



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

December
2009

Holiday Greetings

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of your dedicated staff: Margi, Randy, Toniann and myself, we want to offer you a blessed and joyous holiday season. May this time of year fill you with delight for all the miracles, big and small, that happen in our daily lives: a cold crisp day, the bright sun that breaks through on a cloudy day, the juicy bite of a crisp apple, a loving pet, our family and friends, this beloved community.

For those of you who are sad or lonely at this time of year, we pray for peace in your heart, contentment of spirit and comfort -- of your own company and that of this sacred community that surrounds you with love and compassion.

May this holiday of lights brighten your days and may the coming New Year bring hope and optimism for a better tomorrow for ourselves and all of humanity.

Yours in Our Shared Community,

Margi, Randy, Toniann, and Rev. Paul

Ministry Musings

A Time For Hope

The foundation of Unitarian Universalism is hope; for an expanded understanding of the holy; hope for a world devoid of hunger, war, pestilence where all have equal access to water and energy, an education and literacy; a world where women and children are no longer treated as chattel and freedom leads us to a better more peaceful world.

December, amidst the cold of the longest night of the year, we find hope through a beckoning bright star in the sky and in our hearts. This above all other times of the year is a season of high expectation for new life at the end of an old year.

Faiths around this globe celebrate this light in a time of darkness---a darkness that fosters a germination of the spirit and is a season for reflection on what has been and is yet to come.

Christians celebrate the birth of a child of hope, Jews the miracle of the seven candles, Mexicans the Festival of the Virgin of Guadalupe, African Americans the lights of unity and community that Kwanzaa represents, while Hindus celebrate the festival of Diwali and Pagans the winter solstice.

All different faiths, people and cultures yet all the same yearning for hope and a renewal of the human spirit. In all these traditions it is a time to slow down, take stock of our lives and to count our blessings. In this quiet season we also remember those who gave their lives for us that we may be blessed and empowered to work in their name for a world of peace and good will on earth.

Blessed be in this time of light and love.

Rev. Paul

Notes from the Sustainability Committee

It's SO Easy Being GREEN

Do good while you shop at a Fair Trade Festival Event

Article submitted by Margie Jacobs

A Palestinian jewel scarf, a recycled green glass pitcher, a tote bag made from old chip bags and a bowl made out of tightly coiled recycled newspaper. These are among the thousands of beautiful items offered throughout The Ten Thousand Villages stores across the country. Founded by Edna Ruth Byler, the grandmother of our own UUMAN brother, Dirk Bender, this not-for-profit organization sparked the beginning of the global fair trade movement. Edna's dream was to provide sustainable economic opportunities for artisans in developing countries by creating a viable marketplace for their products in North America. The current vision of this fair trade enterprise is "One day all artisans in the developing countries will earn a fair wage, be treated with dignity and respect and be able to live a life of quality". That sounds as though it's right up our Unitarian Universalist alley.

For the last two years, we at the Sustainability Committee have transformed our Fellowship Hall into a global market place filled with third world wonders by bringing Ten Thousand Villages to UUMAN, just in time for some ethical holiday shopping. This year we thought we would change things up a bit. Instead of being limited to the inventory we can sell off site, why not provide access to the full range of all the handmade jewelry, home decor and gifts Ten Thousand Villages has to offer. Instead of bringing Ten Thousand Villages to you, we would like to invite you to their shop at the Perimeter for a night of wine, cheese and shopping until you drop! So much better than the average holiday shopping mall experience, a visit to a Ten Thousand Villages store is like stepping into another world. And you will have the pleasure of knowing that every Kisi stone sculpture, basket and cinnamon bark tea box you purchase will help improve the lives of thousands of

artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. But the third world artisans are not the only winners here, ten percent of every purchase returns to UUMAN.

Look for the invitation to our 3rd annual Fair Trade Festival in this issue for all the details.

The Sustainability Committee's Tip of the Month

*Article submitted by
Kate Hudson*



Tip of the Month

Many of us delight in decorating our houses with twinkling lights during the holidays at this darkest time of year. Strings of lights help us feel festive in the cold and dark and remind us of the returning light. Yet some of us find ourselves in a bit of a quandary if we also want to reduce our carbon footprint, cut back on our energy usage and save dollars. What to do??

In the last couple of years, LED holiday lights have sprung onto the scene. Both incandescent and LED lights are being sold in most places. How do they compare? Incandescent lights are inexpensive to purchase but waste considerable amounts of energy through heat. The heat they produce can also make them a fire hazard. LED lights cost more upfront but they use 80% less energy and last much longer, burning for up to 25,000 hours as compared to 3,000 hours for incandescent ones. While incandescent lights often have to be discarded if one bulb goes out, LED lights rarely have that problem. They do not produce any heat and are considered much safer than incandescent lights. Over the lifetime of the lights, LED lights turn out to be cheaper as well and you won't have to replace them nearly as often.

You can pick up LED lights at your local hardware or department store. You can also purchase them online. One excellent site is <http://www.holidayleds.com/> You may even want to go one step further and purchase LED lights which use no electricity at all because they come with a small solar power pack. You can find

them online at
<http://www.solarsanta.com/>

Then you ask, what should you do with all the incandescent lights you have saved up in the attic? If you are like us, many of them don't even work anymore. Fear not! You can recycle them. The Sustainability Committee will provide a large cardboard box for collecting them and shipping them to holidayleds.com for recycling. Or you can do this yourself. Learn more at:

http://www.holidayleds.com/holidayledscom_christmas_light_recycling_program

We will have a box available in Fellowship Hall near the Sustainability Corner the first weekend in December for collecting the old lights. We'll keep it there until after the New Year when you take down this year's decorations.

We hope you have a wonderful festive holiday season... while saving energy too!

Finance and Stewardship Update

NOVEMBER 2009

Article submitted by Laurey Sherman (Stewardship Chairperson)

Woody Allen said "Money is better than poverty if only for financial reasons". Most of us dislike talking about money, but the democratic processes of our church require that we all share in the knowledge of the financial facts. Please bear with me.

We currently have 188 adult members and 104 pledge units. **37 members have not submitted pledges this year!** Many of these members come to services, participate in MCY or adult programs, and enjoy the benefits of our community, without participating in the cost. If you are one of those people, we need your pledge now! It's not about how much you pledge, but about the spirit of generosity and sharing in our church's financial burdens.

In October 37 of 104 pledging members made \$0 payments on their pledges, and this had a dramatic impact on our church income that month. By December we will be 50% of the way through the fiscal year, so ideally we would like for you to have paid at least 50% of your annual pledge amount. Check your statements and see if that's the case. What? Not getting a

statement? Contact Stewardship@UUMAN.org ASAP and I'll fix it!

How fortunate we are to be a growing congregation whose ideals are sought out by so many in our neighboring communities. Rev. Paul is already helping us grow, but we must all share the financial commitment through generous and consistent pledges.

Help UUMAN Support Our Less Fortunate Neighbors

Article submitted by Sarah Jones

Our congregation each week accepts donations of food and other items in our continuing effort to help families in the Roswell/Alpharetta area through North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC).

A basket is located in front of the pulpit in the sanctuary to accept your generous contributions.

Through the generosity of members of our congregation, UUMAN last month contributed more than 125 food items to the NFCC Food Bank to help our neighbors enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving!

Look for a reminder the first Sunday of each month about food and other essential items suggested by NFCC. The third Sunday of each month is "Brown Bag Sunday," when we will collect and deliver the items donated that month. Thank you for your participation in this outreach program.

In 2008 alone, NFCC distributed food over 19,700 times to area families.

Contact Sarah Jones or Susan Wilson for additional information.

21st Century Humanism

Article submitted by John Peltier

On December 13, 21st Century Humanism will depart from its usual format by having guest speakers. The discussion will be "Inhumanity revisited: a Q and A with Holocaust survivors Marianne and Peter Forchheimer." Everyone is encouraged to attend. If you are not a regular member but wish to attend, please e-mail John Peltier at: peltier.john@gmail.com so he may determine if the audio equipment should be left on after the service.

Help Beautify UUMAN (on the outside)

Article submitted by Ann Bender

Many of you have seen the Adopt a Plot poster in Fellowship Hall and may want to know; what's this all about?

It's a bit like "Adopt a Highway" efforts; Adopt a Plot is a volunteer effort to help beautify and maintain the grounds around UUMAN. It does not require a lavishly designed garden (although that's all right too). Rather, it is about simply committing to keeping an area neat and weed free.

If your group / care circle / committee / family is interested in taking on an area, contact Ann Bender at

da_bender@bellsouth.net or 770-271-1331.

Act quickly, a couple of areas have already been claimed – Thanks to the Currys, the Poppo and the Greenwheel Covenant Group.

UUMAN Dance Ministry

Article submitted by Margie Jacobs

When I lived in upstate New York I used to attend a bi-weekly event called the "Freestyle Frolic". It was an outdoor dance event that took place on a wooden stage built in the middle of a clearing in the middle of the woods at the foot of the Catskill Mountains. The Frolics are an alternative to the club scene for dance lovers: not-for-profit all-volunteer freestyle dance events. They are part of a consortium of cooperatively-run dances headed by "Dance New England" and which include "Dance Friday" in Boston and "Barefoot Boogie" in New York City. Through our Dance Ministry, Alison King and I are seeking to bring this same spirit of community through the love of dance to UUMAN with our Friday Flings. We invite you to join us in a healthy exploration of movement. Let it be a dance we do – together. See event flyer below.

2009 FLING DATES

December 11th

Kid's Fling* (6:30 – 08:00 pm)

Adult Fling** (8:00 – 10:00 pm)

* Pizza available for sale (**Fellowship Hall**)

** Kids welcome w/ accompanying adult (**Sanctuary**)

An Event to Brighten Dreary

FEBRU-UGLY* !

Article submitted by Martina Queenth

UUMAN's annual fund raiser, the Heart's Desire Auction to be held on February 27, 2010, will be a bright spot in winter's usual gloom. (Despite what some of you say, winter sucks! Crisp or brisk or chilly is just a dewy eyed optimistic way of saying way too cold! And who cares if you get to layer clothing. WHO CARES?)

But I digress.

Who knows what useful or sparkly items will be available to buy?

Who knows what exotic dinners will be cooked at whose house?

Who knows what useful services will be offered to make your life easier?

Who knows what fun afternoons or evenings spent with fellow UUMAN-ites can be had for a relative pittance?

Bid on any or all items and services at UUMAN's Heart's Desire Auction and the money raised goes towards our wonderful community.

Look for future announcements to get details of this event that ties fun and consumering together with church and community.

**Please note how I cleverly manage to slip "UU" into a word that normally only means bitter, frigid air masses descending from the Arctic.*

Ministry with Children & Youth

Article submitted by Toniann Read



Parents Night Out!

FRIDAY DEC 4th (6.00-10.00pm)

During this busy time of the year why not take some time for yourself while the young ones are safe & having fun with friends at UUMAN! UUMAN Youth want to spend the evening taking care of & playing with YOUR children! (infants - 10 years). Have your young ones join us for Holiday (*Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah & Kwanzaa*) Crafts, Stories, Games, Movies, Dancing & More!

Supper & healthy snacks provided!

For more information contact Toniann (770) 558-4476 or dmcy@uuman.org



Deck The Halls

Join your UUMAN friends and family for our annual **Winter Holiday Party** **Sunday December**

6th (11.30am)

Bring a snack to share and a camera for photos with Santa!



“Would You Like to Hold The Baby?”

Holiday Pageant 2009

It's not too late to join the fun... We want YOU to participate!

ALL UUMAN's (*adults, children & youth*) are invited & encouraged to join in the festive fun. Join a group on any of the following Sunday mornings...

Pageant Groups meet on Sunday mornings December 6 & 13 (10.30-11.30am)

Rehearsals on Saturdays Dec 17 (7.00pm) & 19th (10am)

Mystery Friends

Mystery Friends is an annual event at UUMAN. This Intergenerational program matches younger members with adults for the purpose of getting better acquainted.

YOU are invited to join the FUN!

This is how it works... Starting Dec 13th, adults, children & youth will sign up to participate in the 'Mystery Friends' program. In early January, each participant will receive a confirmation letter that includes information & aliases for themselves & their 'Mystery Friend' (say, a famous UU like Christopher Reeve). Then the fun begins!

Each week (*Jan 17 - Feb 21st*) you will write letters to each other using your alias. You will SNEAK your letter into the pocket that has your friend's alias written on it. You will find the 'mail pockets' hanging on a wall in Fellowship Hall.

Finally there will be a Mystery Friends Celebration Party on Sunday, February 21st after the service, at which time everyone's mystery friend will be revealed.

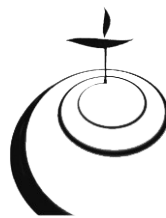
For more information about 'Mystery Friends' contact:

Kirsten Moore
kirstenM@comcast.net

Anna Hamblen
annastamps@gmail.com

Toniann Read dmcy@uuman.org

And be sure to join us for the **Intergenerational Worship Service** Sunday December 20th.



Calling all MCY Volunteers...

In preparation for our Winter/Spring RE session, your presence is requested at a

Volunteer 'Rejuvenation', Saturday January 9th 2010 (9.00am-1.00pm)



MCY Calendar Highlights

Dec 6 – Winter
Holiday Party
(11:30 am)

Dec 10 – COA
Mentor
Orientation (7:30–
9:30 pm) SA

Dec 13 –
'Mystery Friends'
sign up begins

Dec 13 – MCY
Council Meeting (12-2:30 pm) DH

Dec 20 – Holiday Pageant (10:30 am)
SA

Jan 3 – Winter/Spring RE Term begins

Toniann's Office Hours Tuesday
9:30am-3:30pm, Wednesday 9:30am-
3:30pm, Friday 9:30am-3:30pm,
Sunday 9.30am-2.30pm
MCY tel: (770) 992-3949 Email:
dmcy@uuman.org

A Month of Sundays (December Worship Services)

Dec 6 *The Bodhi Tree of Wisdom*

Enlighten and Sacrifice are two pillars of Buddhism that are harbingers of hope. I will explore this idea.

Dec 13 *Voices of Pioneering women*

We honor the courageous pioneering women of our faith throughout our history.

Dec 20 *Intergenerational Christmas Pageant*

Our children will take center stage for a unique celebration of many seasonal traditions around a holiday table.

Dec 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*
7:30 PM

Let us sing and pray together and remember the signs of hope and love we share.

Dec 27 *Where are we going and why are we in this basket?*

Cliff Browns poses this question and will answer the question. Lets us worship together as hear what he has discovered.

About the UUMANTimes

UUMANTimes is the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North congregation. We heartily welcome virtually all types of newsletter submissions, and generally manage to publish a majority of them as well. Please email your articles, editorials, announcements, sonnets, Cubist renderings of dogs playing poker, free verse, seditious rants and unclassifiable prose to

Mister Ed.: newsletter@uuman.org

Announcing...
The 3rd Annual

FAIR-TRADE FESTIVAL

At

Ten Thousand Villages

At Perimeter Mall

4511 Olde Perimeter Way, Suite 400 Atlanta, GA

5-8PM

Friday, December 4th

Enjoy Wine and Cheese
while shopping for family and friends.

Support Third World artisans.

10% of your purchases will support UUMAN's Eco-Justice Project
with North Fulton Community Charities

Afterwards

Join Fellow UUMANites

At Mimi's Café

For dinner

At 8:15 PM

<http://www.mimiscafe.com/>

within easy walking distance
of Ten Thousand Villages

R.S.V.P. For dinner

By Tuesday, December 1st

to

HUDSONKD@Bellsouth.net or ssmjones@hotmail.com

Friday Fling!

Let It Be A Dance We Do

- Dance is an empowering community activity that enriches our lives.
- We seek to explore ways to show our commitment to the empowerment of children, and the acknowledgement that our bodies and environment are sacred.
- Each of us needs to be able to safely express who we are and be acknowledged for the value of the contributions that we bring to our community.
- We will take great care to create a space that is safe for experimenting with movement, and encourage healthy exploration of our bodies while honoring individuals' boundaries.
- We will promote a smoke, alcohol, and drug-free setting for the dances, and request that participants take personal responsibility for themselves and their children and for their influence on those around them.



2009 FLING DATES

DATE	EVENT	TIME
December 11 th	Kid's Fling* Adult Fling**	6:30 – 08:00 p.m. 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

* Pizza available for sale (*Fellowship Hall*)

** Kids welcome w/ accompanying adult (*Sanctuary*)

No particular dance steps or styles are advocated and all respectful forms of movement are honored. There will be a broad range of music

For more information contact
Margie Jacobs mjake57@yahoo.com 678-467-6471 or
Alison King alison.king@wachovia.com 404-[514-1800](tel:404-514-1800)