



# UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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## No Better Time for Being a Unitarian Universalist

I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist than right now.

For at least the next two years, with most branches and halls of government, from state offices, U.S. House, Senate, Supreme Court, Oval Office and Cabinet filled with many who are antithetical to our basic principles—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

With a shrinking middle class, and with little opportunity for those trying their best to claw their way up and in (especially most young adults)—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

With a citizenry that is losing its ability to feel due to repeated episodes of gun violence on our streets and in our homes and churches—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

In a democracy where “corporations are citizens” whose endless supplies of money allows them to leverage their interests in our elections, courts, legislation, and tax codes in ways no citizen could ever imagine—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

When a “Drill Baby Drill” mantra is code to maximize profits without concern for the common good; and to have a devil-may-care attitude toward climate change with no interest in investment in cleaner, emission-minimal technologies for the future—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

In a society where there are those who insist that the so-called “free market” is the answer to all economic (and policy) questions and are more than happy to hire an undocumented worker to pick their crops, and pay them little to nothing with no regard to worker safety, yet all the while blaming that same undocumented worker for all the nation’s ills—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

In a country where minorities, based upon the color of their skin, religious affiliation, physical ability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity must continually justify their claim for basic rights—I could think of no better time for being a Unitarian Universalist.

We now have no excuse not to do something about all this.

We have much work to do—and I believe the world, our country, and our community needs our good work! This work can be rich. It can help us grow individually and as a congregation. It is something to be embraced.

We must start where we are. We must build relationships with those outside our walls. We cannot save the world by ourselves—but we are being called upon to do our part.

What part are you called to do?

Take care and be well,

Dave

# Membership at UUMAN

UUWorld reports in its latest edition, a surge in attendance at UU congregations since Trump was elected president on November 8. UU ministers feel that this increase is due to people grieving and trying to process difficult emotions, as well as the need to find like-minded people to be with in uncertain times. At UUMAN, we have seen about a 10 – 15 % increase in visitors since the election. We welcome each and every one of our guests and hope they are able to connect with us to meet their emotional and spiritual needs.

Since the election, I have frequently been asked “How do I become a member of the church?” Our membership requirements are as follows:

1. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, we encourage you to take one of the UU-101 classes offered three times a year. These classes allow you to build a deeper connection to members of the church as well as with other class attendees. The class will allow you to talk about your religious or spiritual journey and express your needs and expectations. Our next class is January 28, 2017, and a sign-up sheet is available at the greeter's desk (near the front entrance in the atrium).
2. If you have already been a UU, or cannot take the class, make an appointment to speak with our minister, Dave Dunn for a brief membership information session.
3. Make a financial pledge to the church. All members are required to make an annual financial pledge to the church in order to support the activities and maintenance of our facilities. You can speak with a member of the Stewardship team, or email them at [stewardship@uuman.org](mailto:stewardship@uuman.org).
4. Sign the Membership Book. We have a New Member Ceremony on Sunday usually two to three weeks following the class where our newest members are welcomed to the congregation, and new members can sign the membership book. You can also send an email to [membership@uuman.org](mailto:membership@uuman.org), or speak with one of the greeters or members of the membership team to make an appointment to sign the membership book.
5. Get involved with the activities going on at UUMAN as time and ability permit. You build better connections when you are involved in the activities at church, whether it's signing up for one of the many adult enrichment classes offered throughout the year, volunteering to greet or usher, becoming involved with Ministry for Youth & Children, or simply helping out from time to time as needed. The Membership team will give you a list of activities and programs to indicate your interests and make any introductions as needed to help you connect with other members and friends of UUMAN.

I personally feel that UUMAN is a wonderful place to find meaning in life and spirituality as well as connecting with like-minded people. Since joining two years ago, I've made deep connections with the members and friends of UUMAN and find a lot of value in being a member. We hope you can find your place with us as well.

Robbie Kohn

Membership Chair

## UUMAN Endowment

In a Finance Committee meeting earlier this year, we discussed starting a UUMAN Endowment fund. This idea had been discussed in previous Finance meetings, but had never gone very far. Then, in early Fall of this year, Ashok Nagrani did some research and determined that we could establish an Endowment through the UUA for as little as \$2,500. Of course, we didn't have \$2,500 to really open the fund, so we put the project on the back burner.

Then in October, we learned that our beloved Rev. Cynthia Prescott named UUMAN as a beneficiary of her life insurance policy. Once we knew the amount she left us, which was \$10,400, we received general agreement from everyone on the Board and the Finance committee to use at least part of the proceeds to open the UUMAN Endowment.

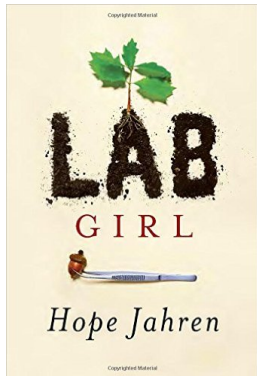
At the December Finance Committee meeting, we agreed to ask the board to form an Endowment Committee, composed of three UUMAN members. Bev Jordan and Ashok Nagrani have agreed to be on the committee, whose first task will be to create a draft policy for review and approval by the Finance Committee, Program Council, and Board. The policy will outline the support structure, decision making, and usage of the UUMAN Endowment.

If you are interested in being involved in the creation and management of the UUMAN Endowment, please let someone on either the Finance Committee or Board know.

- Bob Popp

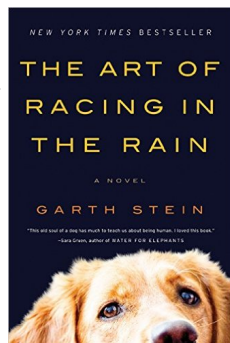
## A Page from The Page Turners

The **Page Turners** is UUMAN's women's book club. We meet on the second Saturday evening of each month.



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

### 50/50 Sunday Wrap Up for 2016

The Social Justice Committee wants to thank UUMAN for their generosity in supporting various non-profit organizations through our monthly 50/50 "share the plate" donations. This year we supported the following organizations: Chattahoochee Nature Center (Camp Scholarship Fund), UUCA (Atlanta Pride Fund), Home Stretch (3 months), Lost N Found Youth, Masynjri Church (our partner church in India), Care Harbor, Trees Atlanta and for the last two months of 2016—UU Service Committee.

Our total donation to the UU Service Committee for November and December of 2016 was \$621.99. The total donations to all of our recipients for the year 2016 was \$3119.09!! Quite an accomplishment!

Some of the organizations we will be supporting so far in 2017 include Black Lives Matter Atlanta and the Earth Ministry Committee will be choosing two recipients as well. If you have a favorite non-profit or cause, email [socialjustice@uuman.org](mailto:socialjustice@uuman.org) with your nomination and we will add it to others under consideration.

We look forward to continuing to reach out outside of our walls and living our Mission Statement!

Happy Holidays,

Michelle Liebergesell  
Social Justice Comm. 50/50 Coordinator

## Conscious Aging New Adult Enrichment Class

Are you ready for your third act? If you are over 50 and interested in what might make the rest of your time on this planet even more rewarding, you have a chance to go on a journey of consciousness exploration using extraordinary materials from the Institute of Noetic Science ([www.ions.org](http://www.ions.org)). Your guide, Donna Melcher, is a trained facilitator and Conscious S-ager and would love to have you join her for this 8-week course. Workbook \$40. Limited to 20 participants. Registration required.

When: Monday evenings, 7:00-9:00, weekly, beginning Jan. 23, ending March 27 (excluding Feb. 14 and March 14)

Where: Fellowship Hall

For more information, contact Dave Hudson at:

[HUDSONDAVID@Bellsouth.net](mailto:HUDSONDAVID@Bellsouth.net)

# UUMAN Winter Solstice Celebration

Winter Solstice gathering and potluck dinner at UUMAN.

—Photos by Guillermo Kuhl



# FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

We work 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! Meanwhile, please enjoy the best of this year's garden.

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

UUMAN Gardening Group

## 2016 Best of Garden Photos



Field of Daylilies



Black and Blue Swallowtail on the Zinnias



## 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)



Hydrangea in Front of Discovery Hall



Redbud Tree

Date	Celebration
1/2	Lily H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/4	Jamie Hagood is celebrating a birthday
1/5	Noah S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/6	Jose M. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/7	Miller M. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/15	Randy Jue is celebrating a birthday
1/21	Nelson Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Dharma H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/23	Tammy Dunn is celebrating a birthday
	Easton W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/26	Rowan L. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
1/29	Dave Dunn is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
1/8	<b>Prophetic Sisterhood</b> In the late 19th century, a radical band of pioneering women ministers, defying the Unitarian establishment; founded, nurtured and grew dozens of congregations throughout the Midwest. They are now largely forgotten. How might we hold on to our UU heritage that is often plagued by a conspiracy of forgetfulness?	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b> <b>Jim Nickens, Worship Associate</b>
1/15	<b>Faith In Action</b> Please check the website for details of this multi-generational service.	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b> <b>Paul Watson, Worship Associate</b>
1/22	<b>Dark Green Religion: An Introduction</b> What is your personal relationship to the interdependent web of all existence? Are you in relationship to it? Are you in relationship with it? Do you feel that your life's actions – what you actually do – are consistent with your answers; consistent with this relationship?	<b>Rev. Dave Dunn</b> <b>Duco Van der Beek</b>
1/29	<b>The Corruption of Our Democracy</b> Kicks off UUMAN's participation in a four-year UUA study and action initiative on the Corruption of Our Democracy.	<b>Brian Kohn, Worship Associate</b>

## January 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 afternoon, 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>

## January 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>

*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)