



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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May 2017

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Race, the UUA, and UUMAN

The UUA is experiencing its most significant turbulence since the late 60s. At that time, the UUA crisis came to be known as the Black Empowerment Controversy. With the UUA's reluctant affiliation and funding of the Black Affairs Council (BAC) in 1967 through its dis-affiliation and defunding in 1970, the UUA experienced racial strife as never before.

That controversy must be looked at through the lens of Black Power which was becoming the predominant civil rights methodology at the time. People of color, tired of constantly being a minority in "democratic" institutions, wanted access to and control of their own destiny in their own institutions.

It didn't end well. All would now agree that it was uncharted territory for all parties.

Last month, facing criticism for lack of diversity in the UUA's hiring practices at the highest levels of the Association has led to the resignations of Rev. Peter Morales (President), Rev. Harlan Limpert (Chief Operating Officer), and Rev. Scott Tayler (Director of Congregational Life). The crisis came to a head with the hiring of Rev. Kenn Hurto's replacement as chief executive of the Southern Region. (Rev. Hurto is retiring this year.) Rev. Hurto's replacement, a white male minister, has since declined to accept the position which will be left vacant for the time being.

As a result of this disruption, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) has suggested that congregations dedicate an upcoming Sunday morning to explore issues of race and privilege. UUMAN will be setting aside the service on Sunday, May 14 to answer this call.

Your Social Justice Committee and I have decided that this is not enough however. Dedicating a single Sunday morning to this issue (or to ANY issue of importance) isn't, nor can it ever be, a systemic response leading to structural reorientation and change. More work simply needs to be done. For this

reason, UUMAN will be undertaking the Living the Pledge Workshop during the 2017-2018 church year. And we may not stop there. Upon completion of Living the Pledge and accompanying reflection, we may decide to go even deeper.

Exploring issues of race and privilege can be difficult subjects. Sometimes even the very words we use simply to help describe the situation can trigger unexpected emotions and responses.

When we engage in this effort, we will not be looking to assign blame to anyone. We will not be looking to make people feel guilty. Once the engrained structures of racism are seen for the first time however, one can't help but feel sad and heartbroken. For this reason, we hope to engage in this work in the spirit of love and compassion. We can be present for each other amongst the heartbreak.

It is courageous work and a difficult journey...and we ask that you embrace this work and take this journey with us. It begins on Sunday, May 14.

Take care & be well,

Dave



Sharing the Plate: 50-50



UUCA Upcoming Events

Half of our undesignated plate funds go once a month to a non-profit organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee.

Last month's recipient, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, received \$272.50.

In support of National Mental Health Month, May's recipient is The Link Counseling Center. "1 in 5 Americans will be affected by a mental health condition in their lifetime and every American is affected or impacted through their friends and family. Take action today to help others as we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equal care."

The Link Counseling Center is a nonprofit community counseling center serving the community since 1971. The Link provides quality, affordable, confidential counseling, psychotherapy, and support groups to all ages. The Link is dedicated to providing affordable therapeutic services on a low cost, sliding fee scale. Clients are seen by Link therapists for as many visits as needed. No outside parties determine eligibility for services, number of visits or fees paid. To learn more, go to www.thelink.org

If you would like to nominate your favorite charity to be a 50-50 recipient, email socialjustice@uuman.org

—Michelle Liebergesell

MAY 13 WINE, CHEESE, AND THE SPOKEN WORD AT UUCA TO FEATURE KATHY NASH

The UUCA Performing Arts Coordinating Team is pleased to welcome Kathy Nash as the featured artist for the May Wine Cheese, and the Spoken Word. Katherine Rogers Nash received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from Indiana University. She has professionally performed major roles in several operas as well as a wide range of solo oratorio work, frequent weddings, funerals, and recitals. She has been invited by colleges, churches, and public schools to teach vocal technique, teaching at both LaGrange College and Indiana University, and was employed as a staff soloist, section leader, and singing teacher at First Christian Church of Atlanta for 15 years. Kathy composes protest songs, including the lyrics, which will be featured in her Wine, Cheese, and the Spoken Word appearance.

An open mic session between Kathy's two sets offers local poets the opportunity to share their work. Wine, soft drinks, and cheese will be available. Any questions about this event or the series should be sent to Carol Welter at welterdelis@gmail.com

The Underground Theatre is the primary performing arts venue of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, 30329 (alternate address for the parking lot: 1597 Interstate-85 Frontage Road, Atlanta, GA 30329). Doors open at 7 pm; readings are from 7:30-9:30 pm. Suggested admission donation is \$5. PLEASE NOTE: The readings may contain adult content and language.



Rev. Cynthia's Final Gift to UUMAN Board of Trustees Decision

On Thursday, April 27, 2017, our Board of Trustees (BOT) voted for UUMAN to become a member of the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF - info at www.uucef.org) to establish the UUMAN Endowment Fund in honor of Rev. Cynthia Prescott. Rev. Cynthia served UUMAN as our interim minister from August 2014 to her untimely death on May 28, 2016.

By their vote, the members of the BOT agreed with the majority of congregational participants who were queried by the ad hoc Committee for Rev. Cynthia's Bequest (CCB) about the use of this gift, as well as the Endowment Committee, whose members unanimously recommended that establishing the UUMAN Endowment Fund in this way would best recognize Rev. Cynthia's love for UUMAN, her strong belief in our UU Principles, and her wish to see UUMAN thrive far into the future.

As for the second half of the query by the CCB regarding how the remaining \$500 will be used after funding the UUMAN Endowment Fund with \$10,000 to the UUCEF: There were many suggestions given by the respondents both at the meeting held on April 16, 2017, and via the survey (active from 4/19/17 through 4/24/17), but none had either the number of responses or the passion as those in favor of a memorial bench and memorial labyrinth. Therefore, the BOT also voted to use the remaining \$500 to acquire a memorial bench with plaque honoring Rev. Cynthia and to use any money remaining after acquiring the bench to seed the creation of a memorial labyrinth under the supervision of the Labyrinth Committee, Susan Wilson, Chair. The memorial labyrinth will not be dedicated to any one individual, but will be created and used to remember all those who have meant so much to us in the past and into the future.

Although it is very probable that Rev. Cynthia would be laughing heartedly about all this "fuss" about her bequest, we hope she would also feel that having the decisions made in a deliberative, thoughtful manner led to the best possible outcome for UUMAN.

— Beverly Jordan for: The Committee for Cynthia's Bequest and The UUMAN Endowment Committee



Adult RE Offering - "Being Peace"



Come to Dance Church at UUMAN

At a time of discord and division, when ideological battle lines are being drawn and we are lining up along them to act, promote, defend, and resist, how do we find peace, either within ourselves or among those around us – those like us or those we might consider the other? Might we learn from the lives and writings of the wise – spiritual masters and other teachers – that developing self-awareness - coming to know ourselves better – and accepting ourselves – is a start, that others see the world and come at it differently than we do, and that, ultimately, peace within ourselves and among our neighbors can only flow from that understanding. The Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh tells us that love flows from understanding – and with it compassion and a visceral knowing of our interconnectedness with all that is.

Join us this summer – the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of the month – beginning June 11 for an exploration of this path – in reading, discussion, listening, presenting, and practicing. We are calling it “Being Peace”. Units will include: Thich Nhat Hanh’s book *Being Peace*, Buddhist nun Pema Chodron’s book *The Places That Scare You*, the concept of the shadow side of ourselves – what it represents and how to claim it (as opposed to burying it), and Byron Katie’s *The Work*, a way of identifying and questioning the thoughts that cause our suffering. Members of the group will share in leading/facilitation of our various units. Expertise not required.

The series will continue in the fall, if there is sufficient interest in the congregation.

Please join us!

Childcare will be provided as needed.

– Dave Hudson – for the Adult Enrichment Team

Dance Church is a spiritual but non-religious event. It is a diverse gathering to honor the body/spirit connection, celebrate life, and build community through dancing in whatever way you are moved and with an openness to the sacred, however defined. Do your yoga, stretch, boogie; lay on the floor, dance in your chair, dance alone, with another, with others; connect with your own spirit and that of whatever may be greater. A circle will begin and end the gathering and a variety of music will be played. Every Body is welcome!

Several members and friends of UUMAN have attended Dance Church in Decatur and talked about getting something started outside the Perimeter. We had our first evenings of dance in January and February. Those who attended agreed that Dance Church is a great way to relieve stress, have fun, connect with others, and find inner joy in these stressful times. Dance Church North is now happening once a month at UUMAN. We hope you can come dance in the Sanctuary on Friday, May 19 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM:

Opening Circle: 7:00 PM

Dancing until @ 8:00 PM

Quiet time to relax, journal, stretch at 8:00 - 8:15 PM

Closing Circle: 8:15 PM

Come for all or part of the evening.

Bring your water bottle and dress for comfort. If you want to lay on the floor to stretch or relax, bring a yoga mat or blanket.

(\$5 suggested donation, but don't let \$ stop you from attending. Children always free.)

Administered by Marjorie Pomper

More Info: marjpomper@gmail.com

FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

Our UUMAN Gardening Group is still putting down fresh mulch and cleaning up the garden. We are having trouble getting the work done due to rainy Mondays. We are tentatively scheduled to have a make-up work day on Monday, May 1. We also still plan to have two regularly-scheduled work days in May; the first on Monday, May 8 and the second on Monday, May 22 (weather permitting). We try to work on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from March through November. UUMAN announcements are sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please consider joining us this year. Hope to see you there!

Claire Sullivan

UUMAN Gardening Group
 cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



Tulips



Red Rose



Azalea



Iris



Rhododendron



Lenten Rose



Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
5/2	Jake H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/4	John and Dolly Peltier are celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary!
5/5	Ann Creech is celebrating a birthday
5/7	There will be a child dedication ceremony for Heath Owen Fajardo!
	There will be a child dedication ceremony for Ida Gellerstedt!
	Anna and Kit Hamblen are celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary!
	Levi S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/15	Thomas Seaver is celebrating a birthday
	Paula Watson is celebrating a birthday
	Liam W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/20	Isabella Dunn is celebrating a birthday
	Addy G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/25	Marjorie Pomper is celebrating a birthday
5/26	Elizabeth Rohan and Stephen Shanahan are celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary!
5/27	Rick Irwin and Paula Watson are celebrating their 38th wedding anniversary!
	Melane Sibley is celebrating a birthday
5/28	Escher V. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
5/7	<p>Embrace Your Weakness. Embrace Your Failure.</p> <p>Service Description: We are enamored with the allure of "success" and the idea that it can come without the price of failure. We have inherent worth; yet weakness and failure are also built in to the fabric of our existence. Can these be keys that can enable us to lead fulfilling lives?</p>	Rev Dave Dunn
5/14	<p>Black Lives of UU Teach-In</p> <p>"Battling racism in its many forms is not easy. Everyone has to start somewhere, and it takes a commitment to disrupt business as usual." –Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism.</p> <p>What would it look like to choose our faith over fear? How do we build a new way? Join us as we do the work toward the beloved community we all seek.</p>	Rev Dave Dunn with the Social Justice Committee
5/21	<p>Ministry with Children and Youth Celebration</p>	Rev Dave Dunn Toniann Read
5/28	<p>Reaching for New Life</p> <p>Through the story of immigrants, we can learn lessons valuable to all areas of our own lives. The willingness to leave the unfamiliar, as well as courage and openness to change are among the qualities that characterize immigrants. These qualities can also apply to many changes in our lives, both chosen and not chosen.</p>	Darya Aberback

May Connections

Date	Event
<p>Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>UUMAN's Painting Group</p> <p>Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired) on Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN.</p> <p>Contact: Annette Pate painting@uuman.org</p>
<p>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15</p>	<p>Daytimers</p> <p>The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David at dan@uuman.org</p>
<p>Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>The Common Grounds Coffee House</p> <p>Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen!</p> <p>Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.</p>
<p>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</p>	<p>Centering at UUMAN</p> <p>Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly at 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences.</p> <p>For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at campoften@aol.com</p>
<p>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</p>	<p>Circle of Women</p> <p>We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge l etheridge1@gmail.com</p>

For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to www.uuman.org.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org