



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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Cancel Culture: Should We Look In the Mirror?

Teen fiction writer and critic Kokoso Jackson was often hired by book publishers as a “sensitivity reader” to identify books that might be insensitive to particular communities.

As part of his work, he tweeted, “Stories about the civil rights movement should be written by black people. Stories of suffrage should be written by women. Ergo, stories about boys during life-changing times, like the AIDS epidemic, should be written by gay men. Why is this so hard to get?”

Yes, why is this so hard to get? It seems to make sense.

Yet Mr. Jackson felt compelled to withdraw the release of his own book when it apparently “ran afoul of the sensibilities of the Twitter gatekeeping class, which deemed it insensitive to Muslims and unduly focused on people of privilege (Jennifer Senior, Teen Fiction and the Perils of Cancel Culture, NY Times, 03/08/19).”

Of course, I haven’t read his book. It hasn’t been released. Was he writing about Muslims? (Mr. Jackson is not a Muslim.) Were his characters people of privilege? Again, I don’t know; but apparently he violated the Twitter “cancel culture” gods. (Cancel culture is a mostly, but not exclusively, online dropping, embarrassing or shaming of a person, place or thing.)

So to return to Mr. Jackson’s question, “Why is this so hard to get?” Well...apparently it is more difficult to get than it appears.

Even if we all agreed that Mr. Jackson’s original tweet were true (and I’m not saying that we all do agree), will cancel culture allow others to make observations, comments, share dialogue, etc. regarding groups unlike themselves? When I observe cancel culture, the answer seems to be a resounding “No!” (Actually, it says “No...and you’re now officially Cancelled!!!”)

Cancel cultures purity tests are intolerant other’s observations, comments and viewpoints. New York Times columnist Jennifer Senior writes regarding cancel cultures effect on the world of publishing:

“Purity tests are the tools of [cancel culture] fanatics, and the quest for purity ultimately becomes indistinguishable from the quest for power....The die-hards in this army of crusaders will argue they’re doing it in the name of diversity, but it’s really just the opposite: If Twitter controls publishing, we’ll soon enter a dreary monoculture that admits no book unless it has been prejudged and meets the standards of the censors.” (Jennifer Senior, Teen Fiction and the Perils of Cancel Culture, NY Times, 03/08/19).

What scares me is that cancel culture isn’t simply limited to the world of publishing. It leaves no stone unturned. Nothing is off limits.

Since cancel cultures purity tests are intolerant of other’s observations, comments, viewpoints (and imperfection), are they compatible with our theology of the interconnectedness of all things; that everything we (all) do matters; that everything we (all) do affects everything else? Are they compatible with the inherent worth and dignity of all?

Cancel culture is infecting our entire society. It first infects social media but it then seems to spread, moving on to infect the hearts and minds of social medias consumers and then all that they touch....And it is my hope that it does not infect Unitarian Universalism (or UUMAN).

I know I don’t need to tell you that this world has its serious problems. I do need to tell you however that cancel culture, with its purity and intolerance offers no solutions. It offers just the opposite.

Take care,

Dave

Peach Care Circle St. Patrick's Day Potluck

UUMAN's Peach Care Circle had their annual St. Patrick's Day potluck luncheon at the new home of Marc and Carolyn Lee. 13 members dressed in green clothes and some cooked green food. Guinness beer and Irish Whiskey was available for those who chose to partake. St. Patty's Day décor and photo props added to the fun. As an added bonus we played Irish music courtesy of Keltic Kudzu- a fan favorite at Common Grounds Coffee House. Our care circle always has a lot of fun and no one went home hungry...or thirsty!

—Carolyn Lee



Save the Date for the UUMAN Passover Seder

Please join us for UUMAN's (almost) annual Passover Seder on **Saturday, April 27 at 5 pm** in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. For those who have never attended a UUMAN Seder (or one at all)—ours is the UU version of the Old Testament story of Moses and the Jewish Exodus from Egypt. This story resonates with UUs because it is a story of social justice and this year excerpts from other Haggadahs such as The Freedom Center for the Earth and Next Year in a Just World will be included. They apply the story of Passover to current social justice/climate issues facing us currently.



This is a family friendly participatory Seder with voluntary reading parts, songs (some are catchy tunes set to popular songs) and a contest for the kids (finding the afikomen which has a small monetary prize for the winner). Add in Matzoh ball soup (so delicious) and a buffet after the Seder (service) and a good time will be had by all while honoring a very important Jewish holiday about social justice and equity. For families of little ones- the service is held at the table and there is traditional food served throughout the service to keep them busy. If you want to bring some snacks for them though, feel free. Also- we will need older child volunteers to read certain parts of the Seder as well. They will have fun! No sitters needed.

A sign-up genius link will be created the **second week in April** asking for food/drink signups and volunteers. For now, please save the date.

Questions? Contact me at carolynalee@bellsouth.net

Please note: I will be out of the country from March 27 until April 7. If you contact me during that time I will reply when I am back in town.

—Carolyn Lee

Our Trip to New Echota



We were a people before “We the People.” Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw), 20th President of the National Congress of American Indians, 2013

This we know. The UUMAN campus lies on ground that was home to native tribes forcefully removed*. As a People of Justice, how will we respect and acknowledge this? A UUMAN group has arisen to make a recommendation to the congregation. The group is composed of Donna Melcher, Diantha Horton, Lyn May, Terry Schiff, Leslie Wolfe, and Bruce Langston.

We have begun this journey by (re)educating ourselves on the native peoples of this land. We are reading about what is recommended by native people and the ethics surrounding stolen property that is legally acquired.

On March 9, we travelled to New Echota (in Calhoun, Georgia), the historic, abandoned capital of the Cherokee people. The Cherokee were quite Westernized in their living habits and had adopted a very similar governing approach to the United States. Against the Supreme Court’s orders, they were moved out of their native lands on the Trail of Tears which started in Georgia (as close as Canton).

Next month, we will meet privately with Lyla June Johnston, a native Dine’ (Navajo) woman who is coming into town to speak at Agnes Scott College. We hope to gain an unfiltered perspective from this young woman who is a graduate of Stanford, is of Euro-American and native heritage and is a respected activist for native issues. We have also reached out to Dr. Lucian Lamar Sneed who is the Chairman of the Georgia Tribe of the Eastern Cherokee. He will be with us as well to share his views as a one whose ancestry goes back many generations on these lands. It should be an interesting discussion!

On April 27, Rev. Dave will be providing part of the welcoming for the public event at Roswell Festival of Lights and he has agreed to include a Native Land Acknowledgement. To our knowledge, this may be the first time that a public event in Roswell has been opened in this manner.

Our recommendation will be structured with elements for all age groups and we encourage you to read up on Native Land Acknowledgement in the following article published by the US Department of Arts and Culture: [Native Land Acknowledgement Article](#)

*Georgia illegally distributed native lands in 7 gold lotteries from the years 1805-1833. In the 1832 Gold Lottery, Section 2 District 1 Land Lot 396 granted to William Jordan. This 40 acres encompasses UUMAN 11420 Crabapple Road. It was traversed by a road leading to New Echota.

—Donna Melcher

Dark Green Care Circle Potluck

The Dark Green Care Circle enjoyed each other’s company over a potluck meal in late February. It was a great evening of fellowship and friendship! We even managed to take our first group selfie.

—Ginelle Heller





Reduce and Eliminate Disposables on Our UUMAN Campus

If you are new to UUMAN you might not know that UUMAN has a long history of working on the issue of making the Earth more sustainable both here at UUMAN and in the community. This article relates some of that history at UUMAN.

When UUMAN began this effort to “reduce and eliminate disposables on our campus, we had a very small kitchen with an old inefficient dishwasher that was loud, slow, and a water-hog. We had long used paper and or Styrofoam plates and plastic utensils for all of our larger events. As the Sustainability Committee became more aware of the waste involved with this practice, they started to promote the usage of compostables in place of disposables. They started a compost pile on our campus, and were composting coffee grounds and scraps from our potlucks. With new awareness, UUMAN began to purchase bagasse (sugar-cane waste) plates and cups as well as cornstarch cups and utensils. We used funds we were collecting for our fair-trade coffee donations, which had more than quadrupled since starting to serve fair-trade, to make the purchases.

Over time the cost and the difficulties of anticipating our needs put a strain on budget and the efforts of volunteers. At this point we decided that we wanted an efficient dishwasher and one that would also be low-water usage. In 2008 we applied for and won a grant that helped us purchase a new, high-efficiency, low-water usage commercial dishwasher (\$3,800) with a two-minute cycle which would allow us to move away from BOTH disposables and the expensive compostables. With the economic crisis at that time, UUMAN, like many other congregations was having some difficulty meeting expenses, so we waited until the congregation was more secure financially before purchasing the dishwasher in the summer of 2010. Since that time we have been working to train volunteers on how to use the dishwasher and to purchase enough reusable china, glass and utensils to prevent any need for disposables.

UUMAN now uses reusable commercial plates, glasses and tableware at most of our events. Immediately upon receiving the dishwasher had a fundraiser where members and friends helped purchase place settings and single dishes for the UUMAN cupboard. The community bought over 160 plates, water glasses, wine glasses, mugs, and tableware for use at all of our larger events!! We have signs posted in the kitchen encouraging members and friends to use only the reusable plates and to forgo the more convenient paper and plastic options. Sometimes people need more time to get on board with this idea of eliminating disposables and helping the sustainability of our world.

Former member Matthew Elliott was responsible for researching the dishwasher and drafting the Chalice Lighter Grant. Members of the Program Council and the Sustainability Committee were responsible for the ongoing use of the dishwasher and for promoting the use of reusables instead of disposables. Talk to any member of the UUMAN Earth Ministry to learn more about how you can be more environmentally conscious.

—Bob Popp

Citizens Climate Lobby

I breathe. This was the most basic reason we heard at Chattahoochee Nature Center for supporting H.R. 763 (The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act). UUMANites, Bob Popp, John Pruitt, Terry Schiff and Donna Melcher supported the Roswell-Marietta Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)* at an event designed to increase awareness of the H.R.763 and send letters to congress.

CCL chapter leader and retired EPA employee, Wayne Garfinkel states, ‘of everything I know that is happening in the field of climate change solutions, this bill seems to have the type of scale and bi-partisan support that can truly make a difference’. By pricing carbon at the extraction point and redistributing the revenue monthly to American households, this bi-partisan bill puts market forces into action and is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 90 percent by 2050.

Children had fun “spinning the environmental wheel” and answering questions about the energy, health, climate and other topics to win prizes. The group gained 36 letters to congress from people attending the event and will be presenting these letters as we lobby our representatives in Washington this summer.

Citizens Climate Lobby is a non-partisan organization focused on creating the political will for a livable world. Read more at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>. You are also welcome to join the group which meets at UUMAN on second Tuesdays at 7:00. Next meeting is April 9.

— Donna Melcher



Bob Popp and the Red Winged Blackbird at CNC

New Spiritual Study and Practice Group at UUMAN

Join UUMAN's new Spiritual Study and Practice Group, beginning Friday, April 12.

Reasons to Consider Joining

It's difficult to maintain the effort and discipline of spirituality on your own, plus it can be wonderfully supportive and affirming to have friends committed to being on a spiritual path. (Nathan Thompson)

Community keeps us accountable, nurtures, teaches, and encourages us toward wholeness. It creates energy, bonds us, and offers us a safe place to explore who we are, what we question, and help mirror for each other the way forward. (Cathy Barney)

It's one thing to read a spiritual article or book, but another thing to ask: What do I think of it, what does it mean, and why does it matter? (Maria Popova)

Ralph Waldo Emerson commended close and intuitive study of anything with "the imaginative element and a certain richness that leaves room for hope and for generous attempts. That is: every good fable, every mythology, every biography out of a religious age, every passage of love, and even philosophy and science when they proceed from an intellectual integrity, and are not detached and critical."

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, think about such things. (St. Paul)

Studying differs from reading in the degree of deliberation, immersion, and focus you bring to the text.

Reading is like crossing a lake on a jet ski and studying is like scuba diving below the surface. In the first, we want to see as much of the landscape as possible, and in the second, we are deliberately hunting for treasures below. (Nicolas Carr)

You're a spiritually curious introvert and hate small talk, but love "Big Talk" about meaningful issues in relaxed social settings. (Pat Shea)

Sooner or later we all face times so tough and so discouraging that we think we might not make it through. Studying, savoring and internalizing the wisdom of sages, ancient and modern, can give you tools to navigate through such times. (Carolyn Bommarito)

If, like me, you can't get your mind to shut up during silent meditation, you can at least put it to work with spiritual study. Either way, you're exploring the divine nature, and that's pretty cool. (Rollin Mathis)

If you are curious and want to learn more, here are the details:

- The group is planning to start on April 12 and will meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 7-9.
- The group will act in the spirit of Me to We and in accordance with UUMAN's core values, with a particular focus on wonder/awe, courage, and connection. As such, the group will discern together what we will study. Anyone who wants to will have an opportunity to facilitate or lead a discussion. We will generally spend 4-8 sessions per topic/book and will take intentional time between session topics to reflect on how our spiritual paths are deepening.
- The focus is on study and practice and will require reading and reflection. All levels of spiritual seekers are welcome and encouraged to join if this approach speaks to you.
- We will start and end with social time (snacks and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be served), but meeting time will be focused primarily on study and practice (no personal check-ins.)

- The group will be championed by Pat Shea, Carolyn Bommarito, and Rollin Mathis, and we are available to discuss any questions you have.
- If will help in our planning if you can let us know if you are planning to attend (if you haven't done so already). Email Carolyn at campoften@aol.com or text at 770-880-8106 and she will share your responses with Pat and Rollin.

Butterfly Garden



The Gardening Club and Earth Ministries are working on UUMAN's new Butterfly Sanctuary project. We are busy re-designing the sunny areas of our garden in order to make the spaces a safe haven for the little pollinators who work so hard for all of us. Butterflies and other pollinators are having a hard time finding chemical free spaces to live and raise their young.

We would like to introduce many varieties of plant life that will support the pollinators from the egg stage to adulthood. Working together with the Environmental Education Alliance, we will meet the standards needed to certify our sanctuary as an official Butterfly/Pollinator Garden. We hope to spend this year growing the garden, so that by Spring of 2020 we will be ready for certification with The EEA's Pollinator Habitat and Monarch's Across Georgia programs.

The project will include:

- Six caterpillar food sources to support our local butterfly population, including milkweed.
- Four spring blooming plants, four summer blooming plants, and four fall blooming plants that are nourishing for pollinators.
- Plants to attract at least eight different species of pollinators, including Monarch butterflies.
- An insect water source
- A butterfly puddling site
- An insect basking site
- Insect sheltering sites
- The implementation of at least nine listed conservation practices, including limiting or eliminating the use of chemicals.
- Plant markers identifying the plants that are growing.

—Cortney McCurdy



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

Once each month, half of our undesignated plate offering is given to a non-profit organization. The other half goes for the work of our congregation. Please consider giving even more generously than usual on these Sundays.

At the Earth Day Service on April 28, we will be sharing our offering with **Friends of Mimosa Hall & Gardens**. This local non-profit was chosen by our Earth Ministry Committee.

<https://www.friendsofmimosa.org/solar>

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism

The UUA challenged congregations to support the “The Promise and Practice of our Faith” campaign for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. They have a matching contribution fund but also asked congregations to double their impact by contributing \$10 per member of our congregation. We have 175 members so UUMAN’s goal was to donate \$1750. This amount will be matched by UUA. In answer to the call, we collected the largest amount for a 50/50 Sunday since it’s inception! BLUU was the January recipient and we raised \$1015.37! In addition 20% of the Chili Cook-off proceeds were also donated to BLUU in the amount of \$47.40. The difference of \$687.87 was made up by two generous members. Well done UUMAN!

Michelle Liebergesell

UUMAN’s “Share the Plate” Coordinator

Annual Fundraising Indian Dinner

The Partner Church Committee cordially invites you to its 4th Annual Fundraising Indian Dinner on Sunday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m.

Sophie Davis will be presenting a slide show on her trip this year to visit our partner church in the Khasi Hills in NE India .

You can buy raffle tickets \$5.00 each or dinner tickets \$10.00 a person in the foyer in the sanctuary.

The raffle winner will get half the cash!

Proceeds will go to student scholarships in our partner church.

For more information, contact:

Michelle Liebergesell mlieberg@bellsouth.net

or Val Davis vdavis5@bellsouth.net

Information about the dinner is also posted here:

<https://www.uuman.org/events/4th-annual-fundraising-indian-dinner/>



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

communications-chair@uuman.org

Date	Celebration
4/5	Chris Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Jason Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Bob Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/7	Violet F. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/9	Marianne Walker, Ilona’s mother, is celebrating her birthday
	Tristan G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/10	Anna Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/13	Liz and Diego Garcia are celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary!
	Shanti G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/16	Suzanne and Marlon Banerian are celebrating their 53st wedding anniversary!
	Dan Ben-David is celebrating a birthday
4/17	Pat Carter is celebrating a birthday
4/18	Marlon Banerian is celebrating a birthday
4/20	Joel S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/21	Ida G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/25	Dan Ben-David and Carole Herman are celebrating their 4th anniversary! They were married here at UUMAN.
4/27	John Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Dirk and Anne Bender adopted Danielle 17 years ago!
4/28	Lucas T. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
4/7	First Principles In a broken world, might there be a set of first principles to which we can subscribe? (Btw...I'm not talking about "we" as members of UUMAN. I'm talking about we as citizens of the United States, citizens of a common humanity and as a species interconnected with all that is.)	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/14	Hembree Park Faith-In-Action Flower Communion After our overnight camping in Hembree Park on Saturday, our annual Hembree Park service will be a Multigenerational Faith-In-Action Flower Communion. Please bring a flower to share.	UUMAN Multigen Team
4/21	WWJD: What Would Jesus Deconstruct? Inspired by John Caputo's book of the same name, this Easter service will focus on the reframing (i.e. deconstructing) of Jesus' ministry for modernity.	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/28	One Connected World A look at moving beyond our comfort zone to create personal change, meaningful civic engagement and responsible relations with all of life.	Earth Ministry Members

April Connections

Date	Event
Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.	UUMAN's Painting Group 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 painting@uuman.org
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15. Location of meetings vary.	Daytimers 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. dan@uuman.org
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:00 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 campoften@aol.com
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com
Saturdays, 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available.	Mindfulness Meditation 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 jkevinking@yahoo.com (470) 723-4070

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