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We're moving forward—together

A message from UUMAN's President

In my professional career, I have been involved in public relations and corporate communications. Nearly three years ago, my company was acquired and my position was eliminated which, in effect, "forced" me into the less than profitable world of communications consulting.

When I land a consulting gig, I can be found at home, sitting alone in front of a computer. I have always strived to be "the smartest person in the room" but, when you're the *only* person in the room, it becomes a moot issue – that is, until one of our dogs walks in ... then it's debatable as to who is the smartest.

It is with this perspective that I have begun my tenure as President of the UUMAN Board of Trustees. I previously served on the Board as Trustee for Special Projects, and helped launch the Program Council. I didn't anticipate a return to the Board; yet, here I am.

When we gather at UUMAN, I am very aware that I am not the smartest person in the room, but I also know I'm likely not in the Top 25.

I do not pretend to know everything, nor do I presume to have all the best ideas. That's where you come in. UUMAN is a caring, accepting collection of gifted and talented individuals. This is our community. This is your community. I extend to you an open invitation to offer your ideas, thoughts and criticisms to the Board and to me. We have many challenges facing us, including some important leadership assignments to fill immediately; if you have an interest in serving, please let us know as we are always seeking enthusiastic leaders to help UUMAN move forward.

I am confident that we will overcome today's (and tomorrow's) challenges, and we will do so together.

As my term begins, I ask you to review the words of the UUMAN mission statement: *"We come together to create an environment that celebrates our differences, nurtures transformative growth, and promotes an open-minded search for truth and justice both within our walls and beyond."*

That's why we're here. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

—Chuck Jones

Meet Your Seminarian and "Intern."

Hi, Kim Palmer here, filling in the usual "Ministry Musings" spot in the UUMANTimes and instead, filling you in on my path through seminary and how it is about to intersect with UUMAN.

I am attending seminary at Candler School of Theology, which is part of Emory University. Julie Lepp from UUMAN graduated last May from Candler and is now pastoring a congregation in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. My goal is to earn a Masters of Divinity, become ordained in fellowship with the UUA, and pursue a vocation as a chaplain in a hospital or end-of-life setting. I am (at least thus far) not planning on serving in parish ministry.

The MDiv is a three-year program; I have completed one year. I will need to complete one year of residency after graduation to become credentialed as a chaplain. I have taken several classes in pastoral care as well as classes on Christian history, Judaism, the Old Testament, morality, and thinking theologically. Next year I am looking forward to more Christian history, interpretation of the New Testament, pastoral ethics, Hebrew, and more.

The program at Candler includes at least two years of Contextual Education. My first year, I worked as a chaplain at the Emory University Hospital on campus for four hours per week. This summer, I am continuing my chaplaincy training in a full-time internship at Emory University Hospital Midtown (formerly Crawford Long). Next year, from

September until May, I will be serving in a ministerial position at UUMAN. While this is technically a school class requirement, not an internship, the term "intern" is a fair description of the job. I will be working eight hours per week with Rev. Paul and the congregation to assist UUMAN in five areas of ministry: administration, liturgy, pastoral calling and congregational care, mission/outreach, and religious education. Rev. Paul and I plan to meet in late August to sketch out a plan of how I will focus my efforts during the coming year.

Seminary has been wonderfully challenging, exciting, and delightful. I will be talking about some of the things I learned during a sermon at UUMAN on July 31. I look forward to continuing my ministerial formation and serving my community through my "internship" at UUMAN next year. It is wonderful that I am able to travel on this journey with those I care about most: my beloved UUMAN community. Many thanks to Rev. Paul and all of UUMAN for the opportunity.

—Kim Palmer

UUMAN Members Tour Atlanta Beltline

On July 16th, twenty-three members of UUMAN took the Atlanta Beltline Bus Tour. We left from the Inman Park Marta Station at 9:30 AM on a private bus for a fascinating tour of the proposed Beltline. We visited parts of Atlanta we had never seen before, including a rock quarry in northwest Atlanta, Several recently completed or refurbished parks, neighborhoods which varied from blighted to gentrified, historic and industrial areas. Our tour guide was excellent, full of interesting information and willing to tackle any question. After three hours of enlightenment we needed nourishment so headed to Six Feet Under Restaurant on Memorial Drive, across from Oakland Cemetery. The food was great and we all thoroughly enjoyed our day together.



We highly recommend you add this to your "to do list." Visit the website - <http://beltline.rezgo.com/details/9313/BeltLine-Tour> - to get more information.

—Jan Wilson

In the mood for some Improv?

My company, Groupmind Productions, does professional improv comedy in the event space upstairs from Pico Autentico off Roswell Square, with a full bar available and lots of audience interaction. I'm reaching out to fellow UUs to offer special discounted tickets (\$2.50 off \$15 ticket).

Unlike other improv comedy shows, in which the audience provides a one-word suggestion to inspire a scene, our show **IMPROV MONSTER** uses true stories from audience members (or special guests) as the source for its character-driven storytelling. "They don't literally act out the stories, but draw on little details, turns of phrase or overall themes as springboards," said Curt Holman of Creative Loafing, who described the show as having "classic sketch comedy structure, despite being off the cuff." (See YELP reviews: www.yelp.com/biz/groupmind-productions-roswell)

Coming in August: **ANYTOWN - The Improvised Musical!**

We have shows on Saturday at 8pm at Events @ 590, 590 Mimosa Blvd, off Roswell Square (upstairs from Pico Autentico). For tickets or to learn

more, visit www.GroupmindProductions.com. The Coupon Code is Meetup.

Ed. note: Mary Gabbett, who submitted this article, is a member of UUCA)

Thinking of Joining UUMAN? Path to Membership Classes Scheduled

If you would like to join UUMAN, please plan to attend the two Path to Membership classes scheduled for Sunday, August 21 (noon to 2:30) and Sunday, September 11, (also noon to 2:30). We will serve a light lunch and have child care available if you request it. Rev. Paul Daniel, Suzanne Rezelman from Membership, and leaders from UUMAN will welcome you and give you insight into UUism and the UUMAN community in particular. Then, if you decide to join us, the New Member ceremony will take place during Sunday morning church service October 2.

Let me know if you can attend. Questions? Contact me: holden6685@comcast.net, or call [404-909-3539](tel:404-909-3539).

—Sue Holden

About the UUMANTimes

UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN), located at 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075. We welcome nearly all imaginable newsletter submissions, and publish most of them in the process. We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically close of business on the 20th of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your articles, to newsletter@uuman.org