



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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UUA General Assembly

UUMAN is one of over a thousand congregations that make up the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Each year the association gathers representatives from its congregations in a General Assembly. General Assembly is when the association does its most significant business. It is also a time to worship together, to engage in social witness, and to learn how we do what we do at church better. Eleven members of our congregation participated in General Assembly, which was held in New Orleans this year. Randy Blasch (serving remotely), Brian Kohn, Leigh Ann Luscan, and Sheila Smith served as member delegates and our minister, the Rev. Dave Dunn, served as a ministerial delegate.

General Assembly began with a grand celebration on Wednesday night, June 21. Donna Melcher and Paula Watson proudly participated in the parade of congregations, carrying the congregational banner crafted years ago by Bev Jordan. Rick Irwin carried the banner of the Partner Church Council accompanied by Rev. Darihun Khriam from our Khasi Hills partner church. During this opening celebration, we were reminded of our role in helping to heal our broken world. “We are living the truth that resistance is what love looks like in the face of hate.”

The most notable news from General Assembly is the election of a new UUA President, the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray. Rev. Frederick-Gray becomes the first woman elected to the UUA presidency, succeeding the interim co-presidents, the Rev. Sofía Betancourt, the Rev. William G.



Sinkford, and Leon Spencer, who were appointed to complete the term of former UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales in light of concerns about how effectively the association had been pursuing its commitments regarding racial injustice. In statements after her election, President Rev. Frederick-Gray has affirmed her support for the changes initiated by her predecessors and their goals to have 30% of all UUA staff and 40% of UUA management being people of color and indigenous persons.

Our former minister, the Rev. Cynthia Prescott, was recognized for her lifetime of service to our faith during the Service of the Living Tradition on Thursday evening. During that service, the Rev. Cheryl Walker, in one of the most memorable sermons of the week, challenged us to consider how we conduct our justice work: “In our rush to change things, we sometimes need to stop and hold back and ask, are we trying to make a change? Or are we going to try to make an impact? To make an impact, we have to meet people where they are now—and to do that, we must speak in ways that can be heard. How one speaks often determines if one will be heard. Are you speaking at people for the sake of speaking what you believe is the truth? Or are you speaking with people to share the truth you believe? Do you want to speak or do you want to be heard?”

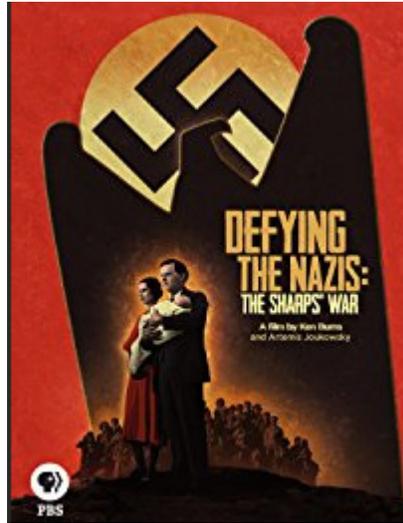


General Assembly was electrified on Saturday evening by the Ware Lecture presented by Bryan Stevenson - lawyer, social justice activist, and founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. Mr. Stevenson implored the assembly to (1) “Get Proximate” - get closer to those who suffer the injustices we oppose; (2) “Change the Narrative” - confront the way injustice is sustained through rationalizations and other rhetorical measures to obscure the moral failings of the status quo; (3) “Stay Hopeful” - because “hopelessness is the enemy of justice”; and (4) “Do Uncomfortable Things” - persist in resistance even when doing so is uncomfortable.

All the General Sessions and worship services held in the Great Hall are available for viewing on the UUA’s YouTube feed (www.youtube.com/user/UUAElectronicComm). In addition, UU World (www.uuworld.org) has begun present articles summarizing the business conducted at General Assembly. Finally, on Sunday, July 16, UUMAN members who participated in General Assembly will present a worship service grounded in our General Assembly experiences and impressions. We hope you’ll join us.

- Brian Kohn

Film Screening—Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War



Defying the Nazis – the Sharp's War” Screening and Discussion

Sunday, July 16, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Following the service on Sunday, July 16, the Denominational Affairs Committee will present the Ken Burns documentary, “Defying the Nazis – The Sharp’s War.” The film tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and spouse, who in 1939 at the request of Unitarian leadership left their children and traveled to Europe where they worked to rescue dissidents, Jews, and other refugees during World War II. In one daring effort, Martha brought 27 children out of occupied France. Over a period of two years the husband and wife aided in the rescue of hundreds of people from Nazi-occupied Europe.

In this time of worldwide turmoil, when people are fleeing for their lives, UU’s can honor the Sharp’s legacy by standing against hatred, fear and discrimination and taking action for freedom, justice and solidarity.

An Evite will be emailed to the congregation shortly. In responding to the Evite you may reserve lunch which will be served in the Sanctuary before the film begins. You may also make your reservation by sending an email to Linda Etheridge at lletheridge1@gmail.com indicating the number of people who wish to have lunch. Following the film there will be a time for discussion.

Please invite your friends and family to join us for this inspirational film.

-Linda Etheridge

FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

We have two regularly-scheduled work days in July; the first on Monday, July 10 and the second on Monday, July 24 (weather permitting). We try to work on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from March through November. UUMAN announcements are sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please consider joining us this year. We usually work from 9:00 a.m. to around 11:00 a.m. You're welcome to join us for an hour or two or a day or two throughout the gardening year. Hope to see you there!

Claire Sullivan

UUMAN Gardening Group
 cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



Peace Pole with Begonias



A field of Daylilies



Frilly Daylily



Hydrangea surrounded by Daylilies



Hydrangea



Lantana—happy this year, didn't bloom last year



Life Celebrations

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 Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
7/1	Samantha H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/3	Brian and Robbie Kohn are celebrating their 25th anniversary!
	Elizabeth Rohan is celebrating a birthday
7/7	Zoe Read is celebrating a birthday
	Ilona Walker and Randy Jue are celebrating their 21st anniversary!
7/8	Marjorie Pomper and Ken Fry are celebrating their 27th anniversary!
7/10	Lawton Etheridge is celebrating a birthday
	Ellie S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Megan Slater is celebrating a birthday
7/12	Dillon C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/13	Jonathan D. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/20	Marcia Hagood is celebrating a birthday
	Anna Hamblen is celebrating a birthday
	Evelyn S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/30	Benny Ben-David is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
7/2	<p>What Was I Thinking</p> <p>History is the great truth teller, yet we've allowed history of our democracy and the role liberal religion has played in it be wrested away by those who want to claim it for themselves. How did we take our eyes off the prize? What were we thinking???</p>	<p>Randy Blasch, Guest Speaker</p> <p>Bruce Langston and Dharma Hufnagel, Worship Associates</p>
7/9	<p>Beloved Community</p> <p>We are blessed with an interesting and supportive community here at UUMAN. The challenge we face is bringing our principles into other communities of which we are a part. If we allow ourselves to become insular, we lose any chance of becoming diverse in our thinking as well as our demographics. We also fail to share UU principles with the world around us; more important now than ever.</p>	<p>Shelley Nagrani, Guest Speaker</p> <p>Darya Aberback, Worship Associate</p>
7/16	<p>Answering the Call of Love</p> <p>Please join us as we consider the future of our faith in light of concerns about how well its management reflects its membership, the recent gathering of representatives from its congregations, the election of a new spiritual leader, and a renewed commitment to becoming a truly multicultural, multiracial and multi-faith community.</p> <p>Film viewing and discussion following the service.</p>	<p>Brian Kohn, Worship Associate</p> <p>Randy Blasch, Leigh Ann Luscan, Donna Melcher, Sheila Smith, Paula Watson</p>
7/23	<p>Our Brothers and Sisters in the Khasi Hills</p> <p>Did you meet our Khasi partner church leader, Barri Mukhim, who visited last year, or Rev. Darihun Khriam, who visited last month? Please join us in celebrating the growing relationship of UUMAN with our partner church in Northeast India. We will explore the historical roots of the Unitarian church in the Khasi Hills and learn some of the differences between our churches and our cultures.</p>	<p>Rick Irwin, Guest Speaker</p> <p>Paula Watson, Worship Associate</p>
7/30	<p>Reaching Out, Reaching In, Doing Better</p> <p>Our new UUA president, Susan Frederick-Gray, says that "our public justice work is an outward manifestation of our community's spiritual growth." When we reach out for help ourselves or in order to help others, we often find ourselves reaching in for spiritual resources to meet the challenges. This service will include insights into public justice work with those incarcerated, including UUs. Come hear the voice of UU Chris Benson, incarcerated in Florida who has written Paula for five years.</p>	<p>Paula Watson, Guest Speaker</p> <p>Jim Nickens and Dharma Hufnagel, Worship Associates</p>

July Connections

Date	Event
<p>Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>UUMAN's Painting Group</p> <p>Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired) on Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN.</p> <p>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 at dan@uuman.org</p>
<p>Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>The Common Grounds Coffee House</p> <p>Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen!</p> <p>Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.</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 9:10 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.</p> <p>Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge l etheridge1@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 proceeding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org