



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

April
2011



www.uuman.org

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Around the world this April, people are honoring Earth Day, Easter, Passover and springtime. Here we're celebrating all those events, plus building a bright future together at UUMAN.

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Ministry Musings

April 2011

Rev. Paul D. Daniel, Minister

The March Miracle



Well, apparently miracles do happen, as we witnessed on Sunday, March 13th. It was not a sighting of a bleeding or crying statue or a vision of an angel, but nevertheless, it was wondrous. We came together in an astonishing display of faith in each other and in UUMAN, and in so doing we showed that we had greatness in us. Our hearts united and we showed there was nothing we cannot do when we set our minds to support a shared vision and future. We were moved to continue to fund and build this religious community because it gives us so much. It connects us to each other and offers the opportunity to touch the transcendent.

Our spirits have been enriched by this genuine display of love and affection for each other and an acknowledgment that UUMAN's survival is important to us. As I said in my sermon on the 13th, we are incomplete—a work in progress. We sometimes confront each other outside the parameters of our values and principles. This occurs, I think, not out of malice but out of differing visions for this community. The wonderful thing is, while we sometimes fail to live our faith, we have also matured as a community and have structures in place to guide our behavior and relationships.

The healthy congregation team had a hand in mediating a dispute that led to a courageous coming together of two of our leaders, Dave Hudson and Cliff Brown, not only to apologize and mend fences but then to work together, to move us to a better, healing place. We have all learned much from this Miracle month of March, about how much we can accomplish when we come together for the common good. These lessons, while painful, will serve us well into a shared future if we remember them and practice what we have learned.

A part of me wants to say, I told you so—that you do have greatness within you when you open your hearts. The Sunday worship service from beginning to the end was one of the most moving and spiritually uplifting services I have conducted as your minister. Our family choir's beautiful prelude song put us in the spirit to celebrate. Michelle Liebergesell's heartfelt

testimonial showed that UUMAN is indeed a place where we can grow and be transformed. Michelle, I suspect, would not have been able to do such a magnificent presentation without UUMAN which opened her loving heart. Thank you, Michelle.

Cliff, along with one of our youth, Thomas Seaver, presented a fun interchange about the Miracle Shares that the congregation was asked to purchase—to invest in UUMAN's future. You responded in overwhelming numbers. As of this moment UUMAN has raised \$30,000.00 to close the budget gap for this current pledge year that ends June 30, 2011. Yes, you can still buy miracle shares, one or several for only 250.00 each. There is no shortage of available shares to invest in UUMAN. And no reason not to... the return is incalculable.

Because you responded so generously we will be able to continue to offer all our ministries and programs to each other for the rest of this church year and to honor our fair share contribution to the district and denomination...our responsibility.

The next challenge is to fund our budget for the coming church year 2011—2012. Our stewardship campaign kicks-off with a stellar 20th anniversary dinner bash. You don't want to be left out of this festive dinner party. Make sure you read and return the e-vite that has been sent out.

For those of you who were unable to be in church on the 13th, please read both Cliff's appeal (attached to Carolyn Lee's March 13th e-mail announcement) and my sermon, "[The Potter's Wheel](#)", on our web site.

The future of UUMAN rests in your good hands. We are up to the challenge to support UUMAN for what it means to us and how it enriches our lives. We are limited only by our vision of what we can achieve. Our dreams are within our reach.

In love and appreciation,
— Rev. Paul



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Join the 40/40 Earth Challenge!

Sponsored by MCY, Social Justice and Sustainability Committees

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) all over are thinking about water justice, from the *UU Legislative Ministry of California's* campaign to pass legislation on the **Human Right to Water** to congregations in New York examining the impacts of natural gas hydraulic fracturing on watersheds, to UUMAN's very own *Social Justice Committee*, which adopted the **Human Right to Water** as our congregation's justice theme for this church year.

As UUs, we are called to respect the interdependent web of all existence and **water is a common thread**. For Earth Day 2011, *UU Ministry for Earth* is asking congregations to celebrate the

sacred waters that sustain us and to commit to **40 days of actions** that will make our world more just. UUs across the nation will fulfill commitments to small and large daily actions over the course of **40 days, from Sunday, April 17, to Thursday, May 26**, knowing that our choices affect many aspects of global environmental justice. When **40 people in one congregation make 40-day commitments** during this **40/40 for Earth Challenge**, that congregation will be included in the roll of participating congregations. At UUMAN, we hope to expand our commitment of **40% of our congregation's membership!** An individual's commitment for 40 days makes a real difference, and it is only amplified by doing this in community. More than 150 congregations registered participation in Earth Day in 2010 – let's make it even greater this year for the **second annual 40/40 event!**

How can you participate? Pledge to take action by signing up at the Sustainability Table starting on the First Sunday in April. Want to know more? Check out these possible actions here: <http://uuministryforearth.org/2011-ED-40/40SampleActions>.

Take your first action and get inspired by coming to the **Fourth Friday movie night in April**, sponsored by our Social Justice Committee. This year the fourth Friday falls serendipitously on **EARTH DAY, Friday, April 22nd!** For more information see the article on this month's movie in this edition of the newsletter.

Do you have ideas for helpful actions? Please share them with any of our 40/40 sponsors. We invite you to **JUMP ABOARD and help nourish and sustain our beautiful "Blue Boat Home"**.

— Kate Hudson

A New Start for the Vegetable Garden

The Adult Sunday School has been reading a compelling book, "**The Omnivore's Dilemma**", by Michael Pollan. In response to the challenges the author presents (namely to educate consumers about how our veggies are grown and our meat fed), I'm inviting folks to help restore the vegetable garden we started a few years ago. This garden (the original *Common Grounds*) was dug in a sunny spot, behind the playground. In the past we've planted tomatoes, peppers, herbs, thornless blackberries, okra, squash and sunflowers. It's a wonderful opportunity to practice ethical eating and growing, meet other green thumbs, reduce our carbon footprint, and honor our land with shared bounty.

Starting this Spring, I'll be digging in the dirt, from **9 am until noon on most Saturdays**. If you're willing and able, please join me. Bring a hat and a water bottle. We have tools and determination; what will be the end result?

— Jennifer Ratcliffe, Sunday School Facilitator

THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE'S

Tip of the Month

Why should we recycle?

Traveling though the country, or the world for that matter, you can easily observe multiple landfill sites or "dumps". A landfill disposes of waste materials by burial. Waste materials can be:

- organic: food waste, yard waste, wood, paper, some plastics, or anything than can be decomposed; or
- inorganic: steel, glass, building materials (rock, concrete etc.), as well as plastics such as PVC (polyvinyl chloride), polycarbonates ("artificial glass") and others.

A landfill is a solid waste anaerobic (without oxygen) treatment system. It converts the organic matter into methane and other gases, which you may be familiar with from the less than favorable H₂S (rotten egg) smell!



Landfills have flare systems to burn the generated gas. In some instances, they recover the gas for reuse. In some countries where large energy-consuming mines are located close to the landfill, they reuse the gas for steam generation or other purposes. This diagram (<http://www.aeieng.com/images/services/sustainability/LandfillGas.jpg>) shows how waste from the landfill is converted into gas, and then into electricity for the power grid.

The best solution is to **recycle** and **reuse** organic and inorganic waste. Composting is low-cost and environmentally sound.

At our home right now, we estimate that the volume of recycled material is 4 times the volume of garbage that is thrown away. Still, we continue to strive for improvements. Recycling and reusing requires only a few minutes per day. Yet it keeps the environment safe, and it costs far less than expensive landfills and treatment systems. (I say this despite the fact that we provide treatment systems through our company!)



— Adriaan van der Beek

Come watch an important film with us!

Blue Gold: World Water Wars



When: April 22, 2011 — **Earth Day** — 7 pm
Where: UUMAN, Fellowship Hall

Popcorn and drinks available.
Sponsored jointly by the Social Justice Committee, the Sustainability Committee and MCY.

A 90-minute film, based on the ground-breaking book by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, **Blue Gold: World Water Wars** "sheds light on the world's rapidly approaching water crisis and suggests that wars of the future will be fought over water, as they today over oil, as the source of all life enters the global marketplace and political arena." As described on Blue Gold: World Water Wars' Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Blue-Gold-World-Water-Wars/8460387313?v=info>), "This international award-winning film follows various examples of people fighting back against the powers that be - from grade school protests to court cases to revolutions. As the specters of drought and death loom, the film finds people willing to risk everything for their right to water, their right to survive. Past civilizations have collapsed from poor water management. Can the human race survive?"

View the movie trailer on the Internet Movie Database site: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1137439/>.

— Pat Carter

Heads Up—There's a summer camp for everyone!



2011: Joy!



Graphics and photo courtesy of SUUSI.

Are you looking for a great, affordable experience for your family, one with lots of adventures and filled with friends? If so, then come to Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (affectionately known as SUUSI!)

You'll be welcomed warmly and invited into our community. Together, we'll create a week of conversation, of reflection, of activity, and of family.

You'll be challenged intellectually and nurtured spiritually. You can stay up all night dancing or making music, and spend all day communing with nature or exploring your personal growth. We have special programs for youth, teens and young adults, so be sure to bring the whole family.

Dale and I are SUUSI veterans and attended many years when our kids were in their teens. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

- **When:** July 17-23
- **Where:** Radford University campus, Radford, Virginia

This is a link to this year's catalog: www.suusi.org/pubfiles/Suusi2011Catalog.pdf

— Susan Wilson 770.343.9413
susan.ste.marie@gmail.com

You're invited to our Seder! Passover at UUMAN

UUMAN's Annual Passover Seder will be held in Fellowship Hall at **5 pm on Saturday, April 23rd**. We will be doing something a little different this year. Instead of a sign-up poster for participants to bring food for the meal after the seder, we will be having a **potluck dinner** instead. All ingredients/food needed for the seder itself will be provided, as well as the traditional Matzoh Ball Soup, but we are asking all individuals/families that want to participate to **bring a casserole-like dish or large salad to share, and a dessert or fruit** as well. We are also asking that you **bring your own red wine and/or red or purple juice** which is traditional and needed for the seder itself. The only food restrictions we would like to adhere to are no pork and

no bread - we will be eating matzoh (unleavened bread - like a water cracker), which is traditional for Passover.

We ask that you **come at 5 pm** to help with last minute set up arrangements and to insure a prompt start at 5:30 pm.

If you have not ever attended a Passover Seder then you are in for a treat. Passover is the story of the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt, led by Moses, who helped them escape tyranny and slavery from the Egyptians in biblical times. This holiday ties into the UU principles as well, as it is a story about *social justice* and *the inherent worth and dignity of every person*. This is a child-friendly seder/dinner and we encourage children and adults alike to participate during the service if they so choose. We also sing some fun Passover songs, which are adapted to modern-day and familiar tunes!

If you would like to participate, and/or need more information, please email me. I will need a head count for table set up, so if you can let me know that you are thinking of attending, it would be appreciated!

Hope to see you there!

— Carolyn Lee

UUMAN Walkers, Bluebirds and Bluegrass

Doesn't the name of this festival, **Bluebirds and Bluegrass**, sound intriguing? Join the *UUMAN Walkers* for the festival and a 10K walk **Saturday, April 23, 2011**. The festival will be at [Dauset Trails Nature Center](#) in Jackson, Georgia. There are many activities all day geared to families, including an Easter egg hunt. And the best news...IT IS ALL FREE! Indian Springs State Park is nearby and also worth a visit.

For more information, please see the post under **Activities/Outdoor** —> **Festivals** in our U2U Bulletin Board, <http://u2u.boardhost.com/viewtopic.php?id=83>. Hope to see you there!

— Jan Wilson

Communications Corner What's New from UUMAN's Communications Committee?

As we advance our mission to improve communication within the congregation and to the outside world, I'm happy to report:

Online social media is buzzing. UUMAN-affiliated Facebook pages have a combined membership that approaches two hundred participants and keeps members of the Playgroup,

MCY, Men's Fellowship, and congregation as a whole, constantly in touch. See/follow also the UUMAN_ATL Twitter feed, courtesy of Paula Watson.

Updates to UUMAN.org are more frequent and timely. Fresh homepage links publicize upcoming events and new accomplishments. Ryan Vidal shrewdly manipulated some Google calendar settings to enable a week-at-a-glance window when you click the *This Week At UUMAN* link. Along with Dan Ben-David's videographic efforts, we now offer regular audio podcasting of sermons. Check out our *Sermons* link to enjoy some recent recordings.

This newsletter is more lively and vital than ever. Carole Herman has stepped up and followed up with potential contributors. More of you are contributing a variety of articles and graphics, and the improvement is laudable.

There are lots of in-development projects. We want to re-energize our internal Wiki pages so that more committee members can use this resource. We'll make subscription to, and playback of, our audio podcasts a snap. Website development will become a more collaborative effort with more participants providing new content. Blogging, discussion boards and email lists have potential for far more refinement and enhancement. Most importantly, we want to use all these tools effectively to draw more seekers and potential members from the Roswell area and beyond.

Have an idea or a question? Feel free to email us (communications@uuman.org), or join our meetings (**4th Thursday at 7pm**).

— Dirk Bender

A Month of Sundays

Rev. Paul D. Daniel, Minister

Sunday Services: 10:30 AM	Adult RE: 9:15 AM	Children's RE: 10:15 AM
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Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service.

Date	Topic	Speaker
4/3/11	Pets and Their People Pets are an important part of our lives. They are companions and guardians and friends. I will examine the spiritual bonds we have with animals and will invite you to share stories about that connection.	Rev. Paul
4/10/11	Sports and Us In this society, we are raised to think that participation in sports builds	Guest Speaker,

character, teaches us leadership skills, and helps us build stamina in order to accomplish the other tasks in our lives. We see examples of that in sports every day, but we also see examples of the opposite: where coaches encourage their players to "push" if not "bend" the rules; where players, because of their status, feel like they are above the law; and where fans organize prior to a game in order to start violence at the game.

Linda Johnston

What does all this say about our human nature?

4/17/11 **Water, Water Everywhere But Not A Safe Drop to Drink** Rev. Paul

I will examine issues of how we use and waste water at our own peril.

4/24/11 **Intergenerational Easter Flower Communion** Rev. Paul

This has become a UUMAN tradition, bringing flowers to our Easter service to represent renewal and resurrection - new life arising out of the old. Come and celebrate this special time of hope springing anew in our hearts. **Remember to bring flowers** so that we can create a community bouquet of color and then take a different flower home.

— Rev. Paul

More April Events

Friday 4/1 **Mid-South District Annual Assembly** — at the Northwest UU Congregation of Atlanta in Sandy Springs. Keynote presenters: Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow. Please see the full schedule on the MSD's web site, <http://www.msduua.org>. More information about NWUU is on their web site, <http://www.nwuuc.org>

Sunday, 4/10 **21st Century Humanism** — after the service, 11:45 AM, in the Sanctuary. The topic will be: "Is the conservative claim that God supports them politically merely a sign of arrogance and hubris, or is it a tactic designed to undermine the democratic process itself?"

Thursday, 4/14 **Women, Wine and Words**— UUMAN's Women's Group discussion, 7:30 PM, in Discovery Hall. All women are welcome. This month's book: **The Year of Living Biblically**, by A. J. Jacobs, is sure to generate a lively

Sunday, 4/17 **Special Brown Bag Sunday: Donations for "Goodies for Giving"** — This month, our "Brown Bag Sunday" is focused on baby items to be contributed to North Fulton Community Charities, e.g. baby food, bottles, sippy cups, baby shampoo, toothbrushes, etc. The children will hunt for them, along with Easter eggs filled with treats, next week.

Also, Parents: please bring goody-filled Easter eggs this week, for your children participating in the hunt next week.

Friday, 4/22 **Fourth Friday Movie Night**— 7:00 PM, in Discovery Hall. Sponsored jointly by the Social Justice Committee, the Sustainability Committee and MCY. This month's film: **Blue Gold: World Water Wars**. Please see the article above for more details.

Saturday, 4/23 **Passover Seder** — 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Please see the article above for more details.

Sunday, 4/24 **"Goodies for Giving" Spring Egg Hunt & Celebration** — after the service, starting in the Sanctuary. The young people will receive a special visitor, then hunt for filled Easter eggs and baby items. The donated baby items will be exchanged for treats, and given to North Fulton Community Charities. Please see the MCY article for more details.

Friday, 4/29 **Book Discussion** — 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. Linda Johnston will facilitate a discussion about a very timely book, **The Death of Josseline**, which deals with immigration issues in the Southwest. Everyone is invited.

For on-going events and more, please view our complete online Calendar.

More events in the MCY section!

About the UUMANTimes

UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN), located at 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075, on the web at www.uuman.org. We welcome almost all imaginable newsletter submissions, and publish as many as possible. We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month. The deadline for submissions is close of business on the 20th of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your poetry, prose and puzzles to c.news:newsletter@uuman.org

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT & SPRING CELEBRATION!

Sunday April 24th

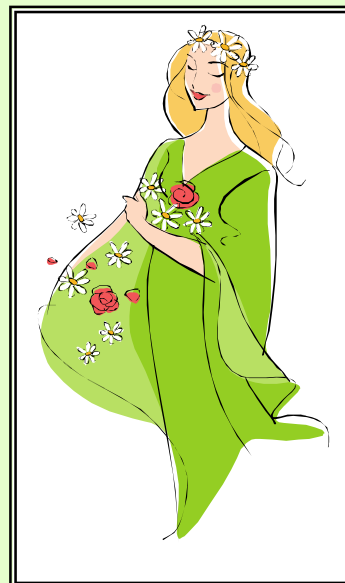
Young people are invited to remain in the Sanctuary after the Service, where a '**surprise visitor**' will hop along to meet us!

Please bring a healthy snack to share...

Parents are asked to bring **1 dozen filled eggs** for each child that will be participating in the Egg Hunt.

Everyone is asked to bring in baby food and other baby items for North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC) Food Pantry.

*Please drop off filled eggs & 'Goodies' for NFCC
by Sunday April 17th*



At last year's Celebration, over 150 baby items, from bottles to baby food, were donated by UUMAN members to NFCC's Food Pantry. From the [photos](http://www.uuman.org/older_news_events.htm) on our web page (http://www.uuman.org/older_news_events.htm), it looks like the children had a great time on the hunt!

MCY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2011

- Apr 3 – MCY Council Meeting
(12.00-2.30pm) DH
- Apr 16 – Global Youth Service Day
- Apr 17 – 'Keeping It Real' Workshop
(1.00-5.00pm) SA
- Apr 24 – Flower Communion Service
- Apr 24 – Earth Day 40-40 Kick-off!
- Apr 24 – Annual Egg Hunt



**Happy
Passover!**



CONTACT TONIANN

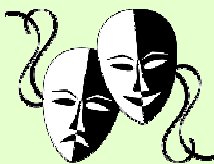
Office Hours

Tuesday 10.00am-3.00pm
Friday 10.00am-3.00pm
Sunday 9.30am-3.30pm

Office Telephone: (770) 992-3949
Email: dmcy@uuman.org



MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH



The Details

Dates – June 6-10th 2011

Ages – 7-15 years

Hours – 9.00 am-3.00 pm

Extended day available by request

Cost Per Participant –

- *Until April 30th: \$100;*
- *After April 30th: \$125*

Please see Toniann for information

Midsummer Kids! A Theater Experience...

No, it's not a dream...UUMAN is offering a weeklong theater experience for children and youth this summer.

Young folk will be expertly guided in theater games, stage direction, creating and building of character from scripted material, performance technique, costume design, set design & make-up for performance and group dynamics of theatre (cooperative interdependence)

Register at the MCY Table by Sunday April 24th

'Keeping It Real'...

Sunday April 17th (1.30 – 5.30 pm)

This interactive 4-hour workshop, led by **Dr. Terry Parker**, is designed specifically for parents of teenagers, or soon-to-be teenagers. It will focus on the biological, psychological, and social development of today's youth, and will provide parents with a better understanding of what's "normal" and to be expected from this very unique population. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and questions with the group.

There is a fee of \$10 per adult, proceeds going to Planned Parenthood Southeast.

Dr. Parker has worked with adolescents for more than three decades in a variety of settings—schools, community-based organizations, athletic teams, religious venues, parental referrals, and others. He has graduate degrees in both Counseling and Health Education, and his work focuses entirely on the adolescent population and their families.

Global Youth Service Day Saturday April 16th

Come on out and support our friends at 'Homestretch' and volunteer at the

Roswell Day of Hope

In Roswell, one of the most affluent communities in Georgia, it is estimated that over 5,000 families live below the poverty level. More than 3,800 of these are single mothers.

Roswell Day of Hope is a community-wide outreach to meet basic needs of these families through the distribution of food, services, encouragement and care.

The event will be held on the grounds of Roswell City Hall (1.00-5.00pm)

Planning Meeting Sunday April 3rd!

Earth Day 2011 Sacred Waters...

What can you do for 40 days to promote environmental justice? Just a small Change in the way that you use water can make a BIG difference. See 40 ideas for action at the MCY Table throughout April....