



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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## Board Retreat: Goals and Initiatives for 2017-2018

UUMAN’s Board Retreat was held on Saturday, August 12.

Board work while others may be addressed in conjunction with a Standing Committee (or Ad Hoc Advisory Committee).

At the retreat, the Board wanted to accomplish three things that will guide UUMAN’s work in the coming year:

In no particular order, the Board Initiatives for the coming year are as follows:

1. Develop UUMAN’s Ministry Goals for the Program Council
2. Develop Board Initiatives
3. Develop Methods to Better Engage in Dialogue with the Congregation

- Volunteer Recognition
- Action Plan for World Crisis
- Bylaws Revision
- Create/Enhance Service Culture Within UUMAN
- Oversight of Program Council’s Progress Toward Overarching Goals
- Reclaim our Humanity from Racism and Oppression

### Ministry Goals for the Program Council

After reflecting on the UUMAN’s Mission Statement, the Board set some general ministry goals that must be addressed by the Program Council and its Committees. These ministry goals are intended to be general in nature, thus allowing maximum flexibility for interpretation by each of UUMAN’s Program Council Committees. It is expected that each UUMAN Committee write its own specific goals to meet each of the Board’s ministry goals.

### Develop Methods to Better Engage in Dialogue with the Congregation

The Board wishes to better engage in dialogue with the congregation in order to discuss mission, vision, ministry goals, initiatives (see above), etc. To accomplish this, the Board will be reaching out in intentional ways in order to seek alignment to and gather information from the congregation. This year’s conversations will inform any adjustments to next year’s ministry goals and initiatives.

The Board’s ministry goals call for UUMAN to be:

- A community where every member is connected and engaged
- A community whose numbers and influence are growing
- A vehicle of service to our community and the world
- Radically multigenerational in all we do.

By empowering UUMAN’s Program Council Committees to do the ministry and work of the congregation, the Board can begin taking a longer-term outlook and be flexible to make informed adjustments to mission and vision moving forward.

### Board Initiatives

—Dave

In order to best prepare UUMAN for the future, the Board has decided to educate itself and focus its attention on a few specific initiatives in the coming year. Some of these initiatives involve some internal



## **UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50**

On the third Sunday of the month, we share our undesignated plate offering with a non-profit organization. This month's recipient is International Rescue Committee (IRC). The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and gain control of their future. Please consider donating to this worthy cause and to UUMAN.

Last month's recipient, Black Hill's Unity Concert, received \$276.40.

## **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Events**

### **WINE, CHEESE & THE SPOKEN WORD**

Stand-up Comedy, Poetry and Open Mic at UUCA's Underground Theatre September 23.

**Andy Rhodes** – Stand-up comic Andy Rhodes will be presenting an evening of humorous acting with impersonations, accents, improvisations, and a touch of political humor.

**Elizabeth Leila L'Abate** – Poet, singer, musician: Elizabeth Leila L'Abate may read her poetry in the traditional way, or present it with harmonium or tamboura along with shamanic singing.

An Open Mic session will be held between the two sets, offering local poets the opportunity to share their work. Any questions about this event, the series, or the Open Mic should be sent to Carol Welter at [welterdelis@gmail.com](mailto: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 6:45 pm; the pre-show begins at 7pm and readings are from 7:30-9:30 pm. Wine, soft drinks, and cheese will be available. Suggested admission donation: \$5. PLEASE NOTE: Shows may contain adult content and language.

### **OCTOBER 14 IN UUCA'S UNDERGROUND THEATRE: A NIGHT OF VONNEGUT**

The Underground Theatre at UUCA will present A Night of Vonnegut, a staged reading of the works of Kurt Vonnegut, featuring short stories from his posthumously published "Armageddon In Retrospect." One of the most acclaimed American writers of the 20th Century, Vonnegut was a prisoner of war during WWII and witnessed first hand the aftermath of the Allied bombing of Dresden. In this collection of short stories, he writes of the absurdity and horror of war with a sense of moral outrage and dark humor.

The readings, directed by UUCA member Liz Bigler, will be performed by a small collection of local actors.

Doors open at 7:00 pm; performance 7:30-10pm. Suggested admission donation is \$10, but no one will be turned away. Donations go to support UUCA. There will be a raffle of merchandise from the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library during intermission, and proceeds will benefit the ACLU, of which Vonnegut was a passionate supporter. Refreshments will be available. Please Note: Stories may contain adult content and language.

The Underground Theatre is in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta church at 911 Cliff Valley Way, NE, Atlanta 30329. Alternate address for the parking lot: 1597 Interstate-85 Frontage Road, Atlanta 30329.

## **Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation Event**

### **EMPOWERING REFUGEES—NWUUC DINNER**

Plan now to attend the NWUUC dinner to benefit refugee families on September 30 in our lobby. A delicious Middle Eastern dinner will be prepared and served by one or two families. The food is prepared and served by the participating families and all the money after dinner ingredients are purchased goes directly to the family or families. After dinner, we will have a chance to talk with the families who have done the cooking..

Seating is limited to 50 adults and the cost is \$50/person. Tickets will only be available online. For more details on the dinner, go to the [event](#) FaceBook page, Empowering Refugees-Atlanta @NWUUC, or call NW member Lil Woolf for more details. 404-276-6189

## Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) Fall Conference in Atlanta

Mark your Calendars for the ARE Fall Conference, Oct 20-22!

MORE INFO: [www.uuare.org/conference](http://www.uuare.org/conference)

THEME: "Relationship, Commitment, and Stone Soup: Rockin' a Movement Together"

Sliding Scale Registration: \$110-\$150  
Scholarships available

This fall, Allies for Racial Equity moves into new ways of being in relationship together: among our members, with our accountability partners, and at our annual conference! Together with our conference hosts at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, we invite you to join us in building new relationships, deepening our commitment to the work, and having faith that what we collectively bring to the table crafts the "stone soup" to nurture and sustain the growing movement for racial justice in Unitarian Universalism.

Come, rock a movement with us!

CAN YOU OFFER HOME HOSPITALITY?

In order to make this event as accessible as possible for volunteer leadership, collaborators, and participants who are from outside the immediate area, we'd like to ask local UU's to provide home hospitality for the weekend (10/20 - 10/22). Some guests will be staying all three nights, some may only need one:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelPfOoXURSnyoNyCr8R4bHpes3yeN4-o1bYpLTtYpjR7\\_sTg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelPfOoXURSnyoNyCr8R4bHpes3yeN4-o1bYpLTtYpjR7_sTg/viewform)

I hope you will be able to join us!

Sheila K. Smith, Social Action Committee

## Being Peace – An Adult Enrichment Offering

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 the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of the month – beginning September 24 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.

Please join us! If you are interested please contact Dave Hudson by responding to this email.

Childcare will be provided as needed.

Dave Hudson – for the Adult Enrichment Team

## Monthly Message from Leadership Development

Shared by Terry Parkerson.

### Meditation

By: Robert Latham

From "Committee on Ministry Models"

*Some members fear that growth will diminish the sense of community often afforded by a smaller attendance.*

*This fear is usually grounded in seeing membership as providing community for the sake of community*

*And misguidedly seeing such*

*as the mission of the congregation.*

*Community for the sake of community*

*is no stronger*

*than the fragility of the egos involved*

*If the members truly wish to experience profound community*

*that bonds beyond private agenda and ego fragility,*

*commitment to the congregation's mission is the answer*

*Profound community is always the symptom*

*of commitment to profound cause*

*Metaphorically,*

*the bonding difference between community*

*generated by commitment to a transcendent purpose*

*and community generated by a desire for community*

*is the difference between crazy glue and flour paste.*

*If members are truly interested in profound community*

*they will only find it when engaging profound mission.*

*And engaging profound mission*

*is always tied to growth*

*because it demands public proclamation.*

The Leadership Development Committee will be working with other committees across the congregation over the months of October and November to hear from each of you on what about Unitarian Universalism generally and UUMAN specifically feeds you, as well as how you serve Unitarian Universalism generally and UUMAN specifically. We'll use the information gathered to better drive programming at UUMAN and to help plug you into your areas of greatest interest.



# COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE ANNIVERSARY NIGHT

We had a great Coffee House in August with our pianist Ellen Meadows playing with her bandmate Amber Taylor. Mockingbird's Wing followed them and put on an excellent show with their wonderful harmonies.



Our next Coffee House will be on Saturday, September 23. Bill Kahler and Lashbrooks will be performing. Show starts at 7:30 pm in the UUMAN Sanctuary.



## HELP WANTED:

The Common Grounds Coffee House is looking for a few good people to join our team. We are in need of strong people who have about 30-60 minutes to share a month. And you don't have to do it every month. We need Roadies. This important work includes rearranging the chairs in the Sanctuary, bringing in four long tables and four round tables, and putting up the black curtain backdrop. If we have two people it takes about an hour and you have two very tired people. If we have 4-5 volunteers it takes about 30 minutes and everyone is very happy. If you are able to help, please send an email to [coffeehouse@uuman.org](mailto:coffeehouse@uuman.org) and we will add you to the email list to sign up on the google doc that Mike Chambers sends out.

Coffee House could also use a few more bakers (and food donators). We sell snacks and sweet treats at the Coffee House. If you would like to bake something or donate an item purchased (cake, cookies, cheese & crackers, fruit), send an email to [coffeehouse@uuman.org](mailto:coffeehouse@uuman.org) and we will add your name to the monthly email sign up list.

- Janet Lacey



The Harvest Moon Auction—UUMAN's premier social event and fundraiser—is just two months away, November 11th. Now is the time to start thinking about what you can do to help make it a success.

## Dining for Women (DFW) Meeting

You are invited to attend an informational meeting about Dining for Women (DFW) on Sunday, September 24 at noon in the sanctuary, led by DFW Regional co-leaders. After the meeting, if there is enough interest, we could start a chapter at UUMAN.

For me, Dining for Women all started when a lady in a grocery store parking lot commented on one of my bumper stickers. We started a conversation—I spoke about our partner church in India, and she spoke about Dining for Women. My interest was piqued with getting together socially once a month for a worthy cause, and our conversation led to my attending a dinner with a Roswell chapter of women. Meeting other women with values around helping other women in developing countries and sharing a meal has been so much fun! We get together on the third Thursday of the month for a potluck. Usually the dinner is themed around the country of the grantee. There are recipes on the DFW website and I write a tax deductible check to DFW for what I would spend on a meal dining out. I would like to share my experience with others at UUMAN to deepen my relationships by having dinner and conversation once a month!

The DFW collective-giving model is proving that small contributions, aggregated together, can make a huge difference. This is especially true in the most impoverished areas of the world, where some subsist on less than \$1.25 a day.

DFW chapters meet on a regular basis, usually monthly, and share a meal together. Members share camaraderie and learn about that month's featured grantees through videos, educational documents and presentations, and free and open discussion. Funds raised each month go to fund the featured and sustained grantees, as well as support the entire mission of DFW.

DFW doesn't just give money, they invest in futures. The organizations and projects they support educate girls, teach women a skill, help develop markets for their products, and fight the prevalent gender inequality in the world. DFW is a hand up, not a hand out.

DFW funds grass-roots projects in education, healthcare, economic and environmental sustainability, safety and security, leadership and agriculture. These projects are aimed at improving the living situations for women and their families by providing the tools they need to make changes in their lives, in their communities, and in their children's futures.

—Michelle Liebergesell

Take a look at this top-eleven list from last year's auction...

- South of the Border Dinner
- Movie Night-"Airplane"/"First Class" Dinner
- Armenian Dinner
- Kayak Adventure
- Jerusalem Cookbook Dinner
- Italian Wine Tasting
- Team Trivia Night
- Four Night Jamaican Vacation
- Dinner/Music at Matilda's Under the Stars
- Gourmet Valentine Dinner
- Filet Mignon Dinner in the Springtime

Notice a theme? Nothing is more popular or profitable than hosting a dinner or social event. And nothing is more fun! For both the donor and the buyer. Don't you have a favorite recipe, or an idea for a theme dinner, that you can share? There's no better way to get to know your fellow UUMANS while helping to make our church fiscally strong. You might begin a lifelong friendship or two in the bargain.

At next Sunday's services, there will be cards in the back of our seats asking for contributions for this year's Harvest Moon auction. The cards will include a list of suggestions for items to donate, including your answers to our recent survey. This week, please take a little time to think about something you could offer this year. Get creative! The Harvest Moon Auction is like everything in life: the more involved you get, the more fun you'll have.

If you have ideas for items to donate, or you'd like to donate your time, contact Tanya Romine at [tt.romine@gmail.com](mailto:tt.romine@gmail.com)

# FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

We have two regularly-scheduled work days in September; the first on Monday, September 11 and the second on Monday, September 25 (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. We usually work from 9:00 a.m. to around 11:00 a.m. You're welcome to join us for an hour or two or a day or two throughout the gardening year. Hope to see you there!

Claire Sullivan

UUMAN Gardening Group  
 cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



A Perinneeal Sunflower



A Volunteer



A White Dwarf Encore Azalea



The Memorial



Coneflowers



Lantana



Near the Front Entrance



## 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](mailto:cbsullivan@bellsouth.net)

Date	Celebration
9/6	Kit Hamblen is celebrating a birthday
9/9	Dirk and Ann Bender are celebrating their 27th anniversary!
9/10	Luc G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/12	Alison King is celebrating a birthday Sheila K. Smith is celebrating a birthday
9/18	Nelson and Marcia Hagood are celebrating their 7th anniversary! Aidan W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/21	Simon L. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/22	Carolina Patlis and Sam Friedman are celebrating their 17th anniversary!
9/24	Maeve H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday Jesse Read is celebrating a birthday
9/27	Mike Saltzman is celebrating a birthday
9/28	Troy vdB. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
9/3	<b>A Transformative Labor Day</b>  As we approach the Labor Day holiday, let's try to see it in a new way. In addition to honoring our work efforts as they are, might we reorient our efforts to shape them into what they can be?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/10	<b>Adult Enrichment Sunday</b>  Unitarian Universalist principles encourage us to pursue spiritual growth and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Today, we explore how UUMAN Adult Enrichment can foster our members' life-long journey, coming to understand more fully our values and principles and living into them.	Maria Azuri, Linda Etheridge, Annette Pate, Brad Achille, Guest Speakers
9/17	<b>Living the Pledge: The Promise and Practice of Our Faith</b>  How do we do the work toward the beloved community we all seek? Living the Pledge is a racial justice initiative. Join us in this multi-generational service as we learn how to put	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/24	<b>In the Spirit of Hildegard</b>  Though she lived almost 1000 years ago, Hildegard of Bingen, Saint and Doctor of the Church, feels contemporary! Not content simply to be Benedictine abbess, she was also a philosopher, mystic, playwright, composer, environmentalist and a proponent of the Divine Feminine. What does she call upon us to do today?	Rev. Dave Dunn

## September Connections

Date	Event
<b>Wednesdays Fall Session starting 9/13 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</b>  Fellowship Hall	<b>UUMAN's Painting Group</b>  Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired). We have easels and tray tables; just bring your paints and a canvas. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate <a href="mailto:painting@uuman.org">painting@uuman.org</a>
<b>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15</b>	<b>Daytimers</b>  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. <a href="mailto:dan@uuman.org">dan@uuman.org</a>
<b>Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>The Common Grounds Coffee House</b>  Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! 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.
<b>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</b>	<b>Centering at UUMAN</b>  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.  For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at <a href="mailto:campoften@aol.com">campoften@aol.com</a>
<b>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</b>	<b>Circle of Women</b>  We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson <a href="mailto:hudsonkd@bellsouth.net">hudsonkd@bellsouth.net</a> or Linda Etheridge <a href="mailto:lletheridge1@gmail.com">lletheridge1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Saturdays , 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available .</b>	<b>Mindfulness Meditation</b>  Whether you have been meditating for years or are curious about possibly starting a practice, we offer a peaceful space to sit as well as a time to share and learn in a community of fellow meditators. Contact J. Kevin King at (470) 723-4070 <a href="mailto:jkevinking@yahoo.com">jkevinking@yahoo.com</a>

*For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to [www.uuman.org](http://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 proceeding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)