



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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September 2019

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Reopening of Fellowship Hall Basement



Unless you've been living on some other planet since last December, you've likely heard countless reports about the reconstruction efforts in our Fellowship Hall basement.

A December flooding necessitated that we engage with a professional restoration and cleanup company. Flooring, lower portions of the drywall and some furniture were contaminated and ruined. To bring the space up to code mandated that we redo the French drains as well. As we engaged in these extensive repairs, we also decided to upgrade the outdated and inadequate overhead lighting. To keep water off the back patio, we undertook a small regrading of the area behind Fellowship Hall. This also involved the installation of some new gutters and underground drainage piping. OMG!



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Engaging with the many contractors needed to complete this project to our liking was no small task. Most of these contractors are booked solid with lucrative work and our project, in their eyes, was a small, one-off engagement.



Harry Potter Room



Preschool Room

Although there are too many people to even begin to thank for these efforts, a special thank you must be given to Kelly Callen, Randy Blasch, Don Groce and Krishan Bralley. Kelly had to wrestle with and manage a whole host of contractors to see the project through. (As an example, the painting company with whom we contracted decided not to show up on the scheduled day.

Frantic phone calls had to be made to line up painters who could get it done in time for our ribbon-cutting ceremony.)

Randy had the thankless job of wrangling with our insurance company to see that our claims were addressed. It seemed as if every time he spoke with them, they had assigned a new adjuster to our claim.

Krishan Bralley and Don Groce were ever-present in the basement upgrading and installing the new lighting. They often had to squeeze their work in between other contractors.

We held a wonderful ribbon-cutting ceremony after our Ingathering Service on Sunday, August 11. Also, in attendance were the new owners and principals of the Premo School.



Ingathering Bubble Communion

If you have questions regarding our religious education program's use of the space, please contact Mike Chambers, Rosie Popp or Laurie Wheeler. They are leading this program until an Interim DRE is hired.

Also, if you have questions regarding the Premo School's use of our space, please contact Kelly Callen as she is serving as our Premo School liaison. (We are kindly asking that all communications with the Premo School go through Kelly as it can be overwhelming and confusing for the school to hear different, and sometimes competing, needs from well-meaning members.)

We are excited to be starting this new year in such a beautifully renovated new space. It has been a monumental effort but...we made it!

Now it is time for our children, and the children of the Premo School, to grace this space with their presence as they learn and grow into our shared future.

Take care,

Dave

UUMAN Youth Room Gets Painted

On Saturday, August 17 our senior youth and young adults came together to paint the Youth Room in Discovery Hall. They were assisted in painting by adults Amanda Bralley, Jim Nickens and Rev. Dave Dunn. Special thanks also to Rosie Popp and the many volunteers that helped organize and dispose of items no longer needed in Discovery Hall. If you get a chance go by and take a look!



—Bob Popp



Notes from the Board of Trustees

Board and Leadership Retreats

By Bob Popp, Vice-President

On August 4th the UUMAN Board had our annual Board Retreat. This was an opportunity for the new Board to come together and begin to discuss and set priorities for the upcoming year. At the start of the meeting we watched a short UUA training video to orient all of us on the “Duties of a Board” and on “Effective Governance”. We all learned a lot from watching the video and are committed to continuing the training modules throughout the year.

One of the many things that we took away from the training was that we needed to define 3-4 priorities or goals for the year. After much discussion the Board came up with a list of priorities: 1) Interim DRE, 2) Balance of Authority, 3) Visioning and 4) Policies. These priorities will be discussed and flushed out in more detail at the Leadership Retreat on September 7, 2019 from 11:30am-3:00pm. All UUMAN members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Leadership Retreat. This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard in the discussion and planning of the upcoming year. If you have any questions please talk to Shelley Nagrani, Program Council Chair or Todd Callen, Board President.



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

One Sunday 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.

This month's recipient is **Refugee Women's Network (RWN)**. On Sunday, September 29th we will have a representative from RWN to talk to us about the organization and answer questions. The organization inspires and equips refugee and immigrant women to become leaders in their homes, businesses, and communities. Go to <http://refugeewomensnetworkinc.org> to learn more.

Thank you for your contributions!

Michelle Liebergesell

UUMAN's "Share the Plate" Coordinator



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
9/9	Dirk and Ann Bender are celebrating their 29th anniversary!
9/10	Luc G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/18	Nelson and Marcia Hagood are celebrating their 9th anniversary!
9/22	Carolina Patlis and Sam Friedman are celebrating their 19th anniversary!
9/28	Troy vdB. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

Interim DRE Search Committee

UUMAN is embarking on a religious education journey this fall starting with putting in place a religious education program (DONE!) and finding an "interim" religious education professional. In this journey, we are guided by the extensive work and guidelines that have been established by the UUA. In situations like ours the UUA recommends hiring an interim religious educator to help us take stock of where we are and where we want to go. The Board has been in consultation with Michele Grove of the Guild of Interim Religious Educators (<https://uugire.com/>), and is assisting us through the process of finding and hiring an Interim DMCY professional.

The role of an Interim DMCY professional is to help us explore and ascertain the future of our religious education program for our children and youth. They will also help us run our Religious Education (RE) program, along with our teacher volunteers, and help us through the search and hiring process for a permanent DMCY. We are fortunate in our journey that there are a number of UUA resources that we can leverage and use in our quest to find the Interim.

As the new Vice President of UUMAN's Board of Trustees, I've been tasked with forming an "Interim DRE Search Committee." This committee will be an ad hoc committee reporting to the Board. The goals of the committee will be to 1) create the UUMAN Interim DRE job description, 2) post the job description on various job sites, 3) field questions from prospective candidates, 4) communicate regularly to the Board, Program Council, and congregation on the status of the hiring process, 5) present candidate options and make a recommendation to the Board.

The committee will consist of the VP and 2-3 other UUMAN members, and a youth advisor. This is a short-term commitment through early next year. My estimate is that it will take about two hours/month. We'll try to do most of our meetings on-line, although we'll want to meet face-to-face in the beginning.

If you are interested in being on the committee or if you have questions please call (404-626-5346) or email me vice-president@uuman.org.

Thanks

Bob Popp

Religious Exploration at UUMAN

UUMAN's Ministry with Children and Youth (MCY) serves a diverse community of families with young people, from birth through high school. Our Religious Exploration classes are designed to assist our children with examining and understanding their purpose and responsibilities, in a fun, creative, and safe environment.

—Your RE Team

Our Mission:

To explore together—with respect and compassion and open minds—our world and our place in it, in a way that illuminates and reinforces our UU principles.

Grade Level	Curriculum	Description
Preschool	Chalice Children - 25 sessions	Chalice Children introduces children to our Unitarian Universalist faith, in a fun and nurturing way.
K-1st	Tapestry of Faith: Creating Home- 16 sessions	This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith.
2nd-3rd	Tapestry of Faith: Moral Tales- 16 sessions	Provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values.
4th-5th	Harry and UU -32 sessions	Social Action curriculum based (loosely) on Harry Potter books
6th-7th- Jr. Youth	Jedi Academy -26 sessions	Mindfulness training, based (loosely) on the Star Wars saga
8th/9th Coming of Age	Building Bridges curriculum Retreats for Religious Exploration	Building Bridges is a world religions program to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search.
10th-12th Senior Youth	Self-determined	Senior Youth have input and ownership of the topics they will focus on and learn about throughout the year.

Help Wanted

There are many ways that you can get involved in support of the UUMAN mission. Here are a some of the current needs:

Greeters

Greeters welcome visitors and everyone that enters UUMAN on Sunday morning prior to service; this is a great way to get to know people; contact if you are interested membership@uuman

Gardeners

Help keep UUMAN's beautiful flower beds and grounds looking great; this job can be done at any time however the Gardening Group does meet periodically and will meet on August 12, August 26, and September 9 at 9am; contact Shelley Nagrani at shelley.nagrani@gmail.com for more information.

Choir

The UUMAN Choir is starting back up after a well-deserved summer break; they are always looking for people interested in singing; contact Alex Pietsch at alexpietsch1189@gmail.com for more information.

RE Teachers

The fall religious education program for our children and youth has started. If you are interested in getting involved in teaching this fall please email re@uuman.org

Coffee House

Every month on the third Saturday we set up the Sanctuary to have live local music. We need help moving chairs around in the Sanctuary, setting up tables and putting up the backdrop for the show. It takes an hour or less if we have four or more volunteers helping. Contact Phillip Seaver at gtflip@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

Workshop on Active Hope

9/29, 12:15 pm to 3:30pm at UUMAN

This interactive workshop on Active Hope is based on over four decades of community work with thousands of people around the world. It is designed to help you transform fear and despair into inspiration and a sense of empowerment.

We will explore gratitude, anger, grief, and hope and move into a deeper understanding of how to create our best collective future. We will end the workshop with exercises to help us support one another as we go forth and work towards a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world where all beings can thrive.

As an added bonus, attending this workshop makes you eligible to fill out a brief application to be considered for seed money for environmental/community projects. Mini-grants are provided by The Four Directions Fund at Georgia Interfaith Power and Light.

This workshop is led by Beth Remmes who is a Facilitator for The Work that Reconnects, is on the Board of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, and is a member of Unity Worldwide Ministry's Earth Care Team. Her website is <https://earthspiritaction.com/>

Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DA8A92BA13-workshop>. Contact Carla Kapeskas for more information at socialjustice-chair@uuman.org

UUMAN Upcoming Events

Date	Event
9/7, 11:30am-3:00pm	UUMAN's Annual Leadership Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 7 from 11:30am-3pm in Fellowship Hall. Committee chairs are highly encouraged to attend however all are welcome to participate. This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard in the discussion and planning of the upcoming year. If you have any questions please talk to Shelley Nagrani, Program Council Chair or Todd Callen, Board President.
9/14, 9:30am-2:30pm	UU101 Membership Class The Membership Team is pleased to announce the upcoming UU-101 class being held on Saturday, September 14 from 9:30AM to 2:30PM. If you are new to our congregation or to Unitarian Universalism, or are considering becoming a member of UUMAN - or just want a refresher on the basic tenets of our faith, this class is for you. For more information and to sign up, please visit us at the greeters table in the atrium before or after worship, or email membership@uuman.org. Lunch and childcare will be provided.
9/29, 12:15-3:30pm	Workshop on Active Hope This interactive workshop on Active Hope is based on over four decades of community work with thousands of people around the world. It is designed to help you transform fear and despair into inspiration and a sense of empowerment. We will explore gratitude, anger, grief, and hope and move into a deeper understanding of how to create our best collective future. We will end the workshop with exercises to help us support one another as we go forth and work towards a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world where all beings can thrive. As an added bonus, attending this workshop makes you eligible to fill out a brief application to be considered for seed money for environmental/community projects. Mini-grants are provided by The Four Directions Fund at Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. This workshop is led by Beth Remmes who is a Facilitator for The Work that Reconnects, is on the Board of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, and is a member of Unity Worldwide Ministry's Earth Care Team. Her website is https://earthspiritaction.com/

Date	Event
10/5, 7:00pm	Two UUMAN Authors Offer Book Signing We would like to honor this and enjoy readings from their books on October 5 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Wine and nibbles will be served. The community outside UUMAN will be invited also. Dave's book (Through the Grapevine) is a thought provoking thriller set in the heart of Northern California's wine country about a woman caught up in the immigration crisis. Mary's book (Beneath the Surface) is an engrossing in-depth look at the origins of human nature through the lens of evolution. You are welcome to bring books you have already purchased for the authors' signature or buy books at the event or just come to listen. In addition to readings from their books, the authors will talk about their process of publishing which is a journey in itself. A donation to UUMAN will be made from the proceeds of book sales at the event. Don't miss the fun! For more information contact Donna Melcher.

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
9/1	Blessing of the Animals Please join is in our annual Blessing of the Animals service. Please bring your furried, feathered, crawling (and hopefully controlled) friends with you for an experience that is always wild and fanciful.	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/8	No Matter Whatness What things in your life have a “no matter whatness” quality to them ... that no matter what happens, that no matter how it happens; your right relationship to that thing remains steadfast – unmoved? Do you feel that you, your life, who you are, could ever be the recipient of another’s “no matter whatness” gift?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/15	The Birth of the Khasi Unitarians On September 18, 1887, an anniversary date Khasi Unitarians still celebrate, Hajom Kissor Singh led his first church service in his home.	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/22	Might Humor Be Our Salvation? Probably Not...But It’s Worth A Try! Of course, we all know that of all genres of humor, there is no more humorous humor than church humor. Might it be our salvation? Don’t make me laugh! But let’s give it a try anyway.	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/29	To be announced	Lay Led

September 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