

March 2020

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Your Best Gift

How would you characterize your best gift, not to UUMAN, but to everything that we do through UUMAN?

The reason I put it this way is because our mission and vision mandate that we be oriented both inward and outward. (UUMAN's Mission: Nurture our Spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world. UUMAN's vision is to be a vital and visible community for all, bravely working toward the day when social, economic, and environment justice is a reality.)

For me, the most important thing, your best gift, is the gift of your presence. There is only one of you in this world and when you're not here, we're something different, something less, without you.

We show up for one another here. We bear witness to one another's deepest joys and sorrows here. "To see each other's joys and sorrows as our own, and know that we are not alone.... that our yearning is assuaged and our lives fulfilled in one another" (Susan Manker-Seale, Out of Our Yearning).

We are counting on one another; we rely on one another in ways we can't possibly imagine. The stories we tell, the stories we share with one another here are a source of hope to those who might be suffering.

After your presence here, how would you characterize your next best gift to everything that we do through UUMAN?

For me, the giving of one's time comes next; and in a way, the giving of one's time is related to the giving of one's presence. Time and presence are indicative of showing up both physically and with your heart...that you're committed, you're invested in this community and what this community can do together in the larger community. There is no substitute for the gifts of one's presence and time... and money can't buy this... but I'd be remiss to say that money isn't necessary...that money isn't part of the equation.

Paying the mortgage, salaries and expenses is actually paying overhead. Presently, of our budget, only 1.2% of it is directed toward our inward focus ministries. Outside of Sunday morning worship, can we fully "Nurture our Spirit"

on an inward focus ministry budget that is only 1.2% of our overall budget?

Also, only 1.5% of our budget is directed toward our outward focus ministries. Again, at this level of funding, how can even begin to "Strive for Justice, Transform the World." Many protestant congregations devote up to 30% of their budget on justice and outreach!

Michael Durall, a UU author and consultant says that, "Clergy and lay leaders should ask members and friends to reach the 5-10 percent level at the earliest opportunity (Michael Durall, The Almost Church Revitalized, p61)."

5 to 10%! In my previous career, I remember sitting across the table from an hourly steelworker in Braddock, PA who said he routinely gave \$10,000/year to his church. I was shocked!

To speak from my own personal experience, Tammy and I have made our way to this level of giving (just over 6%). We have four children and have done lots of college savings (and we took a big hit in the 2008 stock market decline) and we still incur their college expenses.

Michael Durall again says,

When I meet with people who commit 10 percent of their incomes (and sometimes more) to the church or to other causes, I often ask what they gave up to become so generous. To a person they do not understand the question. The universal response is that they gave up nothing, not a thing. They report their lives have been immeasurably enriched by the experience. Even more surprising, many say they used to worry about finances until they started giving 10 percent, and now that worry has almost completely vanished. This is the great paradox of a religious life. Give it a try and see what happens. (Michael Durall, "The Almost Church Revitalized," p63)

Amen to that!

Take care,

Dave



Views from the Board President

Hi everyone, and welcome to another UUMAN Newsletter! It's already been an exciting 2020 and I wanted to give some updates.

First, I wanted to update everyone on the wonderful 2nd Annual UUMAN'S GOT TALENT event from February 1st! It was a special night which showcased the amazing talent we share among and across our congregation. Singers! Dancers! Musicians! Comedians! Contortionists! Every entertainment segment was well represented and attendance was amazing. Thank you to all who came out and supported the events, and a big shout out (THANK YOU!) to all who participated in the event. I'm already looking forward to the 3rd annual show next year and seeing some new faces show off their hidden talents.

Speaking of talents, we always are thanking our members for their generous gifts of talent, time and treasure, and this year is no different. We are kicking off our 2020 Love and Generosity Stewardship campaign and hoping we can count on each of you to contribute to UUMAN this year both financially and with your time. In addition to just "keeping the lights on," we want to make sure we grow the budgets for our ministries and Social Justice work outside of the walls of UUMAN. The Board has also communicated the desire for a Membership Professional, and all of this takes financial assistance. Please consider a healthy 5%-10% of your net income if possible, and adding a bit (if possible) to your pledge from last year.

It takes all of us to grow UUMAN and make it an even more vibrant and fulfilling community where we are enriched. Please help as you can this year when committing your pledge amounts.

Please join us for Coffee Talk with the Board next Sunday March 8.

Until then, thanks for your attention!

Peace and Love,

Todd Callen

Board President

Help Wanted

There are many ways that you can get involved in support of the UUMAN mission. Here are some of the current needs:

Greeters

Greeters welcome visitors and everyone that enters UUMAN on Sunday morning prior to service; this is a great way to get to know people; if you are interested, contact membership@uuman.org

Choir

The UUMAN Choir is always looking for people interested in singing; For more information, contact Alex Pietsch at music-director@uuman.org

RE Teachers

The religious education program for our children and youth is well under way. If you are interested in getting involved in teaching or helping, please email re@uuman.org

Coffee House

Every month on the third Saturday we set up the Sanctuary to have live local music. We need help moving chairs around in the Sanctuary, setting up tables and putting up the backdrop for the show. It takes an hour or less if we have four or more volunteers helping. If you'd like to help, contact coffee-house@uuman.org

Honoring Martin Luther King on January 20, 2020!



UUMAN Members March in Alpharetta



UUMAN Families Road Cleanup



UUMAN Families Cleanup Rucker Road in Roswell

Earth Ministry Movie & Potluck

UUMAN Earth Ministry held its second Movie & Potluck Night on January 17. The movie "The Game Changers" was shown about how athletes are switching to a plant-based diet in order to improve their performance and to be better able to compete. Afterward the movie a discussion was held about the benefits of a vegetarian or vegan diet.

The next Earth Ministry Movie & Potluck Night will be on March 6th! A segment of the Netflix series "Broken" will be shown dealing with the problems of single-use plastics! All UUMAN members and friends are welcome to attend. For more information email

earthministry@uuman.org.



Earth Ministry Movie & Potluck Participants

UUMAN Leadership Workshop



UUMAN Leadership Class of February 2020

This past February 8, 2020 UUMAN held a Leadership Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to help members be more comfortable taking on leadership positions within UUMAN and provide members with a better appreciation of

what it means to be a lay leader at UUMAN. The class was based in part on the UUA "Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership" curriculum.

Eight UUMAN members attended the workshop facilitated by Rev. Dave Dunn and Bob Popp. Jane and Marc Soule provided a healthy and invigorating lunch! The health and well-being of UUMAN depends on our lay leaders so please consider getting involved and making a difference.

- Bob Popp



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50



Life Celebrations

Once each month we share our offering with a non-profit organization. This month the chosen recipient is the **New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta**, which is an interfaith and multicultural immigrant rights organization that advocates for laws that ensure the rights of immigrants.

Michelle Liebergesell
50-50 Coordinator

Screening of True Justice



On February 9 a group from UUMAN attended the free screening of True Justice. True Justice shares Bryan Stevenson's experience with a criminal justice system that, he asserts, "treats you better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent." The burden of facing this system is explored in candid interviews with associates, close family members and clients.

Missing in this photo, but also present at the event, are David Dunn and Carla Kapeskas.

FCRC (Fulton County Remembrance Coalition) and the Mack Brown Roswell Committee hosted this event which was attended by several members of the community, including elected officials.

The discussions that followed were eye opening and again invited us to be more engaged in the social and political discussion affecting our community. For example, did you know that the Criminal Justice budget is under review and the Department of Corrections is facing the biggest budget cut out of any other State Department in the amount of \$54 million? Or that the Department of Juvenile Justice is facing the 4th highest budget cut in the amount of \$19 million?

Mary Robichaux, the representative for District 48, invited everyone to contact her office (or Your Representative) and voice their opinion about these cuts and others. Here is her contact mary.robichaux@house.ga.gov.

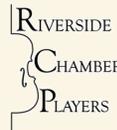
Remember, doing nothing while the things we want to defend are attacked, should not be an option. As MLK said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

- Carla Kapeskas

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to

communications-chair@uuman.org

| Date | Celebration |
|------|--|
| 3/12 | Claire C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |
| 3/20 | Marc Lee is celebrating a birthday |
| 3/26 | Lori Achille is celebrating a birthday |
| | Dirk Bender is celebrating a birthday |
| 3/27 | Lucas B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |
| 3/29 | Danielle B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |
| 3/31 | Janet Lacey is celebrating a birthday |
| | Stephen S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |



Classical Concert at UUMAN

On Sunday, March 8 at 3:00pm right here at UUMAN, come celebrate spring with three touch points of the string quartet repertoire - music of Schubert, Mendelssohn and Webern - played in this intimate and acoustically generous space by Roswell's resident chamber ensemble: Riverside Chamber Players.

As always, the concert will be followed by an outstanding wine and cheese "Meet the Musicians" reception, included with every ticket.

The Riverside Chamber Players is a non-profit group that provides locally based, affordably priced programs designed to be artistic, educational, and interactive.

If you have any questions or would be interested in helping out with the event then please contact Marc Lee at marcwee@bellsouth.net

General Admission - \$20

Seniors (55+) - \$15

Students/Teachers - free

- Marc Lee

UUMAN Upcoming Events



Earth Day 2020

On April 22, 1970 Americans celebrated Earth Day for the first time. Nearly one in 10 American's participated in this first Earth Day to speak out against the massive amounts of pollution being dumped into our air, water, and landscapes. The movement that arose out of this Earth Day was considered a multiracial cause that was dedicated to preserving both urban and natural environments. A movement born out of the recognition that the planet, in it's entirety, is home to all humans. The realization that while tremendously powerful, our planet is also quite delicate and in need of our respect and protection. A new consciousness aware of the delicate balance of life began to emerge and build life affirming ways to live.

This year, on April 19th, Earth Ministry would like to invite you on this 50th anniversary of Earth Day to acknowledge your place in the web of life, and do your part to insure life for those to come. We extend a message of Active Hope to all that breath. As we share the bounty of this beautiful planet and we must share the gifts we have to sustain it. Reclaim your passion and join us for a year of inspiration and action. Here are a few specifics that you have to look forward to:

Climate Central's Show Your Stripes image is a beautiful, yet disturbing, colorful representation of global temperatures over the last century. By visiting their website (<https://www.climatecentral.org/showyourstripes>) the striped image can be customized to represent a specific area of the world. We are asking our youngest activist to use these images as inspiration to create oil on canvas art. Their striped art will be on display leading up to our Earth Day service for all to enjoy.

Speaking of artists, Anette Pate has agreed to help us commemorate this event by creating our very own UUMAN Earth Day 50th Anniversary poster. We hope to be able to replicate these posters and, with any luck, have them available for purchase.

Finally, we would like to create a Story Corp type recording of each of our UUMAN members recounting one of their most treasured Earth Day memories. Allow us to record you answering one of the following questions or a favorite Earth Day memory.

What is the first Earth Day message you recall?

Which Earth Day has been most meaningful for you? Why?

Tell us about your favorite spot in nature. Why is it so meaningful to you?

How does the natural world help you find a deeper connection to life?

Join us on April 19th for a service that will leave you inspired, energized and ready to take action. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our hope, passion and ideas for 2020 and all the years to come.

- Jennifer Phillippi

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 12:00pm-1:00pm | The UUMAN Cancer Support Group meets on the first Sunday of every month , 12:00 – 1:00 pm in Discovery Hall. The group is for cancer survivors and their care-takers. Bring your own lunch. Questions? Contact the facilitator Kim Palmer at kpalmer01@gmail.com |
| 7:00pm-8:30pm | <p>Earth Ministry</p> <p>We deeply embrace the natural world and are stewards of our Earth for now and for the next seven generations. We are respected in our community for environmental action.</p> <p>We invite YOU to join us! We meet the first Monday of every month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall, the small brick house to the right of our UUMAN sanctuary. There is much we can do together! For more information, contact earthministry@uuman.org</p> |
| 7:00-9:30pm | <p>Common Grounds Coffee House</p> <p>Common Grounds Coffee House is held the 3rd Saturday every month in the UUMAN Sanctuary. Music starts at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7:00 PM.</p> <p>\$5.00 suggested donation at the door. We also collect food donations for North Fulton Community Charities.</p> <p>Our Coffee House has live music and refreshments for sale, including sweet treats, fruit with cheese and crackers, sodas, tea and of course fair trade coffee. You are also welcome to bring your own refreshments. Tell a friend! Bring a friend!</p> |
| 12-1 PM | <p>Faith Forward Class</p> <p>The Faith Forward class began on Sunday, Feb 2, and will run for 8 consecutive Sundays from 12-1 PM in the Sanctuary. The curriculum includes principles and history of Unitarian Universalism, as well as programs and organization of our local congregation. It is particularly suited for new members, but can also be beneficial for those who may have had it in the past, both to get to know new members, and because our leadership and programs continue to grow and evolve. If you would like to attend, please email adultenrichment@uuman.org or membership@uuman.org.</p> |

A Month of Sundays

| Date | Topic | Service Leaders |
|------|--|---------------------------------|
| 3/1 | <p>Giving Your Best Gift</p> <p>In the Genesis story of Cain and Able, for reasons unknown to us, God accepts Abel's gift yet rejects Cain's. Was it because of the gifts themselves? Did Cain hold back? Could he have given more from the heart? What might your best gift be?</p> | Rev. Dave Dunn |
| 3/8 | <p>In the Streets as in the Sanctuaries</p> <p>In a 1965 sermon, Rabbi Maurice Davis is quoted as saying, "The time has come to worship with our lives as with our lips, in the streets as in the sanctuaries." How do we embody Unitarian Universalism in our community in an effort to transform the world?</p> | Rev. Dave Dunn Roxana Chicas |
| 3/15 | <p>Who Were the Gnostics?</p> <p>What did Christians believe prior to the "orthodoxy" that resulted from the Council on Nicaea in 325 CE? Who were the Gnostics and what did they believe? Might portions of the Gnostic "myth" explain the world in which we live better than accepted orthodoxy?</p> <p>Multigenerational Service</p> | Rev. Dave Dunn |
| 3/22 | <p>Leaning into your Discomfort</p> <p>Come join us at UUMAN's Youth Group presents their annual Sunday service. We probably don't need to tell you but...come prepared for some surprises.</p> | UUMAN Youth Group |
| 3/29 | <p>The Transgender Experience: Growing Our Understanding</p> | Kim Palmer |

March Connections

| Date | Event |
|---|--|
| <p>Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.</p> | <p>UUMAN's Painting Group</p> <p>Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired). We have easels and tray tables; just bring your paints and a canvas. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate painting@uuman.org</p> |
| <p>Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15. Location of meetings vary.</p> | <p>Daytimers</p> <p>The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David. dan@uuman.org</p> |
| <p>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</p> | <p>Centering at UUMAN</p> <p>Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:00 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly at 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences.</p> <p>For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at campoften@aol.com</p> |
| <p>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</p> | <p>Circle of Women</p> <p>We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com</p> |

For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to www.uuman.org.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date.

Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org