



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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IN THIS ISSUE

SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE.....	1
SHARING THE PLATE.....	2
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE.....	2
NFCC VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION..	2
COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE	3
CAMP CORNER.....	4
LIFE CELEBRATIONS.....	4
SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS.....	5
UUCA EVENT.....	5
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS.....	6
MAY CONNECTIONS.....	6



Social Media Etiquette

In this age of social media, this age of digital communication, although it's easier than ever to have access to the information we want when we want it; although it's easier than ever to send off the information we want when we want to, I would argue that our ability to communicate with one another deeply has not progressed.

Of course, it is convenient for me to text my children at times that are convenient to me. They can then text back at times convenient to them. It's fun to see what they're doing as they post on Facebook, Instagram, etc., (if they have accepted our friend requests – let's face it, sometimes they don't want Mom and Dad seeing everything they're doing).

Yes, personally, I'm glad these communication tools are at our disposal...but these are merely communication "tools" however and are not "communication" itself.

As people aspiring to high ideals and as a covenanted church community, communication involves respect for ourselves and others, a willingness to speak one's truth, as they perceive it, and to listen wholeheartedly to the truth of another, as they perceive it. Communication in a covenanted community also involves personal responsibility—responsibility for one's own words...even if those words are misinterpreted by the other. (It happens!)

I could be wrong, but I've been thinking that discussions on social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, text, email, etc.) that stray from information to ideology (and I think we're smart enough to know the difference) may be inherently out of covenant—again, inherently out of covenant.

On such platforms, it is simply too easy to rant, hit enter and walk away. Such platforms aren't conducive to listening. They are barely conducive to reading as one would rather simply send off the next concluding argument...followed by then another concluding argument, etc.

Although these platforms leave a paper trail, in the moment, one feels a lack of accountability and respect for the other due to the façade of invincibility given by a computer screen.

When communicated through this façade, our words can, and do, hurt people. When communicated through this façade, our words can do lasting damage to the other—and to our community.

I came across the following on the Black Lives UU website:

Communicating Face-to-face or Voice-to-voice

It sometimes happens that people use the distance that technology provides to work through difficult situations, both because it is understandably harder to navigate conflict in-person and because we have gotten used to communicating online or over text. We agree to make every effort to communicate difficulty face-to-face or voice-to-voice, ways that enable our deepest humanity to be recognized and understood in the moment that difficulty arises.

This is healthy! This is something that is needed to help stay in covenant with one another!

Hopefully, when you find yourself in an online situation where the conversation is drifting from information to ideology....**PLEASE STOP!** Have the courage to pick up the phone and speak with one another directly, or better yet, meet face to face—even better yet, agree to share a meal together. The person sitting across from you might surprise you. (Tip: If you can agree to fast prior to the meal, assuaging your hunger together will put you both in a good mood right away! 😊)

Take care,

Dave



UUMAN Sharing the Plate--50/50

Once each month, half of our undesignated plate offering is given to a non-profit organization. The other half goes for the work of our congregation. Please consider giving even more generously than usual on these Sundays.

In May, we will have a representative from the Foster Care Support Foundation to answer your questions before and after service. FCSF serves a vital and growing need throughout Georgia by providing free clothing, infant equipment and developmental toys to thousands of children in foster and relative care. In addition to money, your donation of time and goods is appreciated. <http://www.fostercare.org/>

—Michelle Liebergesell



May Children's Clothing Drive

Do you have gently used clothing that your children have outgrown? You could donate them to the Foster Care Support Foundation for the month of May. Beginning the first Sunday in May, we will be collecting clothing at UUMAN to be given to the non-profit. They especially need boy's swimsuits and clothing sizes (14-16). For further information, contact Michelle Liebergesell.

Go to <http://www.fostercare.org/> to find out about the organization based here in Roswell.

I will leave a hamper in the corner in the foyer for clothing donations.

—Michelle Liebergesell

NFCC Volunteer Celebration

Rosie, Steve, Carole and I went to the NFCC Volunteer Celebration today representing UUMAN and our continued participation and partnership. There are many opportunities for UUMAN members and friends to get involved and make a difference in our community. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help out talk to any of us or to Rev. Dave.



- Bob Popp

BINGO Social Bingo Game

Have a meal from the Food Truck (or bring your own), and then join in the social bingo game. What is social bingo? It's a game using bingo cards, but instead of numbers, the cards contain snippets of personal facts, such as "has eaten an insect" or "has 3 pets". Your mission is to find a person who matches the facts until you complete a bingo row or column. This is a great way to get to know your fellow UUMANites!

Make your own ice cream sundaes for dessert. All are welcome.

If you have any questions about the event, please email Robbie Kohn, or membership@uuman.org

Common Grounds Coffee House: May Performances

Our May 19th Coffee House will have some of our UUMAN members performing! Steve Allerton will start off the show followed by Vocal Ease, directed by our former Music Director Huu Mai. Vocal Ease includes UUMANites Merri Beth Stephens, Randy Blasch, Mark Sexton and Doug Wilson as well as some very talented performers from outside our congregation.



Steve Allerton

Steve Allerton is a graduate of Washington D.C.'s Catholic University School of Music, where he studied classic guitar and sang with the University Chorus. He has contributed numerous musical offerings in services and events at UUMAN for over 6 years. Bringing an eclectic musical palette he always enjoys sharing (ranging from Victor Young and Hoagy Carmichael to John Hartford, Bob Dylan and The Beatles), Steve has made several prior Coffee House appearances, including the inaugural show in the summer of 2012.



Vocal Ease

We don't just sing together; we enjoy being with each other. And that comes across in our tight vocal harmonies and blend. Expertly directed by Huu Mai, we bring you our debut performance at the Common Grounds Coffee House on May 19th, where we will celebrate the traveling spirit in America. You'll be singing along with road trip favorites like "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "California Dreamin." And no traveling set would be complete without "Route 66." Come enjoy and sing along with these and many other favorites while you connect with friends in an intimate setting. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Janet Lacey

Camp Corner



Life Celebrations

So far, UUMAN has booked two summer camp rentals! Hooray! Here's a little bit of information about each:



If you can Imagine it... You can Create it!

This is our 2nd summer offering of the Imagine If... Camp at UUMAN from **June 25-29, 2018, 9am-1pm.**

Snacks will be provided. Imagine If ... is widely known for its social/emotional curriculum using science-based research on higher-level goal-setting, mindfulness and developing core values. Each day we will have fun, engaging discovery based learning activities for all ages! Come join us!

www.imagineifprogram.org



Club SciKidz

In early January, Club SciKidz, a STEM camp, hosted holiday camp at UUMAN. They had 15 kids, some of them UUMAN's own (Raffaella and Joel Shanahan, Dillon Callen), build-

ing robots, doing science experiments, and just having a lot of fun! Given that we had only solidified this partnership in late November/early December, we thought 15 was a pretty good turnout, since there was limited time to advertise. This summer, UUMAN will be hosting Club SciKidz for the **last 3 weeks of July**. Camp runs from **9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**, but they also have **pre-and post-camp drop off/pick up options**. They will offer 20 different programs for kids ranging from Pre-K to 9th grade. I've already signed Raffaella and Joel up for the Gastro Mobile Lab (food truck) camp, where they will learn how to run a food truck business, including the chemistry behind recipes, sanitation/public health, and customer service. Families can order from the food truck on the last day of camp! The more kids register for camp, the more UUMAN benefits. Please register via the link below, and don't forget to share with your neighbors and via your social networks!

<http://www.clubscikidz.com/camp-locations/#location-130>

~Elizabeth Rohan

UUMAN Vice President

P.S. If any UUMAN parents enrolled children in Imagine If... camp last year, please let me know, and I'll include that testimonial in next month's Camp Corner.

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 newsletter@uuman.org

Date	Celebration
5/2	5/2 Jake H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/5	5/5 Ann Creech is celebrating a birthday
5/7	5/7 Anna and Kit Hamblen are celebrating their 13 th wedding anniversary!
	Levi S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/15	5/15 Thomas Seaver is celebrating his 20 th birthday
	Paula Watson is celebrating a birthday
	Liam W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/20	5/20 Isabella Dunn is celebrating a birthday
	Addy G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/25	5/25 Marjorie Pomper is celebrating a birthday
5/26	5/26 Elizabeth Rohan and Stephen Shanahan are celebrating their 16 th wedding anniversary!
5/27	5/27 Rick Irwin and Paula Watson are celebrating their 39 th wedding anniversary!
	Melane Sibley is celebrating a birthday
5/28	5/28 Escher V. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

Some of My Best Friends



"I do not see you as you really are... I see you through my affection for you."

-Willa Cather

Death Comes for the Archbishop

It's not easy being a liberal in the South. In certain situations, like at work, you have to mind what you say, how much of yourself you reveal. A dangerous time is in the break room, when it's crowded and a certain orange president is on CNN. It tests the limits of your poker face. Don't let the disgust or bewilderment show. You can bet how the majority of those upper managers voted.

Even if we could remain in our like-minded bubbles, is that really where we want to live? Does our love of diversity not extend to politics? If so, we're shutting out the majority of our neighbors. That doesn't seem to mesh with our principles. As UUs, we take it on faith that we should be respectful of other religions. But we have a hard time extending the same spirit of open-minded inclusiveness to those who think differently regarding politics.

Question: How do we handle Conservative friends and family members?

I have an old friend who is my opposite politically. When we talk, we don't always shy away from politics. Sometimes, we make each other mad. But we've learned how to ratchet the tension down. How to keep the discord compartmentalized. After the inevitable disagreement, which inevitably solves nothing, we seek common ground. How are the kids? Let's go fishing. We walk that line between being honest about our ideals and being considerate of the other's perspective. It's difficult—a constant struggle. I think they call it love.

Many of my family members are Conservatives. I can't turn my back on them or shut them out, just because of that. With my brother, I've learned to not talk politics or religion at all. We just don't go there, by mutual, implicit agreement. We focus on things we both love—childhood memories, the Georgia Bulldogs, grilling outdoors. Somehow, we've intuited that that's the only way to preserve the peace. Perhaps most importantly, we know that our mom (another shared love) would have wanted it that way.

I realize that there are family members who wouldn't accept the truce, who would push the issue beyond the kind of uneasy armistice I've described. There's no simple answer for those situations. But I try to think twice before posting that political meme on Facebook. Before hitting Send on that impassioned email that is bound to widen the gulf, not bridge it. I'm not about to change the minds of certain friends and family, any more than they are going to change my mind. So I hold my tongue. Some would call such reticence cowardice. Maybe there can be a fine line between cowardice and kindness. "Be nice," my mom would admonish my brother and me, as she sent us off to school. Sometimes, nice is not the right play—sometimes you have to make a stand. But one could do worse than to err on the side of kindness. I choose those battles carefully, especially with the ones I love.

—by Mike Chambers

READINGS * MUSIC * DANCE

Celebrating Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes – Saturday, May 19

The UUCA Whitney Young Society and The UUCA Performing Arts Coordinating Team present an evening of readings, music and dance honoring two African American literary legends – Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes. Both writers were standouts during the time of the Harlem Renaissance – an artistic and intellectual movement in the 1920's that changed our world. Don't miss this unique performance in the Underground Theatre. Doors Open 6:30 pm; program starts at 7.

Admission donation is \$5, but no one will be turned away. Tickets are available at the door or online at uuca.org >member services > online payment system.

The Underground Theatre of the The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta 30329. Alternate address for the adjacent parking lot: 1597 Interstate 85 Access Road-N, Atlanta 30329.

Footnote: Whitney Young was a civil rights activist and leader in the National Urban League. In 1954, he joined Atlanta's United Liberal Church, as UUCA was known at the time, making it the first integrated church in Atlanta. He later became a member of the congregation's board of directors.

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
5/6	<p>Words That Heal</p> <p>Have you regretted not saying what could have been said? Have you regretted not giving someone what you could have given? All of us likely have such regrets. Let us explore intentionality in expressing what is needed for ourselves and others.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
5/13	To be announced	
5/20	<p>Come celebrate with us at our annual rites of passage service! We will be recognizing our Coming of Age Youth, our Bridging Youth as well as our newborns (and relatively newborns) in a Naming Ceremony.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn Toniann Read
5/27	<p>A Life Lesson from the Workshop - How do we handle mistakes?</p> <p>In the workshop, as in life, mistakes are inevitable. This homily will offer some parallels concerning the reasons we make mistakes, how we can correct or mitigate these mistakes, and ways in which we may avoid the same mistakes in the future.</p>	Arnie Moore

May 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</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. 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 Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge l etheridge1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Saturdays , 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available .</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation</p> <p>Whether you have been meditating for years or are curious about possibly starting a practice, we offer a peaceful space to sit as well as a time to share and learn in a community of fellow meditators. Contact J. Kevin King at jkevinking@yahoo.com (470) 723-4070</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 proceeding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org