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Transition Team Tracks Tales

The UUMAN Transition Team has gotten many of you together for interviews as part of the Appreciative Inquiry project. They will be contacting those who haven't done it yet to include your very valuable perspectives and stories. These interviews are different than a survey in that they are not going to be tabulated or analyzed statistically. For example, it is not helpful to this to say that your best moment at UUMAN is worship, choir, etc. A list doesn't tell us what inspires you about those experiences. We want to gather your *stories* as richly as you can remember and tell them so that there is a record to draw from of what is really meaningful to you about UUMAN.

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Piloting Earth-Friendly Green Practices

The UUMAN Council and the Sustainability Committee want to announce that UUMAN will be piloting the use of new earth-friendly green practices for

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Notes from the Interim

Dear Ones,

It is May and my last day at UUMAN will be July 27th. That means we have three months together, which is a long time, but we all know it will fly by. You have in many ways already processed my leaving since it was announced in February. It is just hitting me though now.

I'm reminded how hard it is to say goodbye. We all have a tendency (or at least many of us do) to want to minimize the actual goodbye. We want to just continue without acknowledging the upcoming time and maybe slip out the door without having to actually say that dreaded word. Mark Morrison-Reed wrote an article about this, years ago, called "Running through the Thistles." He used that metaphor to describe exactly that. We don't want the pain of loss and so we hurry through it as quickly as we can. When we do this we bottle up just a little more of our real feelings, become a little more numb to our lives. When we cover over one emotion we decrease our ability to feel all emotion, even joy.

And so the challenge for all of us is to be able to stay present with whatever we might feel about the end of our time together. I welcome conversations and sharing throughout this three month time. And when it comes time to say goodbye, which for some of you will happen earlier because of trips you may have planned, I hope you will actually say it to me in some way, so that you won't be left feeling that something was left unsaid. So that you won't be running through the thistles, but letting whatever this might mean to you be fully known and acknowledged.

It's certainly going to be harder for me having so many of you to say goodbye to. I do want that opportunity though. So many of you have contributed to my growth this year and I've felt privileged to be of service to you.

Believe it or not, this is one of the tasks of Interim Ministry...to learn to say goodbye courageously and well.

In faith,
Frieda Gillespie

Earth-Friendly (from page 1)

kitchen, bathroom and office supplies and their disposal. These new "best practices" guidelines will allow us to live our 7th principle more fully by using only products that benefit our earth as well as all its inhabitants. Thus our families and children will not be exposed to unhealthy chemicals. We won't be using the earth's resources, nor adding to the waste stream unnecessarily.

Here are some things you can expect to see and use in the very near future.

Compostable plates made from sugar-cane waste These take garbage out of the waste stream, create a use for it and then returns it to the earth as food in the form of compost.

Post-consumer-recycled paper products such as napkins, paper towels, toilet paper.

100% recycled and 80% post-consumer recycled paper products are the greenest paper supplies available reducing the need to cut down trees which absorb excess carbon from the atmosphere.

Cornstarch compostable plastic cups. Not made from oil, they will never enter the waste stream or leach unhealthy chemicals into the soil. Instead they will biodegrade in our very own compost heap!

Our illustrious committee member, Bev Jordan will be our new Supply Guru monitoring the supplies and making orders as needed.

—Kate Hudson

Transition Team

(from page 1)

Why are we doing this? If you are going to have a great future—which I have no doubt that you'll have—you'll want to bring the best of the past forward with you. That's one purpose. Another is to recognize the gifts that you most want to use at UUMAN for your own enjoyment and for the betterment of the community. And lastly, we want to know what your vision is for UUMAN's future. All of these things combined provide a picture of who you are as a faith community. So as you participate in these interviews, remember to let your stories unfold so that what is most important to you really gets shared.

Once the team completes the interviews or by May 15th, whichever comes first, they will work with Pat Racette, who has experience with data collection and analysis, to extract common themes from your stories. The team will publish these to you for your comments and to make sure your themes are represented. From there a series of "provocative statements" will be developed again with your help and review that capture those themes in prose form to create a statement of identity and intention for this congregation. We hope to complete this by June 30th.

The success of this endeavor depends on your participation. We thank you so much for the enthusiastic response you've given to this. If you haven't been interviewed, please contact one of us to have that scheduled at your convenience.

In faith,

Frieda and the Transition Team: Sarah Jones, Dave Hudson, Bev Jordan, Sue Bell, Patty Lynn, and Julie Lepp

Youth Open Door Pool Party & 'Lock-In'!



Friday May 16th (7-10pm), all UUMAN Youth (grades 6–12) are invited to attend an end of year get together for fellowship & fun! Come along, hang out, play games, participate in youth worship & make new friends,...

Cost: \$10.00 (Breakfast at Waffle House)

RSVP & Permission Slip required!

Contact Katrina Moore kirstenm@comcast.net to RSVP & for details

MCY Calendar Highlights

May 4 – OWL Facilitators meeting (7pm) DH

May 7 – MCY Council Meeting (7-9pm) DH

May 16 – Jr & Sr Youth ‘Open Door’ Pool Party & ‘Lock-in’

May 18 – MCY Volunteer Breakfast (8.30-10am) FH

May 18 – MCY Celebration Service (10.30am) SA

May 31– Family Ministry Team Meeting (5-9pm) FH & SA (*see back page of this newsletter*)

Summer Fun with



From June 1st to August 10th, join your friends at UUMAN this Summer for stories, activities and lots of FUN!

Elementary age children (*rising K – rising 6th grade*) & adult volunteers will meet in Fellowship Hall for Dr Seuss stories, followed by smaller group reflection & activities which might include deeper exploration of UU Principles, making snacks, planting trees & playing with ‘oobleck’...

To make this happen: Adult Volunteers are needed!

Summer is a time to relax & enjoy each other’s company as we explore our UU faith & Principles. If you would like to spend some time with our youngest UUMANs please sign up at the MCY table

Thank you for a wonderful year!

It’s that time again...time for the MCY Council to look back & reflect on the year that we have spent together as we make plans for a whole new experience to start in August. What a year it has been! Do you remember that we started out in the Fall with **Elizabeth Rohan** doing an amazing job as our RE Coordinator during my leave of absence? We were so fortunate & Elizabeth left an indelible mark on our program & in our hearts. Then we all came together for an amazing Christmas Pageant. So many folks worked hard to make that an experience to remember. Kids Together Days were all new this year. Thanks to **Melissa & Julie** for bringing us intentionally integrated worship & social action for all ages. **Patty, Sarah & Merilee** welcomed us all on Sunday mornings & reminded us when we were teaching. **Jean** championed the Family Ministry Team meetings, creating new opportunities for parents (& *young people*) to come together for learning & support. **Karen** has kept us mindful of our MCY vision & mission & **Sue** has reminded us that we are all here for mutual transformation. **Kim** keeps us connected & takes the best minutes ever! MCY Volunteers & our church community have devoted countless hours to weekly RE, ‘COA’, ‘Secret Friends’, Holiday events & *so much more*. Our young people keep coming because this is a place where love lives. You have shared experiences that we hope you will treasure for a lifetime.

I am grateful to share this remarkable ministry with YOU....have a wonderful summer & see you next year!

—Toniann Read

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!

Please see Toniann about joining our MCY as a Jr or Sr Youth Advisor. Job descriptions are available at the MCY Table on Sunday mornings



CONTACT TONIANN

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UUMAN TIMES

Editor: Dirk Bender

Contributors: Kate Hudson, Frieda Gillespie, Toniann Read, and others

Submissions: We welcome all types of newsletter submissions, and usually publish them too. Please send us your articles, editorials, poems, rants, and announcements, to newsletter@uuman.org

Budget! Trustees! Action!

Our annual year-end Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18, immediately after service. Due to rental commitments, we will need to clear out no later than 1:30.

Please watch your mailbox for the official meeting notice and proxy form. If you will be unable to attend, it is vital that you complete the proxy form, naming your proxy. UUMAN bylaws require a majority of members to be present, either in person or by proxy in order to conduct an official Congregational Meeting.

We will vote on next year's budget and on next year's Board of Trustees.

—Kevin Kleinfelter

**Mr. Ed's note: I went to news.google.com to cherry-pick from the first page a pull quote from what the keywords "Unitarian Universalist" returned. This may become a regular feature. Or not.*

Upcoming Services

May 11th **Two Mothers Who Changed our Minds**

Julia Ward Howe and Sophia Lyon Fahs are two Unitarian women who created a national legacy with their particular view of motherhood. There will also be candles of appreciation for those who've mothered you.

May 18th **MCY Appreciation Service**

A time of celebration for all of the volunteers that make the Ministry with Children and Youth program possible. Director of MCY Toniann Read and Rev. Gillespie will dialogue about the ways in which MCY at UUMAN impacts the children's development.

Building Ritual and Tradition in a UU Home Part II

On Saturday, May 31st at 5pm UUMAN's Family Ministry Team will build on the theme from our previous get together, Creating a UU home. For this fourth Family Ministry Team meeting we want to continue with a combination of listening, discussion and practical resources to help one another navigate our sometimes conflicted feelings about religious ritual and explore how meaningful traditions can create a sense of community and connection.

We're exploring a new time and format for this meeting, so please take note: Pizza will be served FOR CHILDREN ONLY. Adults will head right into the program from 5-7 p.m.

Childcare will be provided throughout the session and extended to 9 p.m. so participants can enjoy additional free time to go out to dinner as a couple or with other UUMAN parents.

RSVP to Jean McAulay at 770-594-2394 so we know how many children to expect.

What Hath The Google Wrought?*

From the Newport News, VA Daily Press, "Belief is Part of Being UU", May 3rd, 2008, by Rev. Beverly Boke:

Unitarian Universalists believe that it's not OK to discriminate against people who are different from them. This includes people of different races, cultures and religions, and it also includes people with different preferences, from politics to affectional orientations. We were involved in the Civil Rights movement from the beginning. Many of the Unitarians and Universalists of the 19th Century worked hard for abolition of slavery, for prison reform and fair treatment of the poor. Unitarian Universalists have defended the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since the early 1970s. Our first principle is to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Unitarian Universalists believe it's not OK for a powerful few to push everyone else around. Unitarian Universalists think each person deserves an equal opportunity to let his or her views be known before a decision is made that affects everyone. We live and are governed by democratic principles, and most of us postpone votes until everyone involved has had an opportunity to make their views known and to listen to others. We believe in justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and in the democratic process.