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TO THE GLORY OF LIFE

Dear Friends,

The latest installment in the Harry Potter series is out. Like the five books before this one, I find it fascinating. Compelling. One might even say, 'spell-binding.'

Yes, it's about casting spells and performing magic. It contains dragons and demons. There are giant spiders, flying brooms, hexes, charms and attempts to peer into the future. There is good and evil, clashing ideologies, people turned into toads, love potions, romance, broken dreams and new dreams rising to take their place. It's easy to see how enchanting and engaging it might be - a far cry from the majority of other books I tend to read.

While on sabbatical, I indulged, luxuriously, in reading. People who have seen my library at home, or who have tallied my Amazon.com receipts know how much I love to read. During the sabbatical I finished 34 books. Actually finished them! During a normal church year I only get to half that many and, even then, I usually only have time to read the particular excerpts that are relevant to my next sermon. So, for the most part, my reading is confined to non-fiction - usually historical, biographical, sociology, psychology, religion or mythology - and I usually never getting to read the last page and see how it ends.

But Harry Potter is different and I've been asking myself why. 'Kid-at-heart' theories and 'too-much-time-on-my-hands' explanations don't reveal the real reason. The real reason, I think, has to do with the parallel universe Harry and I live in.

Harry is a leader, learning - by study and trial and error - how to be a better leader. He returns each year to be part of a learning environment with other emerging leaders struggling to come into their own. He has certain strengths and powers, but the author

is careful to point out he has his own unique set of shortcomings too - just like all his mates. He is passionate - and part of a passionate world where good and evil are real and require some decision making and action. A lot of the action takes place in and among their own kind, but especially in this latest book, there is a recognized need to also get along with others who are different than them. The characters, as the series has progressed, and as Harry and his mates have matured, take on more responsibilities. The circumstances of the world in which they find themselves seems to become more and more dire. More examples of ideologies clashing. Lines being drawn. Worlds becoming polarized. But the real transformation comes when the main characters learn how to find the courage to see beyond polarities. How they discover that the world - nor anyone in it - is rarely all-good, or all-evil. And even in cases where they are, great attempts can be made to see beyond the surface, uncover the history and sources of suffering that bring about understanding and allow for new relationships.

I am only half way through this new book. It is long and involved and, despite what people may expect from a 'children's book,' it is rarely sketched in clear, black and white, simplified ways. Like our lives, their lives feel messy, their circumstances urgent and their temptations compelling, and their ideals undeniable.

Here at UUMAN, we too are returning to learn how to be leaders, how to cast our spells of influence and refrain from being the source - or recipients - of hexes. We come to see that good and evil are real and something is asked of us. We are learning how to see beyond the polarities that keep us apart. And just like reading about a world of wizards and witches, we too are asked to use our imagination as much as our truth.
(cont'd on page 2)



Happenings

Mindful Meditation

Need a vacation from stress? A few minutes to sit still; to turn off the phone; to stop thinking about what you have to do next; to be in the present moment; to let other people's needs wait a while? You deserve to be mindful for a few minutes. I'd like to invite you to be still with us every second and fourth Thursday night at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. You don't have to bring a thing. Just you.

Contact Merri Beth Stephens for more information.

See you there!

Happenings

Back to School Party

ALL our UUMAN families are invited to join us SUNDAY AUGUST 7th 2005 (3-5pm) at UUMAN. Please join the UUMAN Social Action Committee, Youth Group & our friends from 'HOMESTRETCH' for a party to celebrate 'Back to School'. Enjoy making new friends and activities like face painting, stories & games & tasty treats! Maybe some surprises too! So come along...bring yourself & your young ones and help us celebrate the wonder of learning and the joy of friendship shared widely... School supplies for 'Homestretch' children will be given as 'going home' gifts.

(cont'd from page 1)

I believe I am drawn to the world of Hogwarts because it points to many commonalities with a place called UUMAN. Both offer some enchantment and occasional demons. Both take time to peer into the future and deal with good, evil and see beyond clashing ideologies. Both places dare to dream, have courage as dreams are broken, and stand strong building new dreams to rise and take their place. Both are places where magic is not only possible, but expected. And both are places I want to stick with till the last page, because I believe both have something to say about how we will one day find our way.

To the Glory of Life.

General Assembly Report

Every year in late June delegates from the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association gather to conduct business, worship together, and attend workshops for personal and congregational enrichment. This year Joan Armstrong attended as our Director of Religious Education, and Karen LoBracco as a congregational delegate.

Business was conducted in six Plenary Sessions. The Study Item selected for discussion in congregations during this next year is Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society. Bill Sinkford was reelected (he ran unopposed) for a second four-year term as president of the UUA. He asked all UUs to answer the survey in the May/June issue of UUWorld, or send him an email at bsinkford@uua.org with UU Priorities in the subject line.

The new hymnal supplement *Singing the Journey* caused quite a buzz, and music from it was featured at every Plenary Session and Worship Service. The denomination is not growing in number of members, and several workshops addressed our tendency to act like a closed club rather than risk being changed by actively inviting others to join. About every four years the independent Commission on Appraisal issues a report on an area it considers important. UUMAN has a copy of its most recent report entitled *Engaging Our Theological Diversity*, which speaks to how our diversity is both a source of enrichment and conflict.

Tidbit: the most common element in UU worship was announcements!

Much more information is available by speaking to Joan Armstrong, from the written report Karen LoBracco sent the Board of Trustees, and from the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association, www.uua.org.

Karen Lobracco

Water Communion Sunday - August 14th, 2005

We are having our annual Water Communion Sunday in a couple of weeks. The next few weeks is our chance to reflect on what special contribution we feel UUMAN offers to the larger community and the world - and how we, personally, contribute to UUMAN's ability to be successful in that area. For instance, "I think UUMAN's ability to care for its members is what makes it special and I support that in my plans to help the care committee." Or, "I think the adult Sunday School class is what makes UUMAN special and I support that by helping to teach a class." UUMAN's gifts are limitless because the talents and commitment of our members is limitless. In the same way that small streams make great rivers we all contribute to the greatness of this community. Please remember to have every member of your family bring a small container of water to pour into the community pool to symbolize what you do to add to this community's many gifts.



President’s Letter

Points of Culture...How Organizations Work Well

Fellow UUMANs, The new Board began its formal duties in July. The letter below is welcome correspondence to the members of this year’s Board. Part of the success of any organization is the character of the teamwork among its constituents. It felt appropriate to disclose to UUMAN members and friends the kind of community the Board wants to be part of, thinks you want to be a part of and the role it and all of us need to play to ensure healthy relationships in our community. Faithfully Yours, Kirk Bogue.

July 10, 2005

Dear 2005-2006 Fellow Board Members,

Welcome to the Board! On behalf of the congregation, Thank You for taking on what will be one of the most important undertakings of service in your life. The responsibility to have and maintain an effective healthy UUMAN Community is in our hands in so much as it is our responsibility to be stewards of our church and partners with fellow congregants in ascertaining and achieving the objectives we share together as a community. Your good intentions and significant effort to make our Board and UUMAN all it can be is appreciated!

Our mission as UUMAN leaders is to make a difference through effective work together and by fostering an environment in which our community’s effectiveness is nurtured and strengthened. Some of this will happen through setting longer-term plans and the stage for their implementation. Some of it will happen through the development of policy, oversight of committee work and hands-on action in day-to day activities. Our most important impact and results will come from our efforts to create trust among our Board team and in the relationship we have as a Board with the community we serve. Our best tool for this is our own behavior...to behave in a trustworthy manner and to make interactions we have with others be better than they expected.

High performing teams and highly effective organizations have points of culture that members both subscribe to and strive for in

terms of behavior. I think our effectiveness as a team and leaders will be extremely strong if the following points or values of our team include (but not necessarily be limited to):

Respect - Honor the reputation and esteem of self and others by acknowledging each person’s equality and by holding in high regard the gifts (time, talent, money, relationship) each brings to the table. Expect the same in return.

Trust – Create it by being vulnerable to and influence-able by others.

Communication - Feedback is a gift. Listen. Listen. Share. Confirm. Avoid triangulation when discussing another person’s actions or motives; give feedback about a person directly to them first before sharing it with others.

Integrity – Behave so that mind, body, spirit and relationships are “right” with each other.

Accountability – Look for opportunities to respond and choose to respond when the opportunity arises.

Service - Give of self generously to others to help them be better off than they otherwise would have been.

Leadership – Influence others towards a shared vision in an environment that fosters trust.

Collaboration – Trust and team with others to cultivate the best ideas, commit to a shared objective, hold each other accountable and achieve the most effective and abundant results possible.

Innovation - Continuously improve relationships, problem-solving techniques and delivery methods to keep the cycle of effectiveness growing.

Celebrate – Appreciate the milestones, accomplishments and contributions of others with thoughtful recognition.

Fun – Make the journey enjoyable for yourself and others.

Our transparency at operating with points like these will facilitate our progress and consequently that of UUMAN’s. Our journey together and with our community will be filled with accomplishment and challenge. At the hardest times remember that you or the Board are not in this alone. Each of us is part of a larger community and that community is just as responsible as you or we are in our success and for the success of the larger community. The notion that trust extended is trust returned operates in all directions. Together, all of us in the community will strive to make UUMAN stronger and better than ever. Thank you again for what you are doing. Let’s all look forward to a great year; let’s make it happen!

Yours Truly,
Kirk Bogue, President

Happenings

YOGA with Lisa @ UUMAN

On-going yoga classes in our beautiful sanctuary. Develop strength, flexibility and balance in mind and body. Learn poses, breathing & relaxation techniques & meditation to reduce stress, calm your mind, strengthen your immune system, and find more joy in life! Beginners & intermediates; men, women & teens.

Happenings

UUMANDRUMS

Classes will be 1st & 3rd Sunday's from 1:30-3:30 with practice on alternate Sunday's. Class price \$15. Loaner drums will be available. Pamela Reich -

Happenings

UUMANSingles

The singles group meets for a monthly potluck, the second Saturday of every month. E-mail Craig Kaufman or Carolyn Bommarito for more details craigk@uuman.org & carolyn@uuman.org -



UUMAN Writes

Some Assembly Required

The directions touted that it was "easy to assemble". The directions lied. I realized this fact halfway through the process of putting together our new CD rack; with pieces of wood strewn across our living room floor. The cats even helped by trying to eat several pieces and hide them under the sofa-such helpful, little creatures! As my husband cursed at the mismatching sticks and pegs, I re-read the directions for the millionth time. Again, they deceived me. They promised slot A would neatly fit into slot B with very little effort, yet that was not the case for us. As we worked through our mounting frustration, I began to realize the parallel between assembling a CD rack and life.

Life appears "easy to assemble", too. But that is as far from any truth as it gets. You can never quite get the pieces of your life to fit neatly into their corresponding slot. Sometimes you can't even find the slot. Sometimes you can't find all the pieces. It takes patience, perseverance, and several million attempts to even get one part of it right. And what if a piece never fits; does the whole structure crumble around you? I suppose one could argue that's why both duct tape and faith were invented-they hold the center together.

I've been struggling to fit all my pieces in their slots for 34

years and counting now. It never seems any easier. If anything, I feel like I've broken a few pieces along the way trying to cram them in too hard where they really did not fit. Religion was one of those ill fitting pegs for me for quite a long time. I crammed in Catholicism, Southern Baptist, and even the peg of total disbelief. Luckily, I finally found a loose peg of UU that fits fairly well for me; though not a tight fit. I still find on occasion that my faith falls out or my questions cause my life to become shaky (much like the finished product of our CD rack.) But just as my CDs won't shatter if they fall to the floor, neither will my soul.

At times I still struggle with the frustration of the promise that it should be easier than this somehow. The advertised notion on the side of the box that my life should look a certain way or I should be a certain person by now-fully assembled and ready to function. But any master craftsman will tell you that a quality product takes time to hone and perfect-you don't just slap it together in a few short moments. So I consider my life still a "work-in-progress". And it is OK if I'm held together with duct tape at times-existing on pure faith that I will in the end somehow fit compassion and grace in my life and find my slot in the world. Resulting in a thing of pure beauty and joy. And if you really want a good CD rack..buy it pre-assembled.

patty@uuman.org

UUMAN's Rummage Sale

The UUMAN Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday & Sat., Sept. 23& 24. When you look through your closets, cabinets and drawers please keep in mind that I have been informed that the following items RARELY sell and Good Will (where we donate the leftovers after the sale) will not take these items either. So, in order to make room for items that will sell and to make clean up easier on us hard workers, please do not bring the items below. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Also, sorting clothing is a huge task so if at all possible, could you please bring your donated clothing pre-sorted and folded by sex and size? What may take you a half an hour will take us days to sort through all of the donations. Also, if you have extra hangers, it would also be a great help if you bring clothing that normally hangs on hangers already hung up. That's a tongue twister isn't it?

This should be a huge sale. We have a lot of new families who haven't previously donated and we didn't have a sale last year so everyone should have lots of "stuff". We just want to make sure there is room for all of it. Thanks so much for your willingness to help!

Please do not bring:

jumbo stuffed animals (unless specialty animals like Disney etc.), non-working appliances, old or broken baby equipment, plastic sports bottles, underwear, dirty or tattered clothing, games/puzzles with pieces missing, non-working electronics, mattresses of any kind, mugs with logos, personal pillows, used shoes, law books, text books, tires, HAZMAT items, realistic toy guns, carpet rolls, wall paper, baskets ,blinds computer keyboard drawers ,mops, hair rollers, luggage and other bags ,ski exercise machines ,woks, & empty food jars.

Thank you!
Carolyn Lee



A Flagged Issue

Our recent survey polled the congregation on their opinions and feelings regarding UUMAN displaying the Rainbow Flag. We received a great response to this, with the results being that we have much to think about. (To view the full survey results, go to <http://www.opinionpower.com/results.cgi?id=721027924> and <http://www.opinionpower.com/textResults.cgi?id=721027924>)

So, do we know what our issues are with a Rainbow Flag? Do we have a clear understanding of how UUMAN's congregation wants to display itself to the wider community? Do we have a consensus on which messages we want to make on GLBT issues? I think I would answer all of those questions with a, "No, not yet". But that's not surprising.

From the survey results, what is clear is that a simple symbol, such as the Rainbow Flag, means lots of different things to lots of different people. To some UUMAN members and visitors it is and was a direct signal that they were welcome and safe to join our community. To some UUMANites it was a clear political message to our wider community that we are a "no hate zone". To some the Rainbow Flag signifies our UU principles. For others, it overly dominates what UUMAN stands for. Some believe it misrepresents UUMAN.

All of these mixed opinions illustrate what a diverse community we are; they are significant reminders that UUMAN is made up of many individuals with distinct goals,

desires and intentions for UUMAN. Our next task is to come together to find a way to recognize, understand and hear each other's viewpoints. To some, it may seem overkill to have so much activity over a flag, but it is these little issues that build us into the community we want to be.

With community building in mind, we are going to be setting up several "covenant style" meetings, which will provide a forum for everyone to come and listen to one another's opinions on this topic. Our hope is to move away from our typical meeting style and move towards a group setting that encourages honest understanding of one another.

Please look out for details of these meetings coming soon. Over fifty people indicated on our survey a willingness to participate in this, so we expect to have a great turnout.

[Please note that our Rainbow Flag is currently missing from the front of our building. It is still a mystery as to how or why it was removed. Our speculations have been that it was either stolen/vandalized or blown down by recent storms. If anyone has any knowledge of its whereabouts, please email kars@uuman.org]

Kara Sweeney, Welcoming Congregation Committee
Karas@uuman.org

Project Open Hand Social Justice Activity

The congregation has overwhelmingly asked the Social Justice Committee to support local Social Justice activities. UUMAN has supported Project Open Hand over the years and our next scheduled visit will be on Saturday, September 17, 2005. Project Open Hand is a non-profit organization created in 1988 to provide freshly prepared, nutritious meals to people in need. Look for the sign up sheet on the Social Justice bulletin board by the kitchen in Fellowship Hall and mark your calendars! Contact Rhonda Mihalik (770-992-7374, Rhondam@uuman.org) or Jennifer Tangney (770-993-6498, venjenn@uuman.org) for info or to sign up.

UUMAN Tubing Trip

The 6th Annual UUMAN Toccoa River Tubing Trip will be held on Saturday, August 20. Hopefully scheduling the trip the 1st Saturday after most schools go back will allow a lot more families to attend. For those that have never been before, the tubing trip starts at the Toccoa Valley Campground, (706) 838-4317 near the beginning of the Toccoa River outside of Blue Ridge, GA on Aska Road. We usually meet at the starting point at 10am on Saturday morning. The river is very tame with only a couple of places where the water gets more than waist deep. Tubes, life jackets and seat cushions are provided at the starting point for about \$6/person. They take checks but no charge cards that I remember. All tubes have bottoms in them. We have had children as young as 4 make the trip with no problem. The tube trip takes about 2 1/2 hours. Afterwards we go to a picnic area on Lake Blue Ridge for swimming and a picnic. So bring a picnic lunch, lawn chairs, blankets, etc. Let me know if you are interested or have any questions. The trip is open to anyone so tell your neighbors and friends! For more information call Bob or Rosie Popp at 770-751-0356.



Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

Welcome to UUMAN. Welcome to YRUU. Welcome for the first time. Welcome back...

Welcome to the place where you will always find a friend waiting, to a place where what you say, what you think, what you feel and what you believe really matters! Welcome to a place where you will find a promise that you will be valued, loved and supported and where we will expect the same from you in return. Welcome to a place where Love & Justice are tenets of our faith, a faith that holds us to our promises to one another. Welcome to a place where we 'snuggle and struggle' with ourselves and each other as we grow in faith together. Welcome to your Church home!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and now I am so glad that YOU are here! And here we are, ready to start a new church year at UUMAN and in our youth groups that make up YRUU. Welcome to the new 6th graders who are joining YRUU for the first time this year. I am looking forward to getting to know you and to having you become a part of the youth groups that we all care about so much. We want you to play an active role in youth programs at UUMAN and I know that your fellow youth will support your contributions and leadership in any way they can. I also want to welcome Youth Parents. I am so happy that we will be working together to provide our young ones with programming that will support them as they grow in the year ahead. Please come to a *PARENT MEETING* for ALL YOUTH PARENTS on FRIDAY, AUGUST 12th (7-9.30pm). The purpose of this meeting will be to get some information about YRUU and what you might expect this year, but more importantly, it will be an opportunity to make connections with other parents in our community so that we can build and deepen the relationships that offer support and friendship when we need it.

In June we elected a Youth Adult Committee (YAC) that will ably lead us in our ventures and adventures this coming year. But they need YOUR help! The YAC cannot make or carry out plans without input from YOU. So we want ALL YOUTH (Middle & High school) to come to UUMAN's annual *PLAN & PLAY DAY* which will be on FRIDAY AUGUST 19th & SATURDAY AUGUST 20th. We will spend Friday evening (6-10pm) taking registration, catching up and getting re-connected with one another, meeting and making new friends and working with our UUMAN YAC representatives to plan our calendar of events for the coming year. We have such a lot to think about and plan together...Social Action, Youth Group activities, Lock-ins & Retreats, Interfaith Youth Group, fundraising, Youth Service, MSD YAC, The Mountain,

Halloween! WOW! Come ready to share...WHAT DO YOU WANT IN YRUU THIS YEAR? Then, we will meet again on Saturday morning and join others from UUMAN on the Toccoa River Valley TUBING TRIP! Families and Youth Advisors are welcome (and encouraged) to join us for fellowship and fun!

YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION is where it's at!!! We are into our 2nd year of preparations for our 'Mission Trip' to Jamaica. We are working on securing visas for 2 Youth from Montego Bay who we are waiting to welcome to Atlanta. Keniel & Derrio will stay with UUMAN Youth families for 2 weeks this month and we are really excited about spending this time together. We are also excited about our "Back to School" Supply Drive & Party. We look forward to any chance we can get to make new friends and work together to build relationships with people in our wider community. We are proud to be a part of our church home where anyone can find a community of people with "Open Hearts, Open Minds & OPEN ARMS"!

ADULTS!!!! Ever thought that you might like to spend more time with our amazing youth? Well, the good news is that they want to spend more time with YOU!! We are hoping that you will want to be a YOUTH ADVISOR at UUMAN. Please join me, some of our youth and some 'seasoned veteran Advisors' at a Mid South District sponsored *BASIC YOUTH ADVISOR TRAINING* on SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th (10am-5pm). You will learn more about what it means to support young people in our congregation and in the wider world and hear about how these kinds of relationships have impacted peoples' lives.

Youth Groups and YRUU programming will get back into 'full swing' mid month, so look out for calendars and fliers in your 'mailboxes' in the Youth Room in Discovery Hall. If you do not have a 'mailbox', be sure to let Toniann or a youth know and we'll set you up right away!

I am looking forward to another wonderful year together!
UUMAN YRUU ROCKS!

One Love, Toniann.

If you have any questions or comments about Youth Programming at UUMAN please contact the Youth Director, Toniann Read at (770) 558-4476 or yruu@uuman.org anytime.



Reflections

By Rev. Joan H. Armstrong

While preparing materials for next Saturday's Teacher Orientation session I thought of a situation that occurred more than twenty years ago when I was serving another congregation as a DRE. One of my daughters was a third grader and the other a fourth grader at the time. I was leading a teacher training session on faith development and I was describing each of several stages in that developmental model along with the implications for teaching and curriculum. I remember describing Mythic-Literal Faith, in which individuals begin to take on the myths, stories and observances of their faith community. This is one of my favorite groups to teach because there's a new understanding of "this is 'our people.'" The "hero" stories of a faith community are eagerly heard and remembered. Another feature of this stage, which [roughly] represents 7-10 year olds, is that for them symbols are one-dimensional and literal. You would not, I went on to say to the teachers, find an atheist in the third and fourth grade class. One of the third and fourth grade teachers interrupted to disagree. "Oh, yes we would," he said. "And they are both yours!"

I was a bit chagrined hearing this from one of my volunteer teachers. It was somewhat embarrassing and that's probably why I've retained the memory of that incident with such clarity over the years. That story also says a lot about the kinds of conversations that occur in a religious education class that don't occur at home and there's a good deal more we could say about that, but that is not where I was going with this story.

Fast forward six or seven years and one of those daughters is in high school and a theist. She refused to attend Sunday

school from late middle school through high school preferring to spend her time with the Sunday paper. Only years later was she able to say that her religious views were not respected at church. Both of her sisters were active with their church through high school perhaps in part because they were more "mainstream" in their UU religious views. That memory is a painful one.

At our Association's General Assembly in Ft. Worth, TX a few weeks ago, there was much ado about "Plurality and Diversity." We attract large numbers of visitors to our churches because we are known to be accepting of pluralism and diversity in our membership. Potential visitors know this about us because they check to see what our websites say before they visit. Oftentimes, however, those visitors discover that there are unspoken expectations about what or who a UU is –ideologically and politically, theologically, and socially as well. And after a time many move on. Adult membership numbers have been flat for the past two years. Church school enrollment and youth involvement figures show we are in decline.

I'll be telling this story and talking about acceptance with our teachers and youth advisors over the next few weeks as we get ready for the next year of church school and youth programming. My daughter is fine, having reconciled with Unitarian Universalism as a young adult, but when I think of how long I misinterpreted the reasons behind her behavior, I think of how much was lost.

Yours in faith,
Joan

Religious Education Calendar Items

7/30 (Sat.) 9-2 p.m. Teacher Orientation & Youth Advisor Training

8/13 (Sat.) 9-Noon Teacher Orientation (repeat)

8/14 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. Ingathering Sunday

8/21 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. Church school begins



Recycle for UUMAN

Just a reminder that you can help us offset the cost of ink cartridges by bringing your empty cartridges to the UUMAN office. The recycling box is on the top shelf of the bookcase in the office and all types/brands are accepted. With your used cartridges we are able to exchange them for reams of paper at Office Depot and for printing supplies at Cartridge World.

UU Family Reunion

Please join members and friends of the North Georgia Cluster UU Congregations on Labor Day, September 5 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wills Park in Alpharetta for our Fourth Annual UU Family Reunion.

We'll have an old time "tent meeting" to kick things off, followed by face painting, horseshoes, softball, balloon tosses, and other events for people of all ages. Bring a picnic lunch for your family and a dessert to share. Paper products, ice & drinks, craft supplies will be provided. Bring outdoor game equipment. Horseshoes, anyone? Tickets will be sold for \$3 each. Spend your holiday with our extended UU family. Y'all come!!

UU Happenings Around Town:

Don't forget the HUNGRY EAR Coffee House at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1025 Mt. Vernon Hwy., NW in Sandy Springs on Saturday, September 3rd. This month's performers will include Geoff Thurman, Gary Baum, Paul Perkins and friends and feature Sheri Kling. Check later listings for specific performers. Show starts at 8:00 PM. A \$5.00 donation is requested and refreshments will be available. BYOB. All amateur folk musicians are welcome to perform. Call Sharon at 770-513-1968 to reserve a time slot. The church is located just inside I-285 between the Northside and Riverside exits. For directions go to nwwuc.org or call 770- 955-1408.

The Second Annual Cliff Valley Bluegrass Festival at the UU Congregation of Atlanta (1911 Cliff Valley Way) is fast approaching. Notice from UUCA: The festival will be at UUCA from 4-9 on August 27. \$7.00 tickets. Children under 12 are free. This will be a family-friendly event with lots of toe tapping for us and our friends. This year we are planning to sell barbecue (veggie options, too)-- so we should be happy and well-fed

Course Offering: "Fundamentalisms: Their Appeal & Their Risk"

David Slavin, Ph.D. and Chance Hunter, M.Div. of Emory University will offer a 10 week course at UUCA (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta) on Tuesday nights, 7-9 pm, 20 Sept - 22 Nov. The instructors will engage students in a study and discussion of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic fundamentalisms in the US and the world from an interfaith perspective. As globalization intensifies, these movements are gaining power, influence, and followers at an alarming pace. How do we assess the motives and intentions of their leaders and followers? Where are their historical roots, what is the basis for their mass support, and in what religious, political and sociological context do we frame them? What are the personal experiences of the class participants with these movements? Short weekly reading assignments (2-5 pages) will be supplemented by additional recommendations for in-depth study. Emory students will participate along with community members. The recommended donation to cover costs is \$35.00, but no one will be turned away for insufficient funds. To register call David H Slavin, Ph.D. 404 486 0266 or email dhslavi@emory.edu Additional information and a syllabus are available by contacting Prof Slavin. UUCA is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, GA 30329



New to Unitarian Universalism?

You can learn more about Unitarian Universalism and ask questions to help you explore this faith on the Unitarian Universalist Association’s website at www.uua.org/newcomers/newcomerb.html. You’ll find a list of questions from other newcomers on topics such as creeds, sacraments, sin, atheism and agnosticism, and Unitarian Universalist views on Jesus. A Frequently Asked Questions list addresses many of the most popular questions. Answers are provided by the UUA Office of Information & Public Witness staff and “seasoned” UUs.

An Anniversary Celebration

Hundreds of colorful heart-shaped anniversary cards created by UU children nationwide added an especially joyous note to the recent celebration of the one year anniversary of the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex civil marriage. The paper hearts, inscribed with notes such as “love won out”, “marriage is for everyone” and “happy anniversary, long live love”, festooned UUA headquarters in Boston during the celebration. Knowing that the battle for marriage equality is far from over, the UUA continues to offer support to Unitarian Universalists who are advocating for this civil right. Contact the Office of Information & Public Witness (617 948-4652 or info@uua.org) for more information. You can also find information on the history of our Association’s support for same-sex marriage at www.uua.org/news/2004/freedomtomarry/index.html.

Taking it Home: Families and Faith

The UUA’s Family Matters Task Force announces a series of six booklets for congregations and families to use at home or in community to support them through life transitions and spiritual/ethical challenges. The series covers:

- Let’s Talk About Respect
- Let’s Talk About Time/Money Balance
- Let’s Talk About Marriage and Committed Relationships
- Let’s Talk About Divorce and Broken Relationships
- Let’s Talk About Families and Loss
- Let’s Talk About Interfaith Families

The booklets are available at www.uua.org/families.

Your Input Invited!

The UUA has announced that its all-member magazine, UU WORLD, will become a quarterly beginning with September issue. At the same time, a web-based UU WORLD will be launched that will have more timely news and will reach a wider audience than the current magazine, which is mailed only to voting members. An experimental version of the new web magazine will be at www.uuworld.org in July. Check it out and give your feedback.

UUMAN TIMES

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Submissions:

We welcome all types of newsletter submissions. Please send us your articles, editorials, announcements, poetry, creative writing, or anything else! Please send an email to our newsletter editor, Patty Odom, at newsletter@uuman.org with any questions.



UUMANTIMES is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North Congregation.

Ministers Office Hours

Greg wants a chance to speak with everyone at UUMAN. Although he doesn't have specific office hours, he is available to meet with people every day of the week, except Fridays, at a wide variety of times. You are welcome to call him between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. at 770-754-5848 to make an appointment. (In case of emergency, you are encouraged to call (678) 849-4844 any time of day or night).

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.uuman.org

Worship Schedule

August 7th – “Evolution: Fact, Theory, and Perception” or “Change Over Time Does Occur; Didn’t You Get the Memo?”

Speaker – Jim Kennedy; Service Leader – Dave Hudson

Facts are different than theories. Evolution, like gravity, is a fact with different theories attempting to explain how it works. (For instance, the dinosaurs could have become extinct because of a meteor - or because of terminal constipation!) Come explore the fact of evolution, the theories that explain it, and the spirit that connects them. Jim is a biologist and a member of the Emerson UU Congregation in Marietta.

Children and Youth begin and end in the sanctuary.

August 14th - "Water Under the Bridge"

This Sunday we return to two services.

Speaker– Rev, Greg Ward - Service Leaders – Randy Blasch and Joan Armstrong (directing cast of thousands)

Water is the universal solvent, the source of life and the most important ingredient in the human body, a religious symbol of clarity, and what all the wars of the future will be fought over. It also plays a role in bringing us and holding us together. Come to our intergenerational water communion and remember to bring your water!!

Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.

August 21st – “When It Becomes Personal”

Speaker – Jennifer Harbury– Service Leader – Greg Ward

Torture is not something we like to think about. It is vulgar. Barbaric. And real. Often times we would rather believe it has nothing to do with us - that we are far removed. But we aren't – and we won't be – until it is non-existent. Jennifer Harbury is director of UUSC's Stop Torture Now program.

Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.

August 28th - “Finding the Treasure in a Kingdom of Many Mansions”

Speaker – Greg Ward; Service Leader: Cliff Brown and cast of thousands

Don't know how the church works? Wonder what we do? Why we do it? The difference it makes to you and the difference you make to it? Come to this service and all your questions will be answered – Volunteer Dedication Sunday!

Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.



UUMAN
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Get up-to-date information!
Sign up now and
join UUMAN
@ www.uuman.org.

