



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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Fox News and Lobbyists

My son says he likes to watch Fox News. He pays little mind to MSNBC. Should I recoil in horror when a UU-raised-son-of-a-minister voices such inclinations that, to most Unitarian Universalists, border on heresy? No, actually, I've been watching a little more Fox News myself.

And oh, by the way, I've recently been spending some time with a lobbyist. Yep...and I've been enjoying it. "Really?" you say, "First, Fox News and now lobbyists? What's next? A vacation at Mar-A-Lago?"Possibly, what are their vegetarian offerings?

"You know, they're just talking to themselves," my son says, "on both stations - Fox News and MSNBC - over 90% of what is said is internal dialogue."

"Go on," I say, hoping to learn more.

"Both stations merely trot out their own 'facts' and talking heads to support their own ideologies; but at least when I watch Fox News, I'm learning about the opposition, I'm learning about the weaknesses of their arguments and positions. We need to be better educated about where they're coming from or we'll never be effective at resisting them."

Hmmm....

The lobbyist tells me, "Don't think for a moment that you're going to walk into a contrary state representative's office and change their mind by appealing to their sense of 'justice' or by imploring them to 'do the right thing' or that it's not 'fair'. That's not going to work. Most politicians, in the way they see the world, however contrary, think what they're doing is 'just,' 'right,' and 'fair.' "

The lobbyist continues, "No, it goes without saying that their position is contrary to your ideals and principles. What you need to do is show the politician how their position is contrary to their own ideals and principles."

So I need to watch more Fox News and read more from conservative columnists to better understand my opposition.

I came across an article by a self-described "conservative" columnist Bret Stephens of the New York Times entitled "Only Mass Deportation Can Save America." (Who he thinks needs to be mass-deported will surprise you.) The article references some statistics from a variety of sources, including the libertarian/conservative Cato Institute founded by the Koch Brothers.

1. A study by the Cato Institute notes that nonimmigrants are incarcerated at nearly twice the rate of illegal immigrants, and more than three times the rate of legal ones.
2. Nonimmigrants start businesses at half the rate of immigrants and accounted for fewer than half the companies started in Silicon Valley between 1995 and 2005. Overall, the share of nonimmigrant entrepreneurs fell by more than 10% points between 1995 and 2008 according to a Harvard Business Review study.
3. Just 17% of the finalists of the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search - often called the "Junior Nobel Prize" - were the children of US-born parents. At the Rochester Institute of Technology, just 9.5 percent of graduate students in electrical engineering were nonimmigrants.

(If it's a good thing to read a particular columnist to understand the opposition, it's even better when their own data supports your position.)

Although these statistics reference immigration, we have many issues to address in addition to immigration (e.g. income inequality, white supremacy, climate change, women's rights, gun control, etc.). It's time we do the work necessary to better understand those who oppose us.

Here's the link to the article which has the above data and links to where the data is sourced:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/16/opinion/only-mass-deportation-can-save-america.html>

Take care,

Dave

April Volunteer Recognition: Kate and Dave Hudson



Dave and Kate Hudson joined UUMAN in 2001. They have volunteered in many roles during their time here at UUMAN. When you see Dave and Kate, please thank them for their service here at UUMAN.

Shortly after joining, Dave took a class with UUMAN Minister Greg Ward, Writing your Spiritual Autobiography for fun and Prophet. That class was transformative for Dave. He began to look at his life through a spiritual perspective.

He went on to chair the Worship Committee and at that time, being the Committee Chair meant being on the Board. His other volunteer roles have included being on the Sabbatical Committee, the Transition Team, Committee on Ministry (multiple times), Stewardship (multiple times), Worship Associate, President of the Board, giving a multitude of wonderful sermons, singing in the choir, and he also served on the Board at The Mountain. He most recently served as Chair of Adult Enrichment. Through his service to UUMAN he gained profound learning, a growing self-awareness and amazing personal growth. Dave's gifts include being an eternal optimist and a gift of painting a picture with his eloquent words. He was motivated to be Chair of Adult Enrichment because he wanted to open doors and windows for others as they had been opened for him.

Kate started getting more involved at UUMAN once her youngest child went off to college in 2004. Her passion was Social Justice and Eco Justice. She started the Sustainability Committee and spearheaded the five year process of completing twelve projects to become a Green Sanctuary congregation that was accomplished in 2013. The Eco Soap group is still active making soap for North Fulton Community Charities. She has served as Social Justice Chair and was Secretary on the Board. She has been in multiple small group ministries including Spiritual Explorations, Centering Prayer Meditation and the Wednesday night painting class. She started the Circle of Women group with Linda Etheridge that was created as a circle of trust group which continues on. Kate accomplished much as Chair of the Program Council including the Leadership Task Force that led to the Leadership Development Committee and also the Maturity Roadmap. She also served on the Mid-South District Board. Kate states when she came to UUMAN she was in her head and small group ministries have helped her to uncover her heart. She understands herself better. Kate has a gift for identifying her passion, moving to action and seeing it through to the end. Kate says she has received more than she has given at UUMAN. - by Janet Lacey

Sweep the Hooch



April 7 (9 am-1:00 pm)

Come have fun outside while doing good! An annual event to clean our precious waterway AND you get a T-shirt for participating. UUMAN has a team! You can paddle, walk or wade. Youth can participate (ages 10+, adult supervised).

See more information and register at chattahoochee.org and don't wait, spots are limited. Type "UUMAN" as your team. UUMAN Paddlers, register for Garrard Landing. Waders and walkers register for 1. Jones Bridge and 2. Huntcliff Subdivision (in priority order if they fill up).

For more information or if you need carpooling, contact Donna Melcher, Earth Ministry Team.

Blessings for the Earth and All Her Creatures,

Donna Melcher

770-823-4235

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, IN THE UUCA SOCIAL HALL

DONALD MILTON III and FRIENDS



A little bit of Broadway, a little bit of soul, a little bit of rock 'n roll, and a whole lot of fun. That's the musical evening in store with Donald Milton III, Director of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, and his eclectic group of talented UUCA friends.

Don knows how to put on a show. He is an active choral director and guest conductor who also performs as a choral singer, folk singer, and in a 90s cover band Tamagochi. He presently serves as Interim Artistic Director of the nationally-recognized Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Don and Friends will take the spotlight doing solos, duets, and group numbers of songs old and new.

Come join the fun. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Music starts at 7:30. Suggested admission donation is \$10, but no one will be turned away.

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



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.

Last month's recipient chosen by our Youth was To Write Love On Their Arms. The organization is dedicated to presenting hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury, and suicide. TWLOHA exists to encourage, inform, inspire, and invest directly into treatment and recovery. To learn more, go to <https://twloha.com/>

This month's 50-50 will be on Earth Day, April 22nd and will benefit the Georgia Conservancy. It is a statewide, member-supported conservation organization. Their work for land conservation, environmental advocacy, coastal protection, sustainable growth and outdoor stewardship recognizes the connection between the environment, the economy and our quality of life. A list of their events and Stewardship of the Earth trips can be found online at <https://www.georgiaconservancy.org/>

In April, 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/>

Annual Partner Church Dinner

There will be a dinner at UUMAN on Saturday, April 28 at 6pm to celebrate the relationship with our Partner Church in India. Last year's dinner was a great success. The funds that we raised in the past were primarily used to cover education expenses and to build the bell tower shown below. We hope to use this year's funds to purchase the phone service necessary to access the internet. This will greatly improve our ability to communicate with our partners.

Rev. Dave and Mike & Michelle Liebergesell went to the ICUU conference in Nepal and then had a visit with our PC in February. Nangroi and Bari hosted them during their visit. They have some great pictures to share with us.



If you would like to contribute a dish or help with the dinner's logistics please call Michelle at 770-778-7217 so that she can coordinate everything. However, everyone is welcome to come to the dinner. You don't have to be a worker bee.

- Rick Irwin

Common Grounds Coffee House: April Performances

The next Common Grounds Coffee House will be on Saturday April 21. The Sanctuary will once again be turned into a Live Music Listening Room with local musicians, including our own Stanley Parker playing drums with his group Fisheye. Suggested admission is \$5, there will be treats available in the kitchen provided by our wonderful volunteers, Mike Chambers and Donna Guile. You are also welcome to bring your own food and byob. You might want to bring some cash to tip our wonderful performers as well. It's a great time! It's a wonderful event to bring friends, family and neighbors to get together with our wonderful community.

Bill Kahler



Bill Kahler has been playing music and writing songs for most of his life on guitar and piano. He has released 6 singer/songwriter CDs in a folk Americana style, lots of acoustic guitar, earthy vocals and very thoughtful lyrics. His latest CD, "Hang on Tight" was released in 2017. Bill will be playing and singing original songs about life, love, loss and some humorous songs as well, telling stories relating to the songs. Joining Bill will be Tonee Valentine on percussion.

Fisheye

Jason Roberts - mandolin, guitar and backing vocals

Brian Mobley - vocals, bass and guitar

Andy Robinson - guitar, bass and backing vocals

Stanley Parker - drums and percussions

Fisheye is greater than the sum of its parts. Brian has a good voice. Jason is talented on both guitar and mandolin. Andy has an ear for harmony. And Stanley keeps a good beat. Stir in the work of three prolific songwriters in Brian, Andy and Jason. Add some practice, luck, and special sauce and there you have the basis of Fisheye.



Jason hails from Nottingham, UK where he was part of a pop-rock band called The Essentials. After moving to Atlanta, GA he hooked up with Brian to form a folk-rock group called The Diamond Geezers. Following several dormant years, Jason and Brian hooked up with Andy and Fisheye was born. Shortly before the band's first birthday, Doug Ward completed the four-piece on drums, then four years and three CD's later the drum sticks were handed over to Stanley.

- Janet Lacey

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America Comes to UUMAN on April 22nd!

On March 24, members & friends of our congregation joined with hundreds of thousands of others across the country to demand a better, safer future for our children and families at March for Our Lives. We marched to proclaim that we will not stand for another shooting like Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Sandy Hook, Columbine, Las Vegas, Virginia Tech, and some many others. It was an incredibly powerful, moving day. We cried listening to the poetry of local school children. Our shouts echoed back and forth between Atlanta's skyscrapers, "NOT ONE MORE! VOTE THEM OUT!"

Yes, momentum on this is growing. Yes, the wave of change is coming. BUT OUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN. Let's make the March the first action, not the last, that we take to support gun reform legislation.



At 12:00 pm on April 22, Andrea Teichner, the Georgia Chapter Leader for Moms Demand Action, will speak in the UUMAN sanctuary on how we can be involved in reducing gun violence. You do not have to be a mother- there are many fathers, brothers, grandparents, teachers, etc. involved in the work of this organization. Moms Demand Action is a leader in promoting gun safety and the anti-gun violence agenda



through legislation, advocacy, education, endorsement of political candidates, and working with law enforcement agencies. 96 people a day are killed by guns. This doesn't have to be our reality.

Be a part of the change. See you April 22!

Camp Corner



Life Celebrations

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

2nd Annual Summer Camp



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
4/5	Chris Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Jason Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Bob Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/7	Violet F. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/9	Marianne Walker, Ilona's mother, is celebrating her birthday
	Tristan G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/10	Anna Popp is celebrating a birthday
4/13	Liz and Diego Garcia are celebrating their 14th wedding anniversary!
	Shanti G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/16	Suzanne and Marlon Banerian are celebrating their 52st wedding anniversary!
	Dan Ben-David is celebrating a birthday
4/17	Pat Carter is celebrating a birthday
4/18	Marlon Banerian is celebrating a birthday
4/20	Joel S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/21	Ida G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/25	Dan Ben-David and Carole Herman are celebrating their 3rd anniversary! They were married here at UUMAN.
4/27	John Algren is celebrating a birthday
	Dirk and Anne Bender adopted Danielle 16 years ago!
4/28	Lucas T. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

Powerhouse Strong Training at UUMAN

On March 24, UUMAN hosted Powerhouse Personal Safety training from 8:00-11:00 a.m. We had 39 UUMANites (staff and congregants) in attendance!

Jennifer Riis-Poulsen, Founder and Chief Empowerment Officer of Powerhouse, began the morning with an engaging discussion our distractions (technology, preoccupation with thoughts, etc.) that can keep us from being observant and wholly present in our daily lives. We then discussed red flags for recognizing when a person is exhibiting manipulative behaviors, including being overly charming, discounting when you say no, or placing you in a position of debt. We talked about the normalcy bias that automatically kicks in to talk ourselves out of believing someone may be a threat after we've noticed that something isn't quite right.

It's impossible to describe all we experienced in 3 hours, but other highlights included practicing run-hide-fight scenarios for an active shooter situation and practicing effective verbal and physical techniques for disabling an attacker. The overwhelming response to the training was that it was excellent, empowering, and energizing!!



We are pleased to announce that Jennifer will be teaching summer Powerhouse courses at UUMAN. Registration is \$150 for a 10-hour course (2 hours for 5 consecutive days). A percentage of the registration fees will go back to UUMAN as rental income.

Course Description: The purpose of the Be Powerhouse Strong Course is to create a total state of relaxed awareness. This means being completely aware of one's surroundings, engaging all senses, while being prepared to act. Much like the Chess Master, you will learn to be one step ahead. This is achieved by developing your natural human skills for survival, like Predicting and Recognizing potentially harmful situations, Observing and Interpreting behavior and Listening to and Understanding your Intuition. The Powerhouse Program will increase your Confidence, Courage and Ambition to live life to its full potential, without unnecessary fear. It will also increase your Emotional and Social Intelligence.

Here are the links to register for the Powerhouse Summer Course on Eventbrite.

Monday, June 4th - Friday, June 8th

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/be-powerhouse-strong-personal-safety-empowerment-course-tickets-44415626334>

Monday, June 18th - Friday, June 22nd

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/be-powerhouse-strong-personal-safety-empowerment-course-tickets-44415860033>

— Elizabeth Rohan, UUMAN Vice President

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
4/1	Easter: A Story of Asterisks Christian congregations around the world will celebrate Easter by greeting one another with, "Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!" But what does the story of Easter mean to Unitarian Universalists? Let us come together to look past the asterisks and learn to appreciate the holiday in a way authentic to us.	Rev. Charlotte Arsenault
4/8	Centering Centering at UUMAN is an experiential medley - part meditation circle and part small group ministry. It's members will present a taste of their meetings as well as a sense of how they impact each other's lives.	Carolyn Bommarito
4/15	Hembree Park Faith-In-Action Flower Communion Our annual Hembree Park service will be a Multigenerational Faith-In-Action Flower Communion. Please bring a flower to share. We will also be potting some plants to be shared with a local assisted living facility.	UUMAN Multigen Team
4/22	Finding El Dorado in the Garden - Earth Day Service Wendell Berry in <i>The Unsettling of America</i> speaks of our environmental crisis as a crisis of character, community and culture. Are we moving from an air conditioned nightmare to a nightmare without the amenity? How did we get here and where do we go from here?	Earth Ministry
4/29	The Stranger and I Sola fide is Latin for "faith alone" – justification or salvation by faith alone. This Protestant doctrine is held by many Christians. But what about those who are not Christian or theists? Faith in what? Among many answers might "the stranger" be the answer that provides the most meaning?	Rev. Dave Dunn

April Connections

Date	Event
Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.	UUMAN's Painting Group 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
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers 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
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN 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
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women 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 l1etheridge1@gmail.com
Saturdays , 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available .	Mindfulness Meditation 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

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