

April 2022

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Side With Love Action Center

“Freedom is participation in power” – Cicero

“Power is the ability to achieve purpose” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Power is organized people and organized money” – Greg Galluzzo (mentor to Barack Obama when he was a community organizer in Chicago)

We’ve all likely heard the humorous UU response to someone saying that they dislike “organized religion.” We will say something like, “well, you can join us because Unitarian Universalism is the disorganized religion.” Haha... (I’m not laughing.)

I can’t help but cringe a bit when I hear UUs take pride on being disorganized or being suspicious of authority; or when they give the lowest common denominator viewpoint that “power corrupts.”

If we don’t want to be free; if we don’t want to participate in power, the ability to achieve purpose, there are those who will gladly do so for us. This is what tyrants and despots hope for.

FINALLY...after years and years and years of thinking that UUs could organize for justice on their own, or through church cluster cooperation, etc.; the UUA is launching an ORGANIZED push to create a sustainable framework for justice through the Side With Love Action Center. (This is a natural follow-up to UU the Vote.)

As a small denomination, to build the world we dream about, we need to be organized vertically (via the UUA) and horizontally (via the cluster) while at the same time leveraging the relationships we have with our local inter-faith and justice partners (NFCC, Family Promise, New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta, Project South, etc).

The Side with Love Action Center (<https://sidewithlove.org/actioncenter>) is organizing around four “intersectional justice priorities:”

- **Climate Justice** (inclusive of Indigenous sovereignty and Climate Resilience)
- **Decriminalization** (inclusive of Racial Justice and Immigration Justice)
- **Democracy and Electoral Justice** (inclusive of Voting Rights and electoral participation)
- **LGBTQIA+ and Gender Justice** (inclusive of reproductive justice and abortion access)

This is a startup. We will need to be patient as Side With Love tweaks and adjusts the model.

Please visit their website to see what’s happening. There are regular trainings and events...again, all in an effort the build the world we dream about.

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

In February, we were able to deliver \$530 to Freedom University. Thank you all for your generosity! This will make a difference to these deserving young people.

We supported The Drake House in March. The Drake House provides shelter, food, clothing, hygiene products and support services for women and children experiencing homelessness. Many people are just one bad turn away from it. One lost job...one medical procedure you can't afford...one last final physical altercation that could harm or kill you or one of your children. That's reality.

Your 50/50 Coordinator,

Merry Beth

From your friendly VP 😊

Each year, in the May-ish timeframe, UUMAN is introduced to the slate of candidates for the next church year's Board. I don't think I'm alone in having noticed that there is exactly ONE candidate per open position. No more, no less. It's made me wonder why I even need to vote. The purpose of this communication is to make you aware of the Board, who we are, what we do, and why you may want to consider joining this particular group of UUs. And why you need to vote :)

The Board is made up of six voting members: 1) President; 2) Vice President; 3) Past President; 4) Treasurer; 5) Secretary; and 6) Special Projects Trustee. The terms are staggered in such a way that we maintain some continuity from year-to-year. The person elected to Vice President serves for three years (VP, Pres, Past Pres). The Treasurer serves for two years. The Secretary serves for two years. And the Special Projects Trustee serves for a year at a time, up to three years. The Board currently tasks a Nominating Committee to identify people interested in being nominated for open Board positions. The Nom Com, along with the VP, discuss the positions that are open, and begin a process to identify nominees.

The Nom Com was very efficient this year--many thanks to Gus Hadorn, Margriet van de Steeg, and John Wheeler! They also worked with current and past trustees to review and/or develop a job description for the Vice President and Treasurer positions.

We were able to use these descriptions when discussing with potential nominees. I'm attaching the job descriptions here for you to review at your leisure.

We want to set up the Board nominees for success once elected onto the Board. One area where we felt we could better support the nominee for Treasurer was to offer the opportunity for that person to shadow the existing Treasurer, Stewardship Chair, and Finance Committee to learn about existing processes, policies, etc. between March and May, the busiest time of year for that position due to Stewardship and Budgeting. What this meant, though, is that we needed to identify a nominee rather early. We've done that, and I'm thrilled to share with you that Jennifer Phillippi has begun this shadowing phase.

The role of the Vice President is a bit different than that of the Treasurer. As you can see in the job description, the first part of the VP's year is really about learning the ropes, understanding the leadership style of the President, and establishing relationships with the Board and staff. Because of this more gentle onboarding that begins in July, there is less of a need for the VP nominee to shadow the current VP. Even so, I think it's important to be transparent with you all and name our nominee--Mike Chambers has agreed to be nominated to serve as VP. Don't worry, we'll make sure he still has time for the Chili Cook-Off ;)

We will share a brief bio of these two nominees next month, but wanted to share more about this process with you. It's important for you to feel a part of the process, even when it's not you who is being nominated. Now, you may be thinking that you would like to serve UUMAN as a Board member. Heck, you may even be thinking that you'd like to serve beginning in July. As the treasurer. Or the VP. Great! Let's recall our 5th Principle, shall we? The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. So if you're interested, please let me know! And whether there is one or more candidates on the ballot for each position, let's show our support by voting at the Congregational Meeting in May!

In service,

Miriam

Folkston ICE Detention Center Protest

Sometimes, being a member of a small liberal congregation in the South can feel overwhelming. But when we move into a space of discomfort, sometimes we can see the results right away and far away. That happened on March 3rd, right here in rural Georgia. You see, March 3rd, 2022, was declared a National Day of Action by immigration justice groups and Rev. Dave heard the call. With support from GLAHR (the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights) and the UUA, about 50 activists protested the proposed expansion of the Folkston ICE Processing Center from 500 beds to over 3,000. Rev. Dave Dunn, from UUMAN, Rev. Jonathan Rogers, community minister from Abundant LUUV church, and Rev. Susan Karlson from the UU church in Savannah represented the UUA's "Side with Love."

There were other groups involved, strangers who quickly became friends and allies by the side of the road in sunny Georgia. It was exhilarating to be in the presence of passionate people who want justice for our brothers, sisters, neighbors. Despite the new-found camaraderie this small group of protesters in rural Georgia could easily feel insignificant. But this protest drew attention on two fronts. The first was from the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Rev. Dr. Susan Fredrick-Gray, who issued a congratulatory [video message](#) to Georgia UU's. The second was that a group of UU Georgia constituents is scheduled to meet with a staff of senator Jon Ossoff on Wednesday, March 30th to discuss restoring asylum status to undocumented immigrants. Sometimes, a small group of protesters makes enough noise that even our representatives hear our cries for justice.

Next time you see Rev. Dave, be sure to thank him for keeping the faith, for leading us in ways to live our UU values and for growing partnerships that help transform the world. He is not alone; we are not alone. As the world changes into a new normal, I encourage you to support similar actions outside our church walls. Finally, here is the [video](#) that our alum, Johnny Tangney, created to document our protest.

As a UU mother, I wasn't sure if my children would remember the values they heard when they participated in our Religious Education program. It looks like they did. Margaret Meade once said, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Let's get to work. We are, after all, in the business of changing the world.

In loving service,

Jennifer Ratcliffe,
La Prez

Raise the Roof Update

First I want to thank everyone that was willing and able to support the Raise the Roof campaign to raise money for a new roof on the sanctuary and portico, painting of the portico and installation of solar panels! We were able to raise enough such that we didn't need to get a loan. Fantastic job UUMAN!

If you've been to UUMAN in person you've already seen the beautiful new roof and portico. It so great that we were able to do this. One less thing for our Finance and Operations teams to worry about.

As far as the solar panels go we'd hoped to have them installed for Earth Day this year. Due to supply chain issues and other impacts from the pandemic it's unlikely we will meet that date. At this time we don't have a date however as soon as we know we will let everyone know.

Bob Popp
Earth Ministry team

UUMAN Live-Stream Team

Are you interested in learning more about UUMAN's live-stream team? We need you. We webcast the Sunday services on YouTube. You can have fun and learn current video live-streaming technology. We're interested in having younger and older members of UUMAN join our team.

I have added dates through April to our [signupgenius](#).

If you're interested, you can be brave, and go to the link and sign up or contact me or Jim Nickens. If there is anyone you know who might be interested in joining the team, please have them contact me or Jim Nickens.

We use a cool mixture of newer and older equipment, including:

- Two Sony Alpha a7 III cameras
- A blackmagic design ATEM Mini Pro video switch (<https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/products/atemmini>)
- A Mackie Pro FX23 sound board (<https://www.sweetwater.com/.../ProFX22--mackie.../reviews>)

All the microphones and other audio jacks in the room connect to the sound board

Bruce Langston

UUMAN Garden Parties

Now that daylight savings time is here, please join us Friday evenings this spring to clean up the gardens and landscaping around UUMAN. Anyone interested can meet us from 5-7 o'clock.

No experience necessary, we have plenty of tools and jobs for all ages and abilities. Bring a picnic dinner and we will have a fellowship afterward on the portico. This is a great way for new members of all ages to get involved.

We are also looking for folks to take turns running our riding lawn mower on a regular basis throughout the summer also.

If you can't make Fridays let me know and I can point you to things that need to get done during the week.

Any questions? email or call me

Mike Liebergesell

UUMAN Operations Co-Chair

UUMAN's Annual Talent Show



Dear UUMANites!!

UUMAN's Annual Talent Show (suspended for a couple of years) returns this month!! (This is not an April Fool's joke!!)

Date: **Saturday, April 30, 2022**

Time: **6:30 pm!**

All are invited to attend and/or showcase their talent. The cost is \$10 per adult; children and youth are free. Scholarships are available (please see Rev. Dave).

NOTE: If you'd like to be involved in the opening dance extravaganza, please indicate that on the form (see link below) and also send me an email:

elizabeth.rohan@gmail.com so I can send you the links to the video of the dance and establish a rehearsal schedule. No dancing experience required.

Here is the link to sign up! (If you bought tickets at the auction, please indicate that on the form.)

<https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/efcf67>

Thanks,

Elizabeth Rohan

After careful review, the Board of Trustees has updated our Covid guidelines to include optional mask wearing during indoors and outdoors events starting on Sunday, April 3rd.

Those individuals who wish to continue wearing masks are encouraged to do so. Please review the entire document ([here](#)) for individual and household safety precautions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact board@uuman.org.

April 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
4/3	The Church of the Mulligan A "Mulligan" in golf is a do-over. It's your chance to, without penalty, try again when your shot goes into the next fairway, into an unforgiving patch of poison ivy, etc. This is a very good rule. How can we apply this to our work at UUMAN?	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/10	A New Age of Exploration It is thought that the age of exploration is over; that all lands that can be known are known. We think we are at the apex of evolution and modernity and believe that exploration is a thing of the past. How can we usher in a new age of exploration?	Rev. Dave Dunn Denise Wilson
4/17	Flower Communion The Flower Communion, created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, is an annual ritual that celebrates peace, beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Please bring a few flowers to share.	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/24	Earth Day Service	Jennifer Phillipi Earth Ministry



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 membership@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
4/3	Niam S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/4	Marc S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/5	Chris A. is celebrating a birthday. Bob P. is celebrating a birthday.
4/7	Rowan F. is celebrating a birthday.
4/16	Dan B-D. is celebrating a birthday.
4/17	Pat C. is celebrating a birthday.
4/20	Joel S. is celebrating a birthday.
4/22	Nora W. is celebrating a birthday.
4/25	Dan Ben-David and Carole Herman are celebrating their anniversary of 6 years
4/27	John A. is celebrating a birthday.

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