



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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## Building Bridges and Welcoming Tables

On Nov 8, this nation elected Donald Trump to become the next President of the United States.

This is a frightening outcome for many of us due to the many troubling rhetoric he expressed during the campaign.

Sadly, some people voted for candidate Trump because of this campaign rhetoric, much of which was xenophobic, misogynistic, and racist.

I believe, however, that the majority of individuals who voted for Mr. Trump were motivated by other, more pragmatic, reasons. Of course, we could argue with those voters on what we deem pragmatic yet we would merely be delving into the sea of opinion.

Many good people voted for Donald Trump because they felt he would be the candidate who would:

- Change the culture in Washington
- Eliminate corruption
- Cut taxes
- Help small businesses and the local economy

Again, we may argue whether a President Trump could deliver on any of this or other campaign promises, yet this is not my point.

We live in a very ideologically divided country. And although many are still angry and are not yet ready to move on (and that is ok), we will need to begin building bridges to span those divisions and to begin moving forward constructively as a nation.

Of course, this does not mean that we accept any policies that lead to discrimination, marginalization, and oppression. No, such policies must be actively resisted—and we need to be more vigilant than ever before in our resistance.

But I do believe that we do have an opportunity to begin to build bridges with those who voted for Mr. Trump for what they deem as pragmatic reasons

(e.g. tax cuts, ending corruption, etc.). These are people we can (and need to) work with.

We cannot move forward as a nation if every four (or eight) years we simply hope the other side fails simply because they are the other side. Can we build bridges so that there no longer is an “other side”? Can we build bridges so that we become one people, on the same side, who lovingly have differing opinions from time to time?

I believe that we UUs want as many people as possible sitting at the welcoming table—but it can’t be our (i.e. UU) welcoming table. It needs to be bigger than that. It needs to belong to everybody. We need to begin building these welcoming tables with others.

Building bridges and welcoming tables. We can do this.

Take care and be well,

Dave

## Under the Harvest Moon Postlude

The Under the Harvest Moon Auction—one of UUMAN’s favorite events—was held on Saturday, November 5th. We had over 100 people in attendance, and almost everyone came away with an item or two.

The event was a huge success, both financially and in terms of enjoyment by all those that attended. We raised \$18,900 net after expenses. This was almost \$4,000 more than we projected at the start of the year! Thank you to all those who participated in the bidding and allowed us to reach and exceed our goal!

Our goals for next year are:

- To receive even more exciting goods and services to offer. Please start thinking now about what you would like to offer next year and submit your ideas and feedback to [HarvestMoon@uuman.org](mailto:HarvestMoon@uuman.org).
- To encourage more “first-timers” to become involved in the auction, by pairing them with “veterans” of the event. Many have claimed that working the event is almost as much fun as participating in it!!
- To broaden our attendee spectrum by including additional fun activities such as a trivia game, number in jar guessing game, corn-hole bingo, etc. Ideas and suggestions will be appreciated!

Thank you again to all of the members and friends of UUMAN that planned, put on, and participated in this fun and successful event.



—UTHM Team

## A Page from The Page Turners

The Page Turners is UUMAN's women's book club. Normally we meet on the second Saturday evening of each month. However, in December, we will take a break from our regular meetings, to celebrate the holidays.

Our next regular meeting will be Saturday, **January 14**, at 7:00 PM in Discovery Hall. Our book will be Hope Jahren's 2016 best-selling, unconventional memoir about loving science, *Lab Girl*. Currently, she is a professor of geobiology at the University of Hawaii, but she started as a poor, struggling instructor here at Georgia Tech. Her approach to science, and to writing, is philosophical, humorous and lyrical. She's a smart and soulful scientist that you might want to have a beer with.

Another book lined up for 2017 will be Garth Stein's well-known 2008 novel, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Please bring your suggestions for more books to read and talk about together over the coming months. We do best-sellers and classics, fiction, history, sociology, biography, and more. Comedy, poetry (maybe something from the latest Nobel laureate?), drama, and how-to's are also possibilities.

If you enjoy reading and discussing books in a variety of genres, meeting over snacks and wine, getting to know one another, and having fun, this is the group for you. Become a "regular", or just try us out whenever you see that we're sponsoring a book you're interested in. Contact Carolina Patlis for the details. All women, whether UUMAN members or not, are warmly invited to the **Page Turners**!

— Carole Herman



## Sharing the Plate: 50-50

Once each month a non-profit organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee receives half of the undesignated plate offering.

**Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** was the recipient for November and will be again this month (December). They received \$428.39 last month.

This month, the third Sunday falls on December 18.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. They work anywhere rights are threatened – by natural disasters, armed conflicts, genocide, forced migration, and systematic injustice.

Their mission is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

Thank you on behalf of the Social Justice Committee,

—Michelle Liebergesell



## Upcoming Social Justice Field Trips

The Social Justice & Action Committee is on the move! We are working on a number of opportunities to put our faith in action in our community. We hope you can join us!

**December TBD – Lost-n-Found Youth.** There are over 750 homeless LGBTQ youth in Atlanta right now. Learn about volunteering at: <http://Infy.org/>.

Also in the works, if there is enough interest, are plans to see the movie *Loving*. Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, are sentenced to prison in Virginia in 1958 for getting married: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRXuCY7tRgk>.

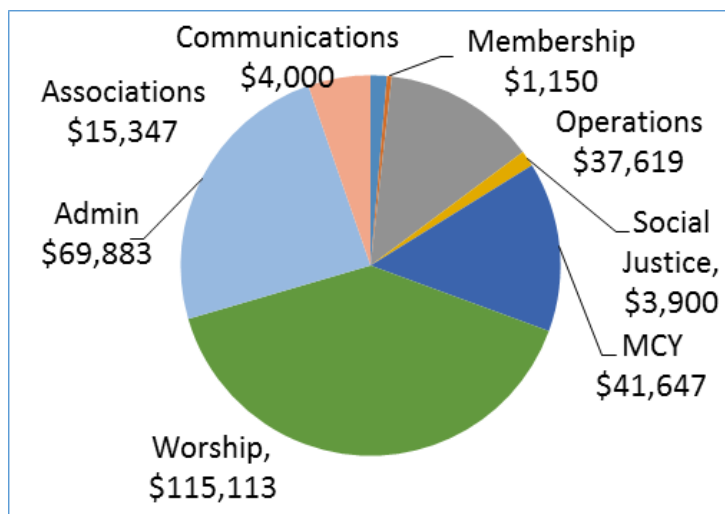
A trip to **The Booth Western Art Museum** in Cartersville—Special Exhibition Gallery—to view *By Her Hand: Native American Women, Their Art*, and *The Photographs of Edward S. Curtis*. Focused on Native American women and their art, the exhibition allows us to more deeply understand their roles within Native society, culture and family: <http://boothmuseum.org/>.

If you would like to suggest a field trip for 2017, please feel free to contact Jen Saltzman at [saltzmanjen@yahoo.com](mailto:saltzmanjen@yahoo.com) or Sheila K. Smith at [piercingthrutheveil@yahoo.com](mailto:piercingthrutheveil@yahoo.com)

## Where Does My Pledge Go?

### MCY

It's a legitimate question, and one we all should ask. What does my pledge buy? You may know, from a shared financial statement, that MCY makes up about 14 percent of our expenses. But what does that mean? Let's drill down a bit on those numbers—to humanize them, by seeing what MCY means to people within our community. And to examine a couple of case studies.



#### What MCY Means to Our Community

We all know that our children are the hope for the future. And when we see what the grownups have done with the present, the future can't come soon enough. MCY currently teaches 70 of our UUMAN kids, from infants to young adults. We have over 40 volunteers who participate on an almost-weekly basis, mentoring and caring for UUMAN's children.

Miriam Patanian knows both sides of MCY—both what it means to our kids and what it means to adult volunteers. She has been a teacher for three years, and she has two children who have been in the Religious Education program for five years. "Especially this year, the kids have enjoyed the opportunity to choose the type of experience they would like on any given Sunday," says Miriam. "The Contemplation Room has been their favorite—an opportunity for quiet conversation and a space to just be."

"As a parent, I have valued the RE program—Toniann's vision and leadership, the dedication and passion of the MCY Council, and the volunteers who connect with our children each week. What I value is the connection that my children have made, both with other kids and with the adults who volunteer in their rooms. As an RE teacher, I have appreciated how much I've learned from the children! They are eager to participate in the lessons and to share their stories."

Jacqueline Laures, like many, came to UUMAN for her children's sake. "I sought out a UU church because I want my children to have a reference point for their belief system. Also, my church community was a

very important piece of my childhood and I want my kids to have that same feeling of a religious home."

Jacqueline has taught RE for 7 years. "UUMAN is part of my family's life. I've had the honor of teaching wonderful children from wonderful families for many years. It's been very enjoyable to watch the kids develop from preschoolers to upper-elementary students." Just recently, she was moved to officially join the church. "My commitment to teaching needed to be cemented in a commitment to UUMAN. So, it was well past the time that I became an official member of the church, although I felt that I already was."

"Teaching RE has taken me to the Twilight Zone, and to a galaxy far, far away," says Dirk Bender, referring to a couple of themes of the different curricula he's taught through the years. "It's also put me in a teaching team of wonderful folks, great kids, and the next generation of UUMAN members."

"The number one thing is, MCY is a source," according to Melissa Begley, the Chair of the MCY Council, and a parent of a child in RE. "As a parent, it helps me find how to talk to my son about those big questions he brings home. Even more significant than that, he feels like he has a safe place to ask those big questions. When he mentions something at home like, 'I don't know if I believe in God or not,' I can say, we belong to a church where it's safe to ask those questions. Where it's safe to explore what you believe in and what your identity is. Who you are."

#### Case Study: The Fruits of a Sabbatical

In May of 2016, Toniann Read, our MCY Director, went on Sabbatical. But she did not quit thinking about UUMAN's children, or how to serve them better. She visited a friend in Asheville, North Carolina, who was having success with a new method of teaching. For years, Toniann had been thinking about the problem of engaging our younger children, many of whom are too independent-minded for traditionally structured group-learning environments. She realized that this new approach fit in with her own ideas about a more relational, transformative learning experience, in which each child chooses his or her own path, deciding what has meaning for them within a given story or experience.

As far as pledge dollars, there was very little expense in switching to this new method of teaching. Because Toniann had experience with a similar approach, we were able to forge our own hybrid version of the model that had worked in Asheville, which we call Wonder Play. As with many initiatives in MCY, we supplemented meager budget amounts with donations and fundraisers, to acquire the materials needed to ensure a quality experience for our kids. The results have been extraordinary.

"There is no doubt that our young children are much more engaged and challenged by Wonder Play," Says Toniann. "While we're still tweaking the details, this new approach has been transformative for Religious Education at UUMAN."

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## Where Does My Pledge Go?

### Case Study: Our Whole Lives

Randy Blasch has taught the UUMAN sexuality education curriculum—Our Whole Lives, or OWL—for over 10 years, and is certified for teaching Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. Our Whole Lives provides developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. And it can save lives.

“OWL isn't just about sex education. In fact, that may be the least important part of the program. OWL is about self-discovery and self-worth. Owning who you are as a person and how sexuality relates to that. We are about making our young people safe: what is appropriate behavior and what isn't.”

As with Wonder Play, OWL practically funds itself. Parents pay for their children to attend OWL. Some pledge dollars are used for training new OWL teachers. Our annual budget for training volunteers is a mere \$500. OWL training, conducted by the UUA, can cost up to \$300 to \$400, depending on where the training is held in a given year. And that's with the volunteer supplying his own transportation and lodging. Currently, we have five certified, active teachers, and we could use more.

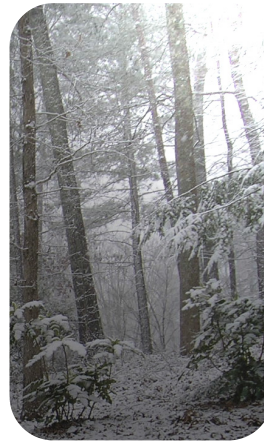
“OWL is about having the tools to make smart, safe decisions about your body,” says Randy, “and more importantly, your person as a whole. OWL is truly about *Our Whole Lives*.”

### The Future Must Be in Good Hands

In a sense, UUMAN has always been about the future. Our values and ideals, while making progress in gaining acceptance, remain distinct from most of our neighbors. We're working toward a day when our children will help to build a progressive, enlightened majority, ready and able to tackle the serious issues that face our world. MCY plays a vital role in preparing them for that challenge.

Melissa Begley: “The other thing is, MCY teaches my son that values are not just words—that beliefs are not just words—that we take action based on what we believe in. That's what MCY means to me and my family.”

-Stewardship Committee



## Winter Solstice Celebration

We gather on the darkest night of the year (Wednesday, Dec. 21, 6:00 PM) to celebrate the coming of the Light! The Winter Solstice is upon us and UUMAN honors the turning of the Wheel of the Year with a ceremony and potluck feast. We welcome you all and our ancestors for a sharing of our wishes for peace and love in this

world. Bring bells if you have them! We will celebrate outside weather permitting, so bundle up appropriately!

We appreciate an RSVP (Evite: <http://evite.me/RdzfUWptvN>) for the potluck and childcare if needed. All are welcome!

Brought to you by the UUMAN Earth Ministry team and friends. Questions or want to help? Call Donna Melcher 770-823-4235

## The Moravian Love Feast

Save the date! Our annual Moravian Love Feast, a joyous holiday service of spectacular music, readings and sharing of fellowship, food and drink, is scheduled for Friday evening December 9, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This has been a UUCA tradition for more than 50 years.

This year's special music will feature, as always, a very special Brass ensemble, along with our Phoenix Choir singing the beloved "O Holy Night."

Love feasts originated in the first gatherings of Christians, consisting of worship accompanied by the ritual serving of bread and wine to affirm the kinship and community of the worshipers. From the second century on, the love feast became separated from the worship service and was held in homes or churches, usually in the evening. By the eighth century, the feast had all but disappeared, but in 1727, the love feast appeared again in the Moravian Church in Eastern Europe. The Moravians, who frowned upon the use of alcohol, substituted coffee or chocolate for wine in the ritual sharing. In this country, the first Christmas love feast was held in Salem N.C. in 1771, and we held our first love feast in the 1960's when a UUCA member of Moravian descent introduced it to our congregation.

Tickets will be on sale beginning by mid-November. Reserve yours by calling the UUCA office at 404-634-5134 during regular business hours. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior adults, \$5 for children under 18, and \$25 maximum per family. Childcare is available if reserved at [uuca.org](http://uuca.org) one week in advance (by Dec. 3)

Ann Creech  
[annhcreech@aol.com](mailto:annhcreech@aol.com)

# FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

We've finished our work in the gardens for 2016. What a great year we had! New gardeners have joined us, new shrubs have been planted, old shrubs have been moved to better locations, and a really good mulch was found.

We work throughout the year on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, usually 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 in the spring. Hope to see you there!

Claire Sullivan

UUMAN Gardening Group

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



Autumn at UUMAN



A Single White Camelia



Pansies around the Peace Pole



White Mums



Pansies in the Meditation Garden



## 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
12/2	Amelia J. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/9	Presley C. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/10	Riahna Lee is graduating from college!
12/12	Ryan Vidal is celebrating a birthday
12/13	Dominic Read is celebrating a birthday
12/15	Carole Herman is celebrating a birthday
	Maggie M. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Duco van der Beek is celebrating a birthday
12/17	Joaquin F. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Bruce Langston is celebrating a birthday
12/18	Karen S. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/19	Nick G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/20	Adam Fajardo is celebrating a birthday
12/23	McPatti Langston is celebrating a birthday
12/28	Lachlan K. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/29	Sue Greenspon is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
12/4	<b>A Very Merry Jewish Christmas</b>  Join us for a humorous look at Christmas, told in Dr. Seuss-like rhyme, through the eyes of a young Jewish boy who did not get to celebrate it (Todd).	<b>Todd Callen, Worship Associate</b>
12/11	<b>UUMAN as a Healthy Congregation</b>  Our work here at UUMAN can often lead to conflict. Conflict can be a healthy indication of active engagement. It can also lead to hurt and harm. How can we at UUMAN deal with this hurt and harm in constructive ways to continue to move forward together?	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b>  <b>Special music will include a song in memory of those lost at Sandy Hook on Dec. 14, 2012.</b>
12./18	<b>UUMAN's Annual Multigenerational Musical Holiday Celebration</b>  Join us as we celebrate the season through voice and song.	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b>
12/25	<b>Community Christmas Caroling</b>  After meeting at UUMAN at 10:30 AM, we will carpool to a local home for the elderly to sing Christmas carols.	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b>
1/1/17	<b>A UUMAN New Year</b>  Join us at the Hembree Park pavilion (850 Hembree Rd, Roswell, GA 30076) for a New Year's celebration service which will also featuring hot apple cider and other heart-warming treats.	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b>

## December Connections

Date	Event
<b>2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.</b>	<b>21st Century Humanism</b> focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at <a href="mailto:peltier.john@gmail.com">peltier.john@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>UUMAN's Painting Group</b>  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.  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 at <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 <a href="mailto:campoften@aol.com">campoften@aol.com</a>

## December Connections

<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>Every other Sunday after-noon, 12-2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Autobiography</b>  Explore the key passages of our lives, in a way that allows us to begin to uncover our true selves, our vital inner core, and the spirit of life that animates us. For more information, contact Dave Hudson: <a href="mailto:hudsondavid@bellsouth.net">hudsondavid@bellsouth.net</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 preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)