: 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID 949-975-206 when prompted.

Click HERE for this week's Order of Service.

Upcoming Services

4/7 - The Practice of Accountability - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Jan Baird, Worship Associate

4/14 -Give Up That Grudge - Julie Prandi and Barb Dallinger, Worship Associate

Sunday Slides and Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am Have an event to reserve space for? Click Here!



Need Support?

Email Rev. Rebecca (minister@uubn.org) if you need a listening ear, practical support such as rides or meals, or short term financial support.

This Week's Events

March 31, 2024	Sunday
8:45 am – 9:45 am 9:45 am – 11:15 am 10:00 am - 11:00 am 11:15 am - 12:30 pm Room)	Adult Choir (Walker Room) Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room) Sunday Service (Sanctuary) Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch (Back Lawn and Fell
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Online)
April 1, 2024	Monday
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
April 2, 2024	Tuesday
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Room)	League of Women Voters of McLean County (Fell
April 3, 2024	Wednesday
5:00 pm – 5:40 pm 5:45 pm – 6:30 pm (Walker Room)	Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room) Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School)
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Mandatory Parent Orientation for Taking Flight (Fell

Room) 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Humanist Group (Irvin Room)
April 4, 2024	Thursday
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room) Private Event (Whole Church) Private Event (Irvin Room) Bridge Group (Bradley Welcome Room)
April 5, 2024	Friday
9:00 am – 10:30 am 6:15 pm – 10:00 pm	Private Event (Fell Room) UU D&D Group (Walker Room)
April 6, 2024	Saturday
9:00 am – 11:00 am 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Date with Death Club (Fell Room) New Member Potluck (Fell Room, Kitchen)

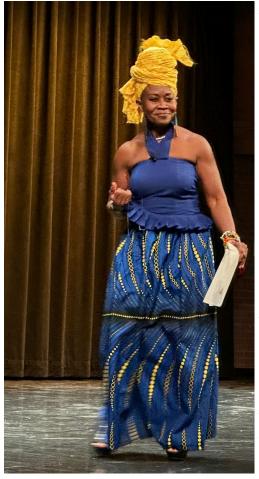


Easter Sunday

On this Easter Sunday and Transgender Day of Visibility, let's get inspired to practice resurrection!

Following worship, join the all ages Easter Egg Hunt on the back lawn; enjoy Potluck Brunch in the Fell Room; and take a moment to admire the UU PEEP Dioramas, set up in the hallway outside the Welcome Room.



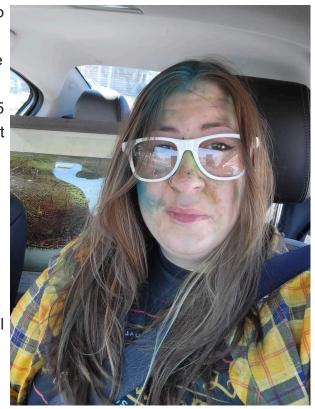


Ama Oforiwaa Aduonum (Oforiwaa) is a Kwahu Akan of the Aduana lineage in Ghana and a mother of 2 beautiful children, Kwadwo and MaAdwoa. Her appellations are obooba, Child of Rock! Ogyaba, Child of Fire! She is a professor of Music, teaching courses in Black Music and Ethnomusicology, and Director of West African Drumming Music and Dance Ensemble at Illinois State University. She is a Queen Mother, a poet, published author, an award-winning and nationally recognized playwright and performer focused on practice-led research, indigenous knowledge, and sensory studies on music traditions of the African Diaspora. Her multi-modal work, Walking with My Ancestors, combines music, theater, and dance to interrogate and disrupt the violence against and negation

of African selfhood we find in the African histories, slavery, and racism. Oforiwaa has been attending UUBN since 2012.

Allison MacLeod-Carlson grew up in Rockford, and for the first few years in that area's UU church. She was a dancer for 12 years and competitive martial artist for about 5 years. Allison can't really dance, but can definitely break a few boards, without guarantee that anyone actually meant for those boards to be broken.

Allison obtained a degree in psychology at Bradley University and stuck around Peoria as a social worker for the better part of a decade. She eventually met her future husband who convinced her to work at State Farm, where



she has very strong opinions about literally the most boring insurance things anyone has ever heard of.

Throughout her life she's been passionate about nature conservation and animal welfare, volunteering with wild animal rehabilitation, removing trash from forests, and somehow tricking her husband into joining her in a composting and jar goblin kind of lifestyle.

She spends most of her time with her husband, friends, family, and pets...the cutest little agents of chaos you've ever seen. She and her husband have been doing a lot of crochet and Dungeons & Dragons type games as of late, and are looking forward to some morel hunting with her father in May.

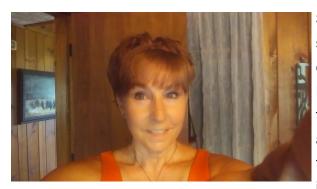
Connor MacLeod-Carlson is a 33 year with pronouns He/Him and looks like a sentient pair of eyebrows. He came to the church to explore more about this wonderful community and find new ways to volunteer. He is more than happy to share unfounded opinions on history, music, or anything nerdy. He is joining with along with his loved wife Allison, who first suggested coming. He currently aspires to finish any craft project and continue to learn the lyre.



Jillian Escobedo has been going to this church since he was a toddler. He lives with a 35 year old turtle he inherited from his grandma, one stinky rabbit, and two dogs. He has volunteered at the WBRP bike coop every Thursday for the last 2 years, plays piano, and is a full time student.

He is the unpaid assistant to the re director. He also happens to be her son.





Sheryl Henry lives on a small sustainable farm with 2 dogs, 17 chickens, 4 ducks, and 3 turkeys. Her son and daughter and their families also live on the property and help with the farm. Sheryl teaches nursing at ISU and is very involved with ISU's faculty union.

She loves to read (anything), hike, run, and kayak. She loves hanging out with her kids and grandchildren. The Coffee House in uptown Normal makes her happy.

The Houghtons moved to Bloomington in 2013. Adam (he/him) is a family medicine doctor at Bloomington Primary Care. He enjoys reading fiction, playing video games, playing D&D/board games, painting miniatures for the aformentioned games, and chail attes.

Marie (she/her) is a speechlanguage pathologist currently contracting with local school systems. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hunting for mushrooms, and spending time with her family.



Mason (he/they) is 12 and enjoys

nature, drawing, swimming, and "banging out to random music." His favorite snack is graham crackers with whipped cream cheese.

Lydia (she/her) is 10 and enjoys anything Taylor Swift, musicals, Squishmallows, swimming, animals, and fashion.

All the Houghtons like spending time with their friends, as well. They have a sweet dog named Wiley and a leopard gecko named Jasper. They have been attending UUBN since summer 2022.

Sawyer Keithley (He/They) lives with their partner Rae and their two pets, Artemis (a social butterfly masquerading as a Pitbull) and Oscar (an adorable leopard gecko). Sawyer graduates from ISU this spring with a master's degree in applied economics and an unofficial degree in being a nerd. Sawyer loves playing dungeons and dragons with their partner and friends, cozy video games (where he makes himself unnecessarily stressed), and making various crafts! One of Sawyer's passions is fighting for social and economic justice, which they are excited about pursuing with UUBN as a member.



Rae Morefield is graduating ISU in the Fall of '25 with a degree in History and Social Sciences Secondary Education. They are an active member of the queer community and use any pronouns. She enjoys relaxing and playing video games with their partner Sawyer, reading Wikipedia articles, and playing DnD with their friends and roommates. She also has a 5-year-old female leopard gecko named Oscar. Rae is very passionate about many social



issues and is glad to have found such an amazing and progressive community in UUBN and is excited to grow.



Bruce Whitmore's near seventy years involve acculturation in our Midwest and the American South. He is enthralled with the cultural riches of both regions, which are his spiritual homes. In this vein, he is a participant-witness to how race-based caste and patriarchal socialization are intertwined systems of living damage that draw everyone involved away from wholeness. Bruce has also seen how spiritual communities can decide to reverse this harm. He received graduate degrees in theology, anthropology, and visual studies. He now paints in watercolor. Bruce's spouse, Deidre R. Mitchell, is a retired historian and his fitness buddy. He has two

adult children and two grandchildren. Bruce embraces his heritage as an Episcopalian and retired priest. He has extended experiences in Dakota tribal ceremonies and Black church life. He wants to 'tag along,' as a lay person while our church walks toward wholeness.

Looking for Readers and Musicians

Have you ever wished you could participate as a reader in the Sunday Worship Services? Or perhaps you would like to share your musical talents during a service? We would like to hear from any and all interested in participating as readers or musicians. You can let us know by <u>clicking here</u>. We look forward to hearing from many of you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman, Worship Team

Religious Exploration News

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, <u>LRE@uubn.org</u>
Planning Team: Erin Ripley-Gataric (Team Lead), Jeska Vannoy, Mercy
Davison

Date with Death Club: Writing Your Own Obituary

Saturday, April 6, 9:00-11:00, Fell Room

Just like planning your own memorial service, you can spend time now putting together your obituary. We'll explore both traditional obituaries (the kind you are likely to find in the local newspaper) and more story-based obituaries that can help us connect with our own deeper purpose in whatever time we have left on this earth. We'll use a specially developed worksheet to guide us that you can take home.

All are welcome to this last session of Date with Death Club!

Turning Points in UU History - Online Series Open to All UUs!

Wednesdays, April 3 to May 8 | 7:00pm-8:15 pm CT on Zoom

First Dallas UU is offering an online session of "Turning Points in UU History" series for all Unitarian Universalists everywhere! This series explores turning points and controversies in our history, delving into the complexities of these historical moments through primary texts, to understand how they shaped Unitarian Universalism and how we relate to our faith today.

Let me know if you're interested in participating so I can register us as a group.

Gathering Spaces

Throughout this church year, people have asked for ways to connect with others in the church who have similar experiences. Ex. are also parenting, are young adults, are part of the LGBTQ+ community, or are BIPOC. This could mean a shared online space for conversation; a small group participating in

spiritual development, a social group for outings, or simply a contact list people can opt into. Have ideas? Don't have ideas but are interested? Let's talk about ways to create gathering spaces for any of these groups.

Last Call! Register for Taking Flight for 10th, 11th, and 12th Graders

The program is an abbreviated, intensive version of Our Whole Lives. Trained OWL facilitators are leading the sessions: Erin Ripley, Ann Crumpler, Dave Shanahan, Blair Broughton, Terina. Helping with supplies and meals are Mercy Davison, Karla Bailey-Smith, and Erin Furimsky.

Who is Invited to Participate

- Youth in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who are currently registered in Religious Exploration (RE)
- Youth in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who are not registered for RE this year, but are members/friends of the church AND have participated in a previous OWL class

Minimum registered for the program to be successful: 6 - The program could be cancelled for low registration.

- Mandatory Parent Orientation: Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 in Fell
- Sunday, April 14, 3:00-7:00 Health
- Sunday, April 21, 3:00-7:00 Justice
- Sunday, April 28, 3:00-7:00 Communication

Register here: https://forms.gle/bcDR7LH4Frcqy4fE8

Contact Terina with questions - LRE@uubn.org

Adult RE: You and Your Local Environment

Sunday, April 7, 11:30-12:30, Walker Room

Learn numerous ways you can strengthen and protect our local environment with our own Larissa Armstrong, Assistant Director at the Ecology Action Center. Get a crash course in how to reduce your waste through proper

recycling and with different composting options. Help protect our local watersheds by reducing stormwater runoff pollution. Save energy in your own home with increased efficiency and renewable energy options. Help keep our air clean by planting trees. You can also get some information on numerous volunteer opportunities!

How Can You Help?

One of the suggestions made during the budget brainstorming/feedback sessions was to have volunteers take on some of the tasks currently being done by staff. If any of these tasks interest you, let Terina know and she can share more information!

- 1. Clean the fridge & kitchen (once a month) Connor MacLeod-Carlson
- 2. Strip the branches in the playspace area (one time) Kathy Packard
- 3. Host an all ages backyard campout at the church using materials from the last one (one time) ?????
- 4. Create a binder for Gender Expansive Resource Center (GERC) instructions (one time) Camille Ehlers
- 5. Count and record the GERC inventory (once a month) Sandy Aronen
- 6. Create plant ID tags for the pollinator garden Larissa Armstrong
- 7. Use the Over the Rainbow logo and create promotional materials (one time) Babs Allen
- 8. Make curtains for the youth room (one time) Kristen Johnson
- Clean up the garden at the bottom of the kitchen stairs (seasonal) -Lenore Clark
- 10. Organize the supplies for Our Whole Lives (one time) Anne Bauer
- Create promotional materials for Our Whole Lives (one time) Debbie Spensley

Cake Raffle 2024

A giant thank you to every single person who contributed to the annual Cake Raffle. It was my first year running it and you made it such a positive experience. The talent of the bakers in our community is impressive and we are so grateful to each of you for donating your time, supplies, and skills. We had 27 desserts donated and raised \$485 for Gnagey Library. These funds go



towards supplies and books to enrich our spiritual lives. An extra thanks to Terina and Rain for your mentoring and help running the event.

pic is of Leigh A. Leigh's donated cake! Submitted by Erin Furimsky

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at tomclemenstomten66@gmail.com or text/call 309-287-1547 to join any of the following Zoom discussions as participant or listener. You will receive the Zoom link the day before the session.

The purpose of the **First Sunday Nonfiction Book Group** is to educate ourselves in order to take actions toward justice for all in public policy.

- April 7, 2-3 P.M. Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism—And What Comes Next; Bradley Onishi. Broadleaf Books, 2023. I heard an interview of Onishi on the PBS News Hour. The topic concerns the here and now in the U.S. political arena.
- May 5, 2-3 P.M. The Primary Solution: Rescuing Our Democracy from the Fringes, Simon & Schuster, 2024. Supports eliminating partisan primaries in favor of nonpartisan primaries and other election reforms to bring back balance into the process.

The Unitarian Universalist Association selection for its 2023-2024 Common Read: On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World, by Danya Ruttenberg. Participants chose to meet Thursday, May 2, 7-8 P.M. 4 registered.

The participants in the discussion of *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*, by Heather Cox Richardson (author of How the South Won the Civil War). Penguin Random House, 2023, chose to meet Thursday, April 18, 7-8 P.M. 8 registered.

Let Us Read A Novel #7: *The Night Watchman: A Novel*, by Louise Erdrich, meets for the last time on Thursday, April 4, 7-8 pm. Read to the end. 11 registered.

I have proposed to the participants for discussing Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*. Translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse, that we meet Thursday, May 16. 4 Registered.

Share Your Writing meets Wednesday, May 29, 7-8 P.M. Writing of any kind at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

Announcements

Help UUBN Become Known in Bloomington-Normal!

Sunday, April 14 at 11:30

You know how people say "I didn't even know this congregation existed"? We'd like to make that a thing of the past and need your help. At 11:30 on Sunday, April 14, join us in the Irvin Room to suggest events where we could set up a table or a booth to get the word out. We are also looking for friendly faces to staff those tables. Let's become the worst-kept secret in town!

What's on our schedule so far:

Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market Bake Sale booth (June 1), Juneteenth (June 22), Pridefest (Aug. 3), Festival ISU (end August/early September), ISU Drag Show (postponed; no date scheduled yet)

Questions or ideas? Contact Kathy Packard at kjpbooks@frontier.com. -submitted by the Membership Team



Tornado Drill Sunday, April 21

During church there will be a drill for tornado or severe weather danger. The primary shelter locations in are the Lower Level Classrooms and Restroom, but not the Youth Room due to its

exterior windows. The Main level (north) hallway and the single stall restroom are for those who are unable to use the stairs to the lower level. Designated people will give directions to ensure an orderly flow.

Bridge Group Restarting!

Member Anniversaries

Congratulations to those who have reached membership milestone years January-March!

- 35 years: Margaret & Beasley Leffew
- 25 years: Pat & Ernie Gonzalez, Janet Ross
- 20 years: Greg Braswell, Richard Seehus
- 10 years: Kathleen Burger
- 5 years: Shannon Beck, Lizzie & Joe Johnston

UUBN at Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market

Saturday, June 1

We have been assigned June 1, 2024, as our date this summer. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to participate with staffing the booth and/or with baking. Watch for more information and a sign-up form in April.

Submitted by the Membership Team



Church Potluck to Welcome New Members

Saturday, April 6, 5:30, Fell Room

We gather annually to welcome our new members from the past year with food and fellowship. The Membership Team will provide ham, and everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. <u>Here's the sign-up genius.</u>

Kathy Packard

Talents and Treasures Auction Updates!

Mark your Calendars! TNT Auction is back.

- Silent Auction: April 8-13,
 2024. Online Silent Bidding
 will close at 8pm on the 22th.
- Live Auction In Person!:
 Saturday April 13, 2024 at
 7pm. Doors will open at 6pm for appetizers, socializing, and merchandise browsing.
 There will be a Zoom option to connect live as well.



TNT Auction Catalog will be available on April 1, 2024! We are polishing up the Auction Catalog and have a great variety of treasures, treats, events, and much more. A BIG thank you to all who donated. We will be a success because of you. You will also find links to the auction catalog in the Parish News, Sunday Announcements, and on Facebook to share with others when it becomes available. The more bidders the merrier!

In the meantime, we need a few volunteers to help make the event run smooth on Saturday April . You can volunteer and bid at the same time. No conflict of interest. If you are able to help, please <u>sign up here</u>. "Training" provided if needed, but it is all pretty easy- just need you.

Live Auction Tickets Sold Before and After Service on March 31 and April 7, and at the door.

Details on bidding, winning, and the live event will come with the auction catalog release as well. Look for it soon.

Contact the TNT Auction Team, Sarah Boesdorfer Chair, at <u>UUBNTNT@gmail.com</u> with your Questions.

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer

Donate to UUBN by Making Your Regular Purchases

Do you shop at Target? Walmart? Amazon? Jewel? Using the Great Lakes Scrip program (also called RaiseRight), you can buy gift cards online from

these retailers and hundreds of others, and a percentage of the purchase goes to UUBN. Then, use the e-gift cards immediately to make your regular purchases. With transaction fees as low as \$0.29 per transaction, your daily purchases can make a big difference for UUBN! Visit www.raiseright.com to learn more.



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

The Immigration Project

This March, our donations go to the Immigration Project.

- The Immigration Project is the principal provider of immigration legal services in Central and Southern Illinois. Despite the fact that over 100,000 immigrants live south of I-80, The Immigration Project is the only non-profit, legal service staffing full time immigration attorneys, serving 700-1000 clients a year!
- Access to immigration legal services can be the difference between struggling in poverty and economic self-sufficiency; the difference between living in a domestic violence situation and escaping it; the difference between hopelessness and hope. The work that The

- Immigration Project does is VITAL for community health, individual wellness, and immigrant success.
- The work that The Immigration Project does not only changes lives, but saves them! In addition to standard immigration cases like adjustment of status and naturalization, The Immigration Project has a Survivors of Trauma program, dedicated to helping refugees and immigrant victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and crime. By making a donation to The Immigration Project today, you can help build healthy, whole communities in our state.
- A couple of fun facts: one in six workers in Illinois are an immigrant and one in seven people in Illinois are an immigrant. Also, 97 cents of every dollar donated to The Immigration Project goes directly to help immigrant clients.

To donate to The Immigration Project, make out your check to The Immigration Project and deliver to UUBN. Donations can also be made via the Breeze Online Giving website here or from your smartphone when you download the app. Our subdomain is uubn.

STEWARDSHIP

Pledges from our members and friends support the ministries of the church.

If you haven't made your pledge for 2024, here is the link: https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/

Communications are confidential.

Ongoing Group Gatherings

Adult Game Night: We will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 6pm. Bring any kind of board or card game you'd like to play. We play cooperative games, competitive games, simple games, complex games - we play everything. Bring something to drink (non-alcoholic). Shareable snacks are welcome but not required for attendance. Contact <u>Babs Allen</u> if you have questions.

Covenant Groups: Lay-led small groups that meet once a month to deepen and expand the ministry of the congregation through spiritual and emotional connection. Email <u>Terina</u> to join a small group.

Mindfulness Meditation for Beginners: Weekly practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm online. This is an opportunity to practice mindfulness meditation. While this practice is aimed at beginners, it is open to any one and all are welcome to participate. Contact <u>Dave Shanahan</u> with questions.

Monday Lunch Bunch: Want to start your week with good company and lively, informal conversation? Join us in the Fell Room with or without your lunch. No reservations required. All topics are welcome. We light the chalice at 11:45 AM and release the flame at 1:00 PM. Coffee and tea provided. Hosted by the Membership Team.

Contacts:

UUBN Staff

Minister

Rev. Rebecca Gant

minister@uubn.org

Available by appointment. Click this link to see when she's available: https://calendly.com/revrebeccagant/30min

Director of Religious Exploration

Terina Carter

LRE@uubn.org

Available by Appointment

Office Manager Blair Broughton

office@uubn.org

Office hours vary. Please make an appointment: 217-722-3586 (call or text)

Music Director
Charlie Berggren

Children's Choir Director Bob Mangialardi

AV Technician
Molly Hjelle
avstaff@uubn.org

AV Technician
Anastasia Guzman
avstaff@uubn.org

Child Care
Sara Kaeb
office@uubn.org

UUBN Board Information

President: Larissa Armstrong; Vice President: Julie Prandi; Secretary: Chad Kahl; Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong. Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Brad Bell, Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, and Richard Seehuus.

Monthly Board Meetings are in Irvin Room and Online at 6:30 on the Second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend. Contact the office for the Zoom Link.

Contact the board at <u>uubnboard@uubn.org</u>.

UUBN Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committee Contacts

Aesthetics
Building and Grounds
Committee on Shared Ministry
Finance and Stewardship

Doug Johnson
Dick Hansen
Janet Tulley
Emile Garneau

Denominational Affairs Memorial Garden Stewards Safety Nancy Armstrong
Debby Funk
Larissa Armstrong

Team Contacts

Membership and Outreach Kathy Packard Right Relations Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan **Community Concerns** Camille Ehlers **Green Sanctuary** Nancy Armstrong Helping Hands Carolyn Pitts Joan Banks History Religious Exploration (RE) Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter Social Justice Chad Kahl Worship and Music Barb Dallinger, Rev. Rebecca Gant **Pastoral Care** Rev. Rebecca Gant

Groups with Contacts

Many Paths CUUPS Sean-Thomas Gunnell

Bloomington-Normal Humanist

Group Karl Smith
UU Women's Federation Lin Hinds
B-N Meditation Group Carolyn Moon, Dave Shanahan

To obtain contact information for the leads of these groups please see the online directory or email the office.

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