UUMAN TIMES

September 2011

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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Ministry Musings

September, 2011
Rev. Paul D. Daniel, Minister

The Questing Community

The winds are still hot and moist. We Atlantans (not the mythical lost civilization) are beginning to turn our thoughts to cooler weather and hopefully more moderate tempers. This has been an angry summer of political and economic discontent.

Regardless of your party affiliation, our government has failed us. There is gridlock in Washington and the unemployment lines remain long. Corporations are flush with cash as the American people are asked to tighten their belts even tighter.

Politicians of the right call our President a socialist and question his patriotism. The ugly head of racism is at the core of this behavior, I believe. A sad commentary!

For all these reasons and more I am glad to return to my community of faith, where we have made both implicit and explicit covenants with each other to engage in civil discourse with mutual respect. Our politicians have lost all perspective on the damage they do to the body politic. It is left to us, we at UUMAN and the other communities of faith, to lead the way out of the wilderness and back to a more civilized society.

That is why this community is important. It is offers a safe haven for the well-meaning, the disaffected, the free thinker: the people who dare to think and work for a better society…in the hopes of rising over and against the nastiness and destructiveness of our out-of-control politicians and corporate moguls. Someone has to genuinely care for America and the world, or else society withers and dies. I am not willing to let that happen. Together we can make a difference.

That is why we come together after a long hot summer -

hopefully refreshed, our batteries recharged - to renew our efforts, our social justice compact to fight for the dream for a better tomorrow, a better society, a better UUMAN, our better selves. I read and re-read the following and came away with a tear in my eye and a renewed sense of hope. I hope you can also.

The Impossible Dream (The Quest)

To dream ... the impossible dream ...
To fight ... the unbeatable foe ...
To bear ... with unbearable sorrow ...
To run ... where the brave dare not go ...
To right ... the unrightable wrong ...
To love ... pure and chaste from afar ...
To try ... when your arms are too weary ...
To reach ... the unreachable star ...

This is my quest, to follow that star ...
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far ...
To fight for the right, without question or pause ...
To be willing to march into Hell, for a Heavenly cause ...
And I know if I'll only be true, to this glorious quest,
That my heart will lie will lie peaceful and calm,
when I'm laid to my rest ...

And the world will be better for this:
That one man, scorned and covered with scars,
Still strove, with his last ounce of courage,
To reach ... the unreachable star …

— Lyrics:
www.allthelyrics.com/lyrics/man_of_la_mancha_don_quixote_soundtrack/

— Rev. Paul

Notes from the Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee will kick off the new church year with its first meeting on the day after Labor Day, **Tuesday, September 6th at 7 PM**, in the Discovery Hall living room.

We welcome newcomers and new ideas.

This year is an especially exciting time to join us, as we seek to help UUMAN become a certified and accredited Green Sanctuary. Our goal is to finalize the process begun several years ago and promoted when our application was accepted last year as an official Green Sanctuary Candidate. This is the year, folks! Come be a part of the excitement!

Some work we will be doing and/or considering:

- Eco-Justice Project with North Fulton Community Charities
- 4th Friday Movies in conjunction with MCY and Social Justice
- Fair-Trade Coffee, tea and more
- Ethical Eating events and potlucks
- Develop and seek sanction (with support of the program council and the board) a sustainable supply policy for UUMAN
- Support organic gardening and permaculture at UUMAN and in our communities
- Learn more about and promote the Human Right to Water
- Newsletter articles and Tips of the Month
- Book discussions
- Composting at UUMAN and in our homes
- Other ideas?

These are just some of the ideas we are working on. Would you like to have a part in these ideas, or to add your own? Please join us. Each one of these will need a champion or two to make them happen. WE NEED YOU!!! JOIN US!

Hope to see you at our September meeting!

— Kate Hudson
for the Sustainability Committee

Gift Cards and Groceries

People always need groceries, so why not let a percentage of their grocery bill benefit UUMAN? One of the major supermarkets in our area, Kroger, has made a generous offer to donate to UUMAN an amount equal to 5% of whatever our members spend in their stores. They will do this by selling Kroger gift cards to UUMAN at 95% of face value; we, in turn, will have cards available for members at face value.

FAQs:

How do I recharge my card?

You take it to Kroger and they recharge it for you. It will be recharged there and UUMAN will be credited with that. You do not have to keep buying them at UUMAN. It couldn't be easier!

Can I shop at any Kroger?

Yes, you may. Pick a Kroger, any Kroger.

Can I buy gasoline with my Kroger gift card?

Yes, you may.

For more information, or to request your first card, please e-mail merribethstephens@gmail.com

— Merri Beth Stephens

Photo Directory Update

The new UUMAN Photo Directory is scheduled to be unveiled in early December! Photos were taken in August at UUMAN. Those unable to be there have until **September 11th** to send a family photo to be included. Rosie Popp is busy working on the layout and Sue Holden is scrubbing the directory listings to make sure they are totally up to date. A huge **thank you** to all of the wonderful people who have helped with this project...it takes a lot of volunteers to make this happen. Please contact Jan Wilson if you have any questions, at janbillwilson@msn.com

— Jan Wilson

UUMAN Mountain Retreat Oct 14-16
Open for all

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend a UUMAN autumn retreat at the beautiful Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, North Carolina.

Let's get together for a weekend of great meals, woodsy walks, porch sitting and the fellowship of friendly UUMANites. We can plan for as many or few activities as you would like. The breathtaking views and nearby waterfalls are worth the visit.

The cost per adult participant will be $190/double occupancy, $64 ages13-17, and $40 ages 4-12. No charge for children under 4. All meals included, from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.

Last year our group was small but we had a mighty fabulous time and wish to include many more. Check out the bulletin board to see pictures.

If you have any questions please contact Jane Soule, jane.soule@charter.net

You may register directly with the Mountain, at http://mountaincenters.org/media/PDFs/UUMAN-RegForm.pdf

— Jane Soule

New Workshop Series
Immigration as a Moral Issue

Sign up for the "Immigration as a Moral Issue" workshop/discussion at UUMAN. A study guide was created to help Unitarian Universalist congregations and individuals engage in our new Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). Section I is organized as a six week curriculum, intended to give a broad overview to this complex issue.

Check out the curriculum on http://www.uua.org/immigration/moral/guide/index.shtml. There are two ways to get involved:

- A six-session Monday evening workshop will begin on September 12th; meeting on the **2nd & 4th Mondays** through November in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 - 9:00 PM; *or*
- An Adult Sunday discussion group will begin on September 4th; meeting **each Sunday** in Discovery Hall from 9:15 -10:15 AM

Sign up at the Social Justice Table in Fellowship Hall. Or, email Rosie Popp, Facilitator of the Monday evening workshop, at dr_rosie@att.net or Jennifer Ratcliffe, facilitator of the Sunday morning discussion group, at jennifer.ratcliffe@att.net

— Rosie Popp and Jennifer Ratcliffe

UUA Mid-South District News

Mid-South District's theme this year is **Immigration as a Moral Issue**. We will be learning and sharing insights on how this important issue of our times impacts our congregations and how we can impact our larger communities.

Jerry Gonzalez

On Saturday, October 8th, the 2011 MSD Healthy Congregations Conference will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Registration and additional information is now on the MSD web site at www.msduua.org

The featured guest presenter at the **October 8th Healthy Congregations Conference** will be **Jerry Gonzalez**, a strong advocate for Latino rights who serves as the first executive director of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO). At GALEO he is charged with developing a legislative agenda and directing programs that promote the involvement of the Latino/Hispanic community in the legislative process. He will speak about the need for national comprehensive immigration reform. He will then be joined by other UU's for a panel discussion on how our state legislatures are approaching immigration.

In the afternoon several workshops will explore other ways our congregations can learn skills to live out our values. They include:

- Plaza Fiesta Immersion Experience Field Trip led by Pat Kahn and the Faith Development Council. This multigenerational program (children, youth and adults) will discuss "What's the big deal about immigration?" and go to nearby Plaza Fiesta for a hands on experience and service project.
- Laurel Amabile, Director of Annual Program Fund at the Stewardship and Development Office of the UUA will explore the importance of structuring our congregational stewardship programs and re-energizing our fund raising efforts to better fund our mission and values.
- Tim Atkins of UUCA and Laura DeCastro, Communications Trustee on the MSD Board will talk about how to get the word out about your social justice work using social media in a session titled "Can WE create a revolution using social media?".
- Rev. Fred Hammond will continue this discussion about how to work on immigration justice in our small, medium and large congregations.

— Mid-South District - UUA
On the web at www.msduua.org

More from around the UUA

Transylvania Trip Planned

Travel with Unitarians to experience our historic roots and explore this fascinating part of Europe – Transylvania and Hungary – **June 4-18, 2012**.

How about traveling to a place where a Unitarianism was founded 450 years ago? That's Transylvania! One fourth of all Unitarians live here. Their beautiful, unique churches are a joy to behold.

We'll have a 3-day stay in a Transylvanian Unitarian village - attending church, sharing a relaxed picnic and experiencing rural village life. We'll explore castles and other cultural places, enjoy the food and art and the beautiful landscapes. From Cluj-Napoca, Romania, to Budapest, Hungary, the cost is $2075 US, plus airfare. That includes 9 nights in Transylvania and 5 in Hungary, private coach, most meals, escorts and guides, 3 and 4- star hotels, as well as staying with a family or in a guest house when we are in the rural village.

This specially designed tour for Unitarians everywhere, will be facilitated by the UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Service that has more than a decade of experience facilitating UU visits to this part of Europe.

For all details see www.nuuc.ca
Contact Beverly Carr,
bgcarr@rogers.com
Neighbourhood UU Congregation
Toronto, Canada

Check out the UUA web site

The Unitarian Universalist Association has just given its web site, http://www.uua.org, a new look. They want to make it easy to get to their most pertinent and popular topics. Take it for a test drive! You can share your feedback with them via a link at the bottom of their home page.

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**

Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service.

Date	Topic	Speaker
9/4/11	**Annual Ingathering Water Service**	Rev. Paul

Everyone is invited to bring water from their summer travels or from their homes, pools, or other places. In a brief sentence, describe the spiritual significance this water has for *you*. My homily will be on hospitality – radical hospitality.

9/11/11 September 11th Rev. Paul

Reflections on the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Members will be invited to comment.

9/18/11 Our Living History Rev. Paul

I will talk about the Unitarian and Universalist merger, a union of two complimentary faiths into one, and bring our heads and hearts into better alignment.

9/25/11 The State of UUMAN Chuck Jones

Our President, Chuck Jones, will offer his reflections on the state of UUMAN.

— Rev. Paul

More September Events

Sunday, 9/4 — ***Immigration as a Moral Issue* —** Adult Sunday morning discussion group series begins, each Sunday before the service, 9:15 - 10:15 AM in Discovery Hall. Please see the article above for more details.

Monday, 9/5 — ***Nia, Joy of Movement Class* —** *Cancelled* for the Labor Day holiday, only. **Classes will be held all other Mondays in September**, 6:45 PM, in the Sanctuary. $5 per class; your first class is free. For more information, please contact Marjorie Pomper, mpomper@bellsouth.net, 770-973-2336

Thursday, 9/8 — ***Women, Wine and Words* —** UUMAN's Women's Group discussion, 7:30 PM, in Discovery Hall. All women are welcome. We are featuring a UUMAN author, our very own John Davis, who has written *The Day Rome Was Built*. The book takes up history in an odd parallel world where the Fascists won WWII.

Sunday, 9/11 — ***21st Century Humanism* —** after the service, 11:45 AM in the Sanctuary. The topic will be: "What do Republican politicians want from evangelical Christians now and in the coming presidential election?" All are invited to attend and take part. For more information, please contact John Peltier, peltier.john@gmail.com

Sunday, 9/11 — ***UUMAN Photo Directory Deadline* —** Last day to send your own family photo to be included in the forthcoming directory. Please see the article above for more details.

Monday, 9/12 — ***Immigration as a Moral Issue* —** Monday evening workshop series begins, on 2nd and 4th Mondays through November, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please see the article above for more details.

Sunday, 9/18 — ***Meet the Minister*** — after the service, 11:30 AM in the Sanctuary. Visitors are invited to remain the Sanctuary to meet with Rev. Paul for a short period of greeting, questions and answers.

Friday, 9/23 — ***Book Discussion*** — 7:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. Our second book discussion in the series on immigration continues with **Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants**, by David Bacon. For more information, contact Linda Johnston at ljohnst9@gmail.com

Ongoing — ***Summer Art Show* —** Currently, UUMAN's **Crabapple Creative Community** is presenting its Summer Art Show, in the Sanctuary. Enjoy the paintings and share your comments with the artists. A portion of all sales goes to UUMAN.

More events in the MCY section!

Please view **our calendar** for even more.

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 articles and artwork to c.news: newsletter@uuman.org

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Welcome to UUMAN's MCY * Welcome for the first time * Welcome back…

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

I am looking forward to hearing all about your summer with all of its joys and sorrows, and now I am so glad that YOU are here! We have some great RE Teams shaping up & a fantastic MCY Council who have already been busy making plans for a year full of wonderful experiences for us to create & share. I am excited about the work that we will do together!

UUMAN's theme for ministry this year is **'Radical Hospitality'**, with a focus on celebrating our immigrant experience. This is a deep call to practice justice and compassion in all our relationships and interactions, both within and beyond our walls. This promises to be an exciting year of life-changing religious exploration and social action for our community.

So, I invite you all to join me with minds & hearts wide open, as we look forward to being together again!

MCY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 2011

Sept 4 – MCY Council Meeting
Sept 9 – RE Room Set Up (6-9pm)
Sept 11 – Fall RE Begins!
Sept 17 – Sr Youth 'Lock-in'
Sept 18 – Family Ministry Gathering (Youth Families) (12-3.30pm)
Sept 27 – Nursery Volunteer Training (7-9.30pm)
Sept 30 – 'COA' Retreat

CONTACT TONIANN

Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
10.00am-4.00pm
Sunday 9.30am-2.30pm

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

Religious Exploration (RE) Begins Sunday Sept 11th!

Meet Your New MCY Council…

Karen Wilkins – Chair
Alison King – Vision Team Coordinator
Anna Hamblen – Secretary
Suzy Rezelman - RE Associate Coordinator
Kathy Hubbard – RE Support Coordinator
Jennifer Ratcliffe– Social Action Coordinator
Kara Sweeney – Family Ministry Coordinator
OPEN! – Worship Coordinator

Contact - mcyc@uuman.org

The 6 Components of a Balanced Ministry With Children & Youth…

Worship!
Multigenerational!
Community Building!
Social Action!
Learning!
Leadership!

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Religious Exploration 'Kick-Off' Weekend!

Friday September 9th

RE Room Set Up

6.00-8.30 pm

Everyone is invited to come along for a Pizza supper and RE Room Set Up. Ready…set…GO!

'Radical Hospitality'

through dedicated practice of

'The Golden Rule'

'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'

'Do not treat others in a way you would not like to be treated yourself'

Sunday September 11th

Religious Exploration Begins!

Sessions begin for Preschool through 12th Grade.

Children and Youth begin in their rooms at 10.30 am

YRUU

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Sr Youth 'Lock-in'

Saturday Sept 17th

Adults needed overnight!

See Toniann for details

Youth Family Ministry Gathering

Sunday September 18th (12.00-3.30 pm)

Come along for a **Potluck Lunch** followed by a **Parent's Covenant Group** style meeting.

Youth will meet to plan this year's activities…

* Seeking Youth Advisors *

- Are you interested in creating intergenerational community?
- **Are you intrigued by the idea of Youth/Adult alliances?**
- Do you like playing games, deep conversation & worshipping at midnight (*followed by breakfast at Waffle House*)?
- **Are you over a UUMAN member over 25 years old?**

We have a program waiting for YOU!

Application packets are available at the MCY Table

UUMAN will partner with the **Hamzah Islamic Center** Youth Group and the **International Rescue Committee** to organize and host a **Thanksgiving Dinner** and celebration for newly resettled refugees…

Details coming soon!

Fall Mountain & District Con Dates

MidSouth District YAC Meeting
Saturday October 9th
Jr Youth Mountain Con
November 11-13th
MidSouth District 'CONfront'
November 19-21
Sr Youth Mountain Con
December 2-4th