

June 2020

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Where We've Been and Where We're Going

As our church year draws to a close, it is an appropriate time to reflect on where we've been and where we're going. Needless to say, it has been a challenging year at UUMAN. Of course, we've had to deal with, and will continue to have to deal with, the COVID-19 pandemic; yet we also had to face significant challenges in our religious education program.

Last summer, we formed a religious education task force to assist with these changes and Laurie Wheeler, Mike Chamber and Rosie Popp (with significant help from Merilee Hufnagel) kept us on track. They've also been a huge help to Melinda Mischik as our new interim DRE.

Our Interim DRE Search Committee comprised of Margriet Van de Steeg, Stephen Seaver, Jacqueline Gore and Bob Popp hired Melinda in December and she has jumped right in and been a most welcome and fresh addition to our staff.

Our Board says goodbye to four invaluable members who've been steady during the past few years. Colin Decker completed a two-year term as Treasurer. He has been rock-solid and steady in his role. Jim Nickens completed three years as Special Projects trustee and has always been a non-anxious presence in any challenging situation. (Does anyone remember the flooding in Fellowship Hall?) Leslie Wolfe was only with us for a year as Secretary yet she could always be relied upon to keep us on track as a Board. Elizabeth Rohan has been invaluable as VP, President and Past President leading us through every challenge. She could always be counted on in any situation...ANY situation!

Despite losing these four member to our Board, we are blessed to be adding four dedicated individuals as their replacements: Jennifer Ratcliffe (VP), Tanya Romine (Treasurer), Donna Melcher (Special Projects) and Elizabeth Norris (Interim Secretary). They all love UUMAN dearly and will be doing their very best to serve UUMAN and our mission.

Shelley Nagrani is our outgoing Program Council Chair. Over the past two years, she has helped the Program Council reflect upon itself as it has gone through somewhat of an identity crisis. The Program Council is now looking for a new leader as Shelley will now be leading our Worship Committee.

The Worship Committee has now become the focal point as to how we can/must "do church" in the COVID-19 era. How can we do worship safely at UUMAN while, at the same time, continue to serve those who still feel the need to shelter in place at home? The Worship Committee will be challenged to meet these needs and will need help in doing so.

Thus far, Johnny Tangney has assisted Emma Schell and John Pruitt as "Worship Editors" (i.e. video editors) while Jennifer Ratcliffe and Jim Nickens have served as "Worship Coordinators" (i.e. audio/video media coordinators). **We desperately need additional help in these roles as it is simply too much to ask of so few people.**

Phillip Seaver, as Communications Chair, has also been invaluable in the delivery of Sunday services, setting up our Google Calendars, assisting us with Google Meet, etc. Without his foresight in these areas, we'd still be struggling with a whole host of issues. If you encounter Phillip, please (safely) thank him!!!

Although the Worship Committee has become the focal point as to how we must change in the COVID-19 era, every aspect of church life will need to be looked at through the lens of serving our members, and our community, who may still feel the need to shelter in place.

This will be a significant challenge for us in the coming year yet I am excited to work with you all in the joyful work of making it happen in full service to our mission and vision.

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

- Dave



Reflections from the President of the Board

I can't believe June is the last month I will have the pleasure of serving as UUMAN Board President – and it has truly been a pleasure. As I begin the transition from President to Past-President, I have been taking time to reflect on what a year it has been. While there certainly have been many challenges, there have also been a number of Board accomplishments that make me proud of the Board and the UUMAN Congregation we call home.

First off, we successfully found ourselves a dynamite Interim DRE, Melinda Mischik. Melinda certainly hit the ground running in January and has already established herself as a wonderful and engaging leader for our RE Program.

Second, the entire congregation came together to collaborate on the Mission and Vision exercise, and the process was intense and valuable. The results were a successful restatement of our core mission and values: Nurture our Spirit - Strive for Justice - Transform the World.

Third, we have initiated the process to begin a search for a Membership Professional, which has been a long time coming.

The Board also has focused on Leadership Development and streamlining and simplifying our Bylaws to provide more flexibility to focus on our mission.

But, of course, some priorities are not planned for, and COVID-19 quickly became a top priority for us in 2020. I truly appreciate everyone's patience and support as we manage through this unique and unprecedented time. We just met as a Board last week to discuss (and agree to) establishing a COVID-19 task force, which will quickly come together to establish guidelines for how we can begin interacting and meeting at UUMAN. We don't want to do this without careful discussion and considerations for the health and safety of our entire congregation, but rest assured, this task force will come to conclusions and an action plan in the next couple of weeks and we will communicate to you the go-forward plan.

All in all it has been a pleasure serving as your Board President, and you are in good hands with Bob Popp coming in to take the mantle July 1. Bob will greet you as Board President in the July newsletter, so for now, thank you for the privilege of serving and I look forward to continuing to support UUMAN as Past-President.

Much Love and Gratitude,

Todd Callen



Peace Poles

The UUA Seven Principles

The Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles can be a mouthful, especially for our youngest members. In order to make them memorable and easily understandable most of the children in RE have learned them through song.

- 1 Each person is worthwhile
- 2 Be kind in all you do
- 3 We help each other learn
- 4 Search for what is true
- 5 Each person has a say
- 6 Work for a peaceful world
- 7 The web of life's the way

My plan is to "plant" these peace poles in the Bridge Garden and have the children customize them with their handprints or a symbol of their choice.



Ann Bender



Safeguard Free and Fair Elections

Please read and sign the petition

As Congress debates federal bailouts of historic proportions, people's health, all of our well-being, and our democracy are at risk. Please write your Representative and Senator to tell them to put people first and safeguard free and fair elections in the next stimulus bill.

No one should have to choose between participating in democracy and risking their life and the lives of their loved ones. COVID-19 is creating a health crisis, an economic crisis, and a democracy crisis. Congress needs to put people first in all three. The first Senate stimulus bill included just 10% of what's been requested from the House for pandemic-prepared elections. Sign to tell your Congresspeople to take the next step to protect our Democracy and give states what they need to:

Text VOTESAFE to 51555 and sign the petition - invite 2 other friends to sign.

Expanded Vote by Mail including:

- ✓ Expansion of federally-funded pre-paid postage (federal \$\$ pay postage for military and overseas ballots already).
- ✓ Acceptance of all ballots postmarked on or before election day.
- ✓ Collection of ballots can be aided by community groups and medical personnel.
- ✓ Voters must be given the opportunity to correct any signature mismatch issues before their ballot is not counted.
- ✓ Voters must be allowed to request an absentee ballot online with no excuse.
- ✓ Extended processing and certification period (e.g., count may begin before election day).
- ✓ A voter may return ballot to a polling place on election day or deliver to designated drop-off location.

Expanded Early Voting including:

- ✓ Minimum of 15 consecutive days of early voting prior to a Federal election, including weekends.

Safe In-Person Voting including:

- ✓ Cleaning supplies and procedures and disinfected, gloves, physical spacing.

Increased access to voter registration including:

- ✓ Online voter registration and correction of existing registration information.

Same day voter registration including:

- ✓ Eligible citizens can register to vote and cast ballots on the day of a Federal election, including on early voting days.

Strengthen the Election Assistance Commission including:

- ✓ Increased funding, compliance enforcement on policies, and ability to provide guidance on conducting elections during natural disasters and health crises.

Accommodations for voters residing on Indian lands including:

- ✓ Allow those on Indian lands to designate buildings as ballot pick-up and collection locations, at no cost to the Indian Tribes and expand language protections.

- Carla Kapeskas



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 marcwee@bellsouth.net

| Date | Celebration |
|------|--|
| 6/6 | Miriam Patanian is celebrating a birthday |
| 6/10 | Burk and Merilee Hufnagel are celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary! |
| | Jane Soule is celebrating a birthday |
| 6/11 | Marc and Jane Soule are celebrating their 43rd anniversary! |
| | Mark and Laurie Wheeler are celebrating their 32nd anniversary! |
| 6/18 | Jim Saunders is celebrating a birthday |
| 6/19 | Ken Fry is celebrating a birthday |
| | Phillip Seaver and Suzanne Rezelman are celebrating their 27 th anniversary! |
| 6/23 | Judy and Willard Jule are celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary! |
| 6/24 | Marc and Carolyn Lee are celebrating their 30th anniversary! |
| | Burk Hufnagel is celebrating a birthday |
| 6/25 | Luka Kapeskas is celebrating a birthday |
| 6/27 | Bob and Rosie Popp are celebrating their 37th anniversary! |



Master Classes for Children

Sunday, June 7 & 14 at 11:15 am

Check your UUMAN announcements email messages for details.

For kids who are rising 1st grade through rising 6th grade our very own actor, director and writer, Canedy Knowles will be leading these lucky children in the following:

During these two sessions, students will explore acting and creative storytelling in a supportive, positive and interactive way. They will learn the basics of improvisation, create stories to perform together, work with scripts, create characters and (most importantly) have fun with their UUMAN buddies. There is no preparation needed for the first class- just a positive attitude and a willingness to step outside their comfort zone - within the safety of their own home.

WEEK ONE - June 7- IMPROVISATION and STORYTELLING

Chalice lighting

Joys and Concerns

warm-up exercises

Basics of improvisation

Improv games

What's in a story?

Creating group stories

Performing group stories

End session

WEEK TWO - June 14 - COMMERCIAL SCRIPTS and CHARACTERS

Chalice Lighting

Joys and Concerns

Warm-up exercises

Creating characters

Character Interviews

Working with a commercial script (provided beforehand)

Working with a script as a character

End session

To learn more about Canedy's story please check her out at www.canedyknowles.com

-Melinda Mischik



Weekend to Reflect, Recharge, and Renew

Please join us!

July 11 and 12 will be our weekend to “Reflect, Recharge, and Renew.”

This weekend, which was originally scheduled for May, has changed shape a bit as the world around us has and continues to shift with the pandemic and racial justice protests, along with the fear, uncertainty, and, yes, hope for the future. The goal of the weekend will be to reflect on the past few years, **recharge** as we work on moving forward in healthy ways in a covenantal, beloved community, and **renew** our commitment to UUMAN’s mission and vision.

In preparation for the weekend, we are asking each of you to start thinking about UUMAN- what you have gained, what you have lost in the past, what you would like to let go of and leave behind, and what intentions you would like to carry into the future.

Joining us and helping to facilitate the program are Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson and Cameron Young, UUA Congregational Life Consultants. To provide the congregation with an opportunity to get to know Hope and Cameron prior to our weekend together, we have invited them to join us virtually for service followed by a “Coffee, Conversation, and Ask the UUA” session after service on **June 14**.

As a refresher, the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) is the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious movement in the United States. The UUA’s 1000+ member congregations are committed to our Seven Principles, but each UU congregation is autonomous—congregational leaders set their own priorities and choose their own ministers and staff. Congregations vote for the leaders of the UUA, who oversee the central staff and resources. The UUA supports congregations in their work by [training ministers](#), [publishing books](#) and the [UU World magazine](#), [providing religious education curricula](#), [offering shared services](#), [coordinating social justice activities](#), and more.

Many UUMAN members and staff have benefitted from the trainings and support provided by the UUA. We hope you will join us after service on **June 14** to meet Hope and Cameron and ask them any questions you may have, and again on **July 11 and 12** for our virtual congregational “Reflect, Recharge, and Renew” weekend.

In service,

- ◆ Elizabeth Rohan
- ◆ Beverly Jordan
- ◆ Miriam Patanian
- ◆ Jennifer Ratcliffe
- ◆ Laurie Wheeler
- ◆ Melinda Mischick

UUMAN Upcoming Events

| Date | Event |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Every Sunday 11:15 a.m. | <p>Youth Sunday School Children and Youth 1st-12th grade are invited to class via an email to their parents from the Sunday School teachers during the week.</p> <p>Email Melinda Mischik at DRE@UUMAN.org for the Meeting Link if you haven't received one yet.</p> |
| Every Sunday 11:15 a.m. | <p>Coffee & Conversation Gather together with your fellow congregants to check in with each other, chat, and even have some show and tell time.</p> <p>Here is the link for Coffee and Conversation at 11:15: (It can also be accessed from the UUMAN home page.)</p> <p>Google Meet meet.google.com/ajw-teyx-iio</p> <p>Phone Numbers (US)+1 860-470-6397 PIN: 229 991 635#</p> |
| First and Third Sundays 12 -1 p.m. | <p>Cancer Support Group Open to survivors of cancer and their caretakers. Contact Kim Palmer for the meeting link at: kpalmer01@gmail.com</p> |

Update on Adult Religious Education

Our adult education classes have successfully transitioned to a video conference format. This includes both the ongoing groups on Sunday mornings and Friday nights and a short-term study on Gnosticism led by Reverend Dave.

All these offerings have been very well attended. Going forward, we welcome your input and are eager to expand our offerings. Do you want to learn a particular content area, such as UU history, world religions, or critical thinking? Are you interested in a course on spiritual practices? A potluck of different offerings by the members? If interested, please contact us at adultenrichment@uuman.org.

Rollin Mathis

A Month of Sundays

JUNE 2020

All in-person Sunday services and any meetings or groups at UUMAN are canceled until further notice. See [this page](#) for more details.

We plan to continue live-streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#).

| Date | Topic | Service Leaders |
|------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 6/7 | Be Heard Now You might find it helpful to have four pebbles, coins, marbles or other items handy for this Sunday's service. | Jim Nickens |
| 6/14 | Where is your flag this flag day? Service description TBA | Shelley Nagrani |
| 6/21 | Father's Day Service description TBA | Bruce Langston, Kim Palmer |
| 6/28 | General Assembly Service description TBA | Jennifer Ratcliffe, Virtual GA |

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