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## TO THE GLORY OF LIFE

### **Making Beautiful Music Together**

I can't say enough about the wonderful music program at UUMAN. Our evolutionary journey began in the summer of 1997 under the expert tutelage of Amby Holford. Gay Grooms was our wonderful director after Amby, and now we are blessed to be led by Randy Wilbur. For those of you who aren't in the choir, you probably have no idea how much practice goes into our Sunday morning performances. If it looks and sounds effortless to you, that usually means we practiced for hours to make it sound that way.

We are not an easy choir to lead. Just getting us to be quiet for a minute so we can hear instructions can be a difficult ordeal. We all want to talk at once. We don't want to wait our turn. We show up late. We can't figure out where to sit. We question Randy's directions. We want to change the words to half the songs. We don't always remember to pronounce words correctly. We breathe at the wrong time. The bottom line is that Randy Wilbur is a saint, as have been both of our previous directors. We are fortunate that he is teaching us how to be a choir.

What's the most important trait of a well-functioning choir? You might think it's having lots of people with beautiful, trained singing voices. Well, not really. It's more important to be able to listen to each other. When we are not listening to each other, we are just 30 individuals singing our parts. When we are listening to each other, we are one voice. And it is when we do this that we

make beautiful music together. Some directors calling it "blending." Some call it "singing with one voice." Whatever you call it, it means listening to the group and matching your voice with the others in such a way that nobody out there in the audience can pick out any one person. Randy's ability to teach this to us is the reason we have those rare moments when you hear our anthem and whisper WOW!

The same is true in our congregation at large. When we are not listening to each other, we are just 180 individuals talking all at once. When we are listening to each other, we are making beautiful music together. That is when we find our voice. It is not an easy thing to do, because it requires trust that the person standing next to us will listen to us if we listen to them. And if that trust becomes damaged then we are all just standing around talking at each other, making noise.

I am glad to say that we UUMANites are learning to make beautiful music together. It takes time and patience. Ask Randy Wilbur; he will tell you that it takes constant work to make it happen. If we let our guard down and quit hearing each other, we make a squeaky out-of-tune sound. I don't know about you, but I prefer it when I can walk away from one of our meetings and whisper WOW!

Kum Ba Yah – Merri Beth Stephens



## Happenings

### Mindful Meditation

You deserve 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!

## In Search of Understanding

The summer session of Adult Sunday School will begin on Sunday, June 5 at 9:00 a.m. As a follow-up to our study this past year of World Religions, we will be taking a more in-depth look at current trends in Christianity. We will start by reading "Why Christianity Must Change or Die" by John Shelby Spong. Spong is a former Episcopal bishop who has been described as "A Revolutionary, Rational Anti-Religionist" and a Christian atheist. Spong has been a strong advocate for change in Christian communities. Among the twelve issues to which he has called Christians to debate is "Theism, as a way of defining God, is dead. Most theological God-talk is today meaningless. A new way to speak of God must be found." (For more on this, see: [www.liberator.net/articles/LiberatorMark/Spong.html](http://www.liberator.net/articles/LiberatorMark/Spong.html))

During the second half of the summer, we will be trying to "make sense of the conservative worldview" as discussed in the most recent issue of UUWorld (p.54-55) In his article, Doug Muder notes "I wonder where the interfaith dialogue goes after we attribute our opponent's views to "derangement." Satisfying as it can be to write fundamentalists off as crazy, stupid, or evil, if we're going to be true to ourselves we first have to try to understand them as thinking, feeling, human beings." He recommends two books to help us get started: *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think* by George Lakoff, and *Spirit and Flesh: Life in a Fundamentalist Baptist Church* by James Ault, Jr. We may try and end the summer with a discussion with some of our neighbors on Crabapple Rd.

We will meet from 9 until 10:15 over coffee in the Discovery Hall living room. Adult Sunday School is a comfortable place for discussion and sharing of personal reflections on the material we read. We avoid cross talk and try to give everyone a chance to share their thoughts. Our search is for understanding, knowing that truth has many facets. If you are a fellow spiritual seeker, please come and join us. We would love your company on the journey! If you have questions, please email Pat Shea at [patshea@uuman.org](mailto:patshea@uuman.org).

## Sabbatical Corner

When I was a kid, my parents belonged to a really, really big Temple in Miami. We sat quietly in the Services on Friday night and us kids also went to Sunday school (what DID my parents do while we were there...I'll never know. If it were me there would be coffee drinking and bagel noshing). As far as I know, our family only paid for our membership and did not add their time, talents, or even their opinions to the community of that Temple or to any of its larger community projects.

So, when I joined UUMAN imagine my shock when I had to do something. I fought it. Sat on my hands for a while as much as I could. Since I had three kids in RE I couldn't stay completely out. But that was what I was used to. Slowly I began to volunteer more and came to see the value of not only helping this really fine group of people build a spiritual community, but I also came to see the value of overcoming my natural reticence AKA insecurity and shyness. We all come from a place of insecurity. Probably we are all middle schoolers stuck in these grown up bodies.

You are all aware that while Greg is on his Sabbatical (the lucky guy is in Turkey as I peck on these keys and back while you read this) we have had to take over his duties. We are administering care in the form of Care Circles and our own natural affinity to watch out for people we like. Sunday Services were planned and we have had fine guest speakers, many of them from surrounding UU Churches. The work of the Board and the office goes on. Our Covenant groups keep a-goin' and RE is running like a top with our great Directors.

We will be talking about lots of things in the up coming months: Policy Governance, how Greg and the congregation will re-establish their roles, taking our vote on becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Do not let your past shyness keep you from entering in the dialog of our future.

I often wonder how different my life would have been had my parents jumped into that long past Temple community. However, I am pleased to say that as parents we will be giving our children a legacy of involvement, caring, and dialog.



**Sabbatical Update**

Upon entering Turkey a week ago and staying in a number of Turkish hostels, I've made a rather interesting discovery. The Aussies love the Turks. And the Turks love the Aussies. A relationship of admiration, respect and genuine welcome is extended and reciprocated. Without any background, this may not seem so surprising. I mean, when you consider that there are a whole swale of them traveling around this country. Why wouldn't a host country, set up for tourism, not welcome those from one of the most traveled countries in the world?

One reason became apparent the first day I arrived in Turkey and witnessed the sheer number of Aussies who had come from visiting Gallipoli. Granted the number – nor the circumstance – weren't nearly as big or surprising as they were ninety years ago. But profoundly significant just the same.

On April 25th, 1915, there were 8000 Australians and New Zealanders who decided to visit Gallipoli. They were part of the ANZAC invasion (Australian New Zealand Army Corps) storming the beach as part of Great Britain's plan to overtake the city – and ports – of Istanbul. Greeks, Italians and a half dozen other countries also sought to secure their claim to Turkish lands. Australia was, at the time, a newly independent nation but had strong colonial ties to the crown. But that fateful first day saw over 2000 ANZAC forces die trying to take the hill at Gallipoli – one of the most horrific massacres ever witnessed. The fighting continued for eight long months leading to the deaths of many more ANZAC and Turk soldiers. And end to madness came only when the ANZAC forces retreated in the middle of the night.

Why would Australians flock to this place to celebrate one of the most gruesome defeats in war history? And why would the Turks welcome them back? Something happened in that battle beyond all the killing. Beyond the tragedy. Each side discovered something about themselves. For the Aussies' it was a loss of innocence, a coming of age, a lesson in what real honor and identity is about. For the Turks it was a sense of common purpose that managed to see beyond "them" and "us".

Many reports tell of peace spontaneously breaking out during the fighting. The Aussies (or "Johnnies" as they were called) would throw over chocolate to the Mehmetts (Turkish soldiers) who would respond by throwing over tea and tobacco. At one point, a Turkish Mehmet, seeing a Johnnie lying injured on the field, raised a white flag long enough to carry the soldier to medical care and then return.

The conflict gave each side a mutual understanding and respect. Something about the common humanity they shared was witnessed. The pain endured, the loss of innocence, a deeper understanding of honor and duty was witnessed during this fighting. Discoveries not possible today since we fail to engage in conflict in close quarters, preferring instead the use of long range missiles.

One of the conditions of the treaty forged at the end of the war asked for the condition that the land around Gallipoli be dedicated and consecrated to the lives lost there and that the descendents of the soldiers be allowed to visit in the future. Something the Turks seemed to understand.

But perhaps the clearest indicator of how and why the animosity between two nations turned to respect came in the form of a letter from Atatürk – leader of the Turkish forces. In 1934, when he rose to become Turkey's national leader, he sent this note to the mothers of those Australian and New Zealand soldiers.

"Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... you are now living in the soil of a friendly nation, therefore, rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmetts to us where they lie side by side, here in this country of ours. You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now living in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives in this land they have become our sons as well."

It is painful when people – or communities, or countries – decide that violence is the only way to settle disputes. But it is even more painful when we fail to learn something of the people standing across from us. And fail to learn something about ourselves as well. We live in a world that is rife with examples of nothing more than hatred and stubbornness come from conflict. It is a rare blessing to be witness to the symptoms of a better way. And even more of a blessing when they serve as a road map.

To the Glory of Life.

**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. Newcomers welcome anytime. Sunday 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday 10-11:30 a.m. 7 classes for \$70 for Summer session I. Also offering meditation at my home-call or email for details. Contact [lisa@uuman.org](mailto:lisa@uuman.org) or 770-395-7166

**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 - 770-552-2526 [uumandrums@uuman.org](mailto:uumandrums@uuman.org)

We will have our first official performance for the June 5th, second service.



## UUMAN Writes

### Lessons from Paradise

I went on vacation a few weeks ago to Sarasota, Florida. I saw this as an opportunity to rest, relax, recharge and heal. I viewed it eagerly as a respite from my daily stresses of work and family and from my recent bout with anxiety and depression. After all, who could be anxious or depressed in a tropical paradise? Well, I can.

It seems that even if you don't intentionally pack your issues in your carry-on, they manage to follow you anyway. So I sat on the sugar white beach, staring at azure colored water and felt hopelessly adrift amidst my own tide of despair and insecurity. Even worse, I punished myself with whopping doses of guilt for being depressed on my vacation and "ruining" it for my husband as well-even though he repeatedly assured me that I was not squelching his enjoyment.

I just could not stay present in the moment. My mind tossed with laments of the past and worries of the future. I found some peace when we toured the lovely Marie Selby botanical gardens. They were quiet, filled with beautiful floral and fauna, wise, old trees, statues of Buddha and fluttering butterflies. Walking the grounds, I was able to silence my inner voices and enjoy the bay breeze, the fragrances and shade. It was then that I made a vow to stop chastising myself and go with whatever emotions I felt-whether they were upbeat or downbeat; I intended to honor them. Obviously, my body and brain were processing these feelings for a reason and fighting that was only going to prolong the effort to heal. So I adjusted my activities accordingly; if I felt like sleeping and withdrawing, I did. If I felt the need to sight-see and busy myself, I did. But I released the pressure off myself.

We also went on a guided boat trip from the Mote Marine aquarium- the knowledgeable staff pointed out local nesting birds, manatees and dolphins in the wild and even took us to

an uninhabited island. Among the passengers were a young girl in a wheelchair and her mother. I don't know why the 8 year old girl was in the chair, but both she and her mother seemed very determined to make this an enjoyable experience for her. She also had a wheeled walker that she used when we got off the boat and toured the island. I was behind them on the island, as we were the last ones to depart from the boat. I warily watched as the girl navigated her walker over the rocky path of the island. Her mother coaxed her from ahead and I figured I would bring up the rear just in case. I could not fathom how the girl would successfully accomplish maneuvering her walker around, since the trail was rather steep and bumpy. I was so intent on watching her that I almost didn't notice when her mother indicated for me to pass them. I hesitated. After all, I wanted to be helpful. Again the mother urged me to move along. I slowly passed the girl & finally turned back and asked the mother if they needed any help. She looked me in the eyes firmly, but not unkindly, and said that no, they would be fine. I listened to the mother encourage and cheer her daughter's progress on when it hit me. My intentions had been kind, but I was counteracting the point. This fiercely devoted mother wanted her little girl to feel no different than anyone else on that boat. The girl faced a bit more of a challenge, but she was strong and capable. Her mother did not want pitying eyes upon her or offers for help. She wanted her daughter to learn that she could do things if she tried hard enough. And she did. She was out of breath by the time she returned to the boat, but the girl was glowing as she informed the captain that she had toured the island by herself. I watched her from afar the rest of the trip, and how much wonder and joy she exuded at each new discovery. She was living in the present moment with every fiber of her being. And I could learn a lot from her. If we do not try, we will not know.-Ayya Khema, Be An Island

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## UUMAN's First Annual Singles Retreat a Resounding Success!

Twenty-eight UU's from the Atlanta area as well as UU's from North & South Carolina, and Alabama, attended the first annual singles retreat at The Mountain this past March. UUMAN can be proud of this major accomplishment, pulling together a much needed connection for our SE region single UU's. Personally, I miss having breakfast, lunch and dinner with 28 of my new friends, wonderful late night talk-fest slumber parties, and nightly social hours with the fragrance of the famous Mountain popcorn wafting through the halls.

The Mountain's Jan Stanfield was instrumental in helping us pull this together and provide a dynamic, fun program by Carole Mackey, who I hear is still recovering from our wild and crazy group! Our Saturday night dance instruction came with swinging, toe tapping live guitar & fiddle music. Combine this with the special ambiance that is The Mountain and I'd say we've started something!! Look for this to be a scheduled yearly Mountain program, thanks to us! Go UUMAN!



## The Welcoming Congregation Program – An Update

The Welcoming Congregation Program is a series of workshops developed by the UUA to help congregations undergo a process of self-reflection on gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender (GLBT) issues for the purposes of becoming more welcoming to people along every part of the human spectrums of sexual orientation and gender identification. UUMAN embarked on this process of discovery last fall, when volunteer facilitators put on 7 of the 14 workshops in a 7-week-long weeknight series, later duplicated in two marathon weekend sessions for those who were not able to attend on a weeknight. After a break for the holidays, the remaining workshops were presented in another run of weeknight sessions.

Workshops were generally well-attended, ranging from 15 to 20+ people. We struggled together to identify and shed our own prejudices, sometimes hidden and culturally induced, as we learned about individuals outside the visible majority. We also explored how various oppressions operate in our society, and considered the links between homophobia and racism, ageism, sexism, ableism and other divisive or fear-driven positions. Our discussions took us also into the realm of religion, as we touched on issues of homosexuality and the bible, or confronting the radical right.

Workshops were at times challenging but always enjoyable, and the group bonded over our common efforts in doing the work of justice. Everyone learned something, including the members of the GLBT universe who were in attendance.

### What's Next?

Upon completion of the program, a church becomes ready to vote on officially becoming a Welcoming Congregation - - that is, one that is intentionally welcoming to members of the GLBT community and their families. Even though a vote would likely have passed at UUMAN at the beginning of the process (we are, after all, a very welcoming group), the UUA prefers that the vote be taken after the program is completed, so that members are voting from a position of knowledge and after truly considering the issues. Although UUMAN will not vote on becoming a Welcoming Congregation until the fall. In the meantime, there are several upcoming events in the planning stages (such as movie nights or other social activities) in which members will be able to participate. Additionally, once the vote is taken and a congregation receives the UUA's 'good housekeeping stamp of approval' in being an official Welcoming Congregation, the work is not over. That point is a springboard for on-going programs of awareness and inclusion, and the work of deciding how we might want to express or advertise our welcoming status.

### Gay Pride

UUMAN also has an opportunity with Atlanta's Gay Pride Celebration to participate in festivities that support and affirm our GLBT members, friends, and neighbors. Pride weekend falls on the last weekend in June, with events and entertainment in Piedmont Park beginning Friday evening (June 24) and continuing into Saturday and Sunday. The Pride March occurs on Sunday, June 26, and steps off at noon (historically from the Civic Center Marta station), making its way through town to Piedmont Park. The Marietta congregation will be providing a float, and UUs from all area congregations are welcome to march or ride with them. The MidSouth District Social Action coordinator has also reserved consecutive shifts throughout the weekend for UUs to pass donation collection buckets. Money collected helps fund Pride, and 25% goes to the organization doing the collection. UUMAN will be coordinating with other congregations to support the money-collection efforts and to staff a UU Booth in the park, which has also been reserved.

If you have never been to Pride, you should come and see what you've been missing. It is one heck of a street party, open to all! You will see regular folks and families, lots of same-sex couples with children, and organizations of every type represented (teachers, military, bands, corporations, churches). You will also see a happy, friendly group of people enjoying their day and "camping it up" - - everything from men in tight leather shorts to drag queens at every stage of fashion ability to the motorcycle-riding Dykes on Bikes. And don't forget my personal favorite, the Diggingest Dykes of Decatur, a lesbian gardening group that conducts choreographed, synchronized dances while pushing toy lawnmowers that spew out a steady stream of bubbles. If you don't want to march in the parade, you can stake out a spot on the parade route and watch the spectacle unfold!

The party in the park is also worth a visit. There are any number of food vendors, and booths set up for organizations (like the UU booth) and for commercial ventures - - everything from T-shirts and bumper stickers to books to art to furniture. It's a great day, and you can enjoy it with the rest of your UUMAN buddies who are planning to attend.

Details of Pride weekend events can be found at [www.atlantapride.org](http://www.atlantapride.org). Directions to the park by Marta or by car will be forthcoming at UUMAN, along with information on carpooling opportunities. Plan on coming along, to show your support to the GLBT community and to treat yourself to a riotously fun day. Look for upcoming sign-up sheets to volunteer for money collection or to help staff the UU booth.



## Raising the Roof Update

Raising the Roof: The Pastoral-to-Program Size Transition is a book written by Alice Mann. It is also a process for taking positive steps in making the necessary changes in moving from a Pastoral Size Congregation to a Program Size Congregation.

A Pastoral Size Congregation is 51-150 people attending on an average Sunday (children and adults). This size is described as being “Pastor centered, the pastor having direct pastoral relationship with each member and coordinating a small leadership circle. The governing board usually operates like a committee, arranging much of the day-to-day life of the congregation.”

A Program Size Congregation is 151-400 people attending on an average Sunday. “It is known for the quality and variety of its programs. Separate programs for children, youth, couples and other age and interest groups provide entry points for a wide range of people. The Pastor’s crucial role is to recruit, equip, and inspire a small circle of key program leaders—lay and ordained, paid and unpaid. Working as a team with the pastor, they reach out to involve others as program participants and as leaders. Decision making is broadly distributed within the wider leadership circle (perhaps 50 people) and pastoral care is shared by laity.”

As a congregation moves from Pastoral to Program Size there are two large transitions that take place. We are feeling the stress from those transitions now. One is going from “Pastor Centered” to “Group Centered”, the other is going from an “Organism” to an “Organization”. The way we used to do things as a Pastor Centered Congregation will no longer work because we are now Program Size with over 150 adults and children on an average Sunday. I would make an educated guess that we have 250 to 300 (adults and children) on an average Sunday including those in Service and those teaching and attending Religious Education.

What has been done with Raising the Roof and what remains to be done?

Eleven leaders and our minister Greg Ward went to the Raising the Roof Conference given by Alice Mann who is an expert in her field. We had many revelations at that Seminar. This is where the idea that we needed to change our Governance structure was realized by most everyone from the congregation attending the seminar, and Greg and the board started looking into it right away. The new Policy Governance Model addresses both going from pastor centered to group centered, and from going from an organism to an organization.

We found that we had many barriers to growth and took care of some of those as the need was urgent. One barrier was that our parking lot was full and people were leaving after not

being able to find parking and not attending service.

The decision to go to two services was made because of the parking situation and overcrowding in religious education. It is recommended that another service be added when 80% of the desirable seating is filled.

We determined that we do have a call to grow in that people keep walking in the doors looking for what we have and end up staying.

We created a 15 year attendance chart and a pin map of our members.

We had a larger learning event where we discussed our history and our connection to our community. We made a summary of this event.

We determined our call and wrote a new mission statement with the help of those members of the congregation that were interested in doing so, along with Kirk Bogue and Robyn Henry in moving forward with Raising the Roof and the new Policy Governance Model.

The Raising the Roof Committee met and assessed the Barriers to Growth and made recommendations to the board with regard to further action steps. Some of the most important things found that we need to address are: our budget, communication, staffing for growth, and a gift identification program. There is much we are doing well.

What still needs to be done: Community interviews, asking 4-7 community leaders what they see as the unmet needs in our community, and what they know, if anything about our congregation. This will help us understand how our call might fit in with the needs in the community. Also still to be done is a demographic profile, this will give us information about the people in our surrounding area.

I apologize for not doing a better job at all of this. I am not an experienced committee chair and broke one of the rules by agreeing to do Welcoming Congregation as well. We started out with 5 committee members and dwindled to three. We didn’t do this process perfectly, but we did the majority of the work and perhaps could have done a better job of communicating more of the information back to the congregation.

I am confident that we can move through this time of transition, pull together and make the changes necessary to support our growth and continue our tradition as a congregation of excellence. My hope is that we will be a positive force in our community, and be a good example for other UU congregations to follow.



## UUMAN Inspirations...

The UUMAN Membership Committee has asked that we share some of the new member credos with you from May's New Member Service. We'd like to introduce to you 2 of UUMAN's newest member's: Richard Lakes & Don Rizzo:

### CREDOS:

#### Richard D. Lakes

Growing up in a Reform Jewish household segregated from the gentile world both by faith and geographic residence in Milwaukee meant exposure to diversity was a non-issue—until I went away to college. There I met my wife of 33 years and although we represented an inter-faith couple, spiritual and religious observances and formal memberships in faith-based organizations were not to our liking or of interest in building community. I've had other sources of social, cultural, and political inspirations: with fellow bluegrass musicians in Cincinnati; like-minded graduate students while studying at Ohio State University; and compatible leftists of my own generation at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. I've experienced nothing in the way of divisive fractures and in-your-face contretemps until arrival in Georgia—on the job and particularly in Roswell. Understandably, my colleagues at GSU are a contentious bunch that I understand and accept as

an academic insider. What puzzled me the most was my homeowner's association favoring a nearby residential development project and requesting redistricting away from Mimosa Elementary; two separate issues that were opposed by my wife and me (as well as the entire city council in the rezoning effort) as anti-green and as a racist re-segregation of the public schools. Add the Iraq War, the reelection of Bush II, and the legislative assault on gays to the mix, and you can see why I'm here...at UUMAN. Don't worry, I can be joyful too!

#### Don Rizzo

People who stop advancing their knowledge and understanding of the world, their fellow men/women, and of themselves, in my book, are among the "walking dead." For me, learning and thinking are synonymous with being alive. I try hard not to be judgmental. I try to accept and embrace people who are different than I am, including those who have different values (don't always succeed here.) Useful work (not necessarily a conventional "job") is necessary for fulfillment and mental health. We should never stop reaching out to connect with others (not easy) because ultimately all we have is each other to help us through this life.

## Religious Education News

Summer Programming for children, Summer Fun, runs May 29th through August 8 at 10:30 a.m., consecutive with the worship service. Teachers are still needed. Please sign up at the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

A big "thank you" to all the Sunday School teachers who served our children and youth this year - all 46 of them! They, along with the youth advisors, RE Committee and RE Support volunteers, deserve a long restful summer.

RE Registration for Children and Youth for Fall 2005-06 has ended, but the forms will soon be available on the website. Early registration enables us to plan space and other resources for next year, so please register as soon as possible as we want to accommodate all our UUMAN families.

### Some RE dates to remember:

May 29 & July 3 – Kids Together Days (no Sunday school, group activities planned)

July 30 Teacher Orientation for 2005-06

Aug, 14 2005-06 Church year begins and Sunday School resumes.



## YRUU News

### International Film Festival:

#### **‘AMAZING ASIA!’ MEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL (7-10PM)**

FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd – “The Way Home” PG (Korea)

FRIDAY, JUNE 24th – “Dersu Uzala” NR (Russia & Japan)

FRIDAY, JULY 8th – “Life & Debt” PG13 (USA & Jamaica)

FRIDAY, JULY 22nd – “Shower” PG (China)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th – “Cool Runnings” PG (USA & Jamaica)

Refreshments will be on sale!(Proceeds to UUMAN Youth Fund)

#### **ABOUT THIS SUMMER’S FILMS:**

##### **June 3 - “The Way Home” PG (Korea)**

Sang-Woo, a spoiled little South Korean boy, is spending the summer with his mute grandmother who lives up in the mountains. Over the course of the summer, Sang-Woo gets used to his grandmother, whom he used to make fun of, calling her a "retard." He also gets used to the simpler ways of life in the country and learns the importance of love and respect for one's family and elders.

##### **June 24 – “Dersu Uzala” NR (Russia & Japan)**

A party of Russian soldiers hires aged hunter Dersu Uzala (Maksim Munzuk) to guide them on a surveying expedition through Siberia in the early 20th century. Uzala leads the group through life-threatening conditions with reverential wisdom and concern for his surroundings. Based on true memoirs, Akira Kurosawa's Academy Award-winning production is a testament to the value of lasting friendship, loyalty and mutual respect.

##### **July 8 – “Life & Debt” PG13 (USA & Jamaica)**

Presented by the UUMAN Youth Social Action Committee's group ‘Teens Teaching Teens’.

This illuminating film is being shown to coincide with this month's meeting of world leaders at the G8 Summit in

Scotland. This evening's screening will be preceded by a workshop & dinner featuring “Life & Debt's” Director, documentary filmmaker, Stephanie Black. As always there will not be any charge for the movie, but the workshop/dinner will be \$25.

This searing documentary examines how the policies of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other aid organizations have changed the Jamaican economy over the past quarter of a century, leaving the local people to struggle in poverty and work in sweatshops. Author Jamaica Kincaid narrates with Belinda Becker to a reggae soundtrack that includes songs by Bob Marley, Ziggy Marley, Mutabaruka and Peter Tosh.

##### **July 22 – “Shower” PG (China)**

Wealthy big-city executive Da Ming (Pu Cun Xin) returns to his boyhood home, where his aging father (Zhu Xu) and mentally disabled brother (Jiang Wu) run an old-fashioned communal bathhouse. At first, Da longs to return to his job. But soon, the leisurely pace and abundant camaraderie of the bathhouse, where men gather to chat and play games, has Da thinking twice about leaving his family.

##### **August 5 – “Cool Runnings” PG (USA & Jamaica)**

Presented by the UUMAN Youth Social Action Committee's group ‘Teens Teaching Teens’ In celebration of Jamaican Independence Day (Aug 6th) we are having a community picnic supper & open air movie to continue to raise awareness of the ‘TTT’ “One Love \* Safe Love” Mission Trip to Jamaica summer 2006.

A fictionalized account of the unlikely story of Jamaica's first bobsled team, Cool Runnings follows the athletes' journey to the 1988 Winter Olympics. When Derice Bannock's (Leon) chances of qualifying for Jamaica's track team are dashed, he looks for another sport. He persuades U.S. bobsledding gold medallist Irv Blitzer (John Candy), who now lives in Jamaica, to coach Derice and his friends as they attempt to become a world-class bobsled team.



## Submissions Sought for New Collection

The UUA's Young Adult and Campus Ministry office is looking for writers for a new meditation, poetry and essay collection by and for young adults and youth bridging into young adulthood. Poems, meditations and short essays suitable for use in worship services can address transitions, spirituality, justice, community, relationships, and/or friendship.

We intend this to be a collection suitable for welcoming new young adults who have just "crossed the bridge" from being youth as well as for older young adults and congregations seeking to include young adult voices in their worship.

In keeping with our commitment to becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural Association of Congregations, we encourage submissions from those whose identities often marginalize them in our society (including, but not limited to, people of color, Latino/Latina/Hispanic people, bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people, women, those who are differently-abled, and those from oppressed socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds).

**The submittal deadline is July 15, 2005. Information and forms are at [www.uua.org/ya-cm/yacm/forms](http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/yacm/forms) or contact the UUA Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry, Attention: Manual Submissions, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.**

## UU Support for Members of the Military

The [Church of the Larger Fellowship \(CLF\)](#) can be a lifeline for someone who is far away from home and from her/his church community. Unitarian Universalists stationed overseas in the military often find they benefit greatly from being members of the CLF. The CLF provides an email list for UUs who are in the military, and offers the support of a UU military chaplain. If you know someone active in the military who could benefit from some UU sustenance and support, please tell them about the UUMIL list serve, which can be subscribed to at <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uumil>.

## UUA Receives Award

The Religious Coalition for Freedom to Marry (RCFM) honored the Unitarian Universalist Association with its Peace and Justice Award for "outstanding leadership in helping gay and lesbian couples attain and preserve their civil right to marry." The award, presented by Rabbi Devon Lerner, Co-chair of the RCFM, was accepted by the Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association in a luncheon and ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

The Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry is a seven-year-old organization with 600 clergy and congregations as members. More than 4,000 same-sex couples have wed in Massachusetts since such marriages became legal in May.

## GA Housing Reservations Online

Reserve rooms at <http://www.uua.org/ga/housing.html> from now until June 10 for the Fort Worth General Assembly June 23-27. Why reserve your room this way rather than shopping for lower rates online? The UUA reserves blocks of hotel rooms to ensure rooms will be available to attendees. Contracting with hotels for guest rooms guarantees the UUA will receive meeting and function space for GA. Negotiated rates are much lower than published rack rates. We recognize that it is sometimes possible to book a room online that can undercut our rates. However, the UUA is responsible for paying for unused guest rooms. If you make a reservation outside of the GA system, the UUA does not get credit for having booked your room and will be responsible for costly attrition penalties to our contracted hotels.

See *GA on a Budget: A Guide for the Frugal Attendee* at [www.uua.org/ga/ga05/Budget.pdf](http://www.uua.org/ga/ga05/Budget.pdf) for tips on affordable housing, transportation and food in Fort Worth.



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

Our minister, Rev. Greg Ward, is on sabbatical until the end of June. When he is here, he does not have specific office hours; he is available to meet with people every day of the week except Fridays, at a wide variety of times by appointment. While he is away, we will contact him in the case of dire emergencies (deaths or death-threatening or severe illnesses). For other care needs, please contact your Care Circle coordinator or Diantha Horton, our Crisis Intervention Coordinator, who will find the most appropriate care resources.

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org)

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## Worship Schedule

### June 5th – “The Case for Disorganized/Unorganized Religion”

Speaker– Cliff Brown - Service Leader – Martina Queenth

Churches are more common than Starbucks in the south, and the coffee is often free. Other denominations are better organized, better funded, better staffed and offer better amenities, like health centers and eternal salvation. So why come to a UU church or more specifically why come to UUMAN? A personal exploration from one of UUMAN's founding members. *Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.*

### June 12th – “Revolutionizing the Language of the Body”

Speaker – Dr. Alice Rutkowski and Susan Herrick (active members of the UUCA); Service Leader – Vince Teeter

Alice and Susan bring us a highly-acclaimed service based on their work at Motional Processing©, where they are “revolutionizing the language of the body. Theirs is an arts-infused body-based practice which draws out our authenticity, our creativity, and our innate desire to form meaningful relationships in our work, our homes, and our world. Its potency lies in the KI - Kinesthetic Intelligence - which it taps for innovative thought, practical vision, groundbreaking authenticity and greater empathy towards others. It includes people of every race, gender, age, ability, religion, occupation and sexual orientation.” See more at their website – [motionalprocessing.com](http://motionalprocessing.com). Dr. Alice Rutkowski of Motional Processing is a movement pioneer, humanistic artist and master teacher of nonverbal communication. Music for the service will be provided by Susan Herrick, MA, also of Motional Processing, a music and movement therapist/educator, multi-instrumentalist and internationally known singer-songwriter with music archived in the Smithsonian Institute Folk Collection. *Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.*

### June 19th - “As the Spirit Moves”

Speaker – Rev. Cynthia Prescott; Service Leader: Merri Beth Stephens  
Rev. Prescott is the minister of UU Church in Clemson, South Carolina.

*Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.*

### June 26th – “The Journey of the Whimbrel”

Speaker – Dave Hudson; Service Leader – Randy Blasch

Every summer Dave sails a small boat, Whimbrel, eighty miles up (down) the Maine coast to a favorite “summering” spot. And a large shorebird of the same name migrates to its ancestral nesting grounds in the Arctic. By juxtaposition Dave compares the two journeys and suggests that they might have a similar meaning and purpose.

*Children and Youth begin and end in the sanctuary.*



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Get up-to-date information!  
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