

## July 2020

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## Facing the Challenges Ahead

It was about 30 years ago that Rosie and I walked into Barnwell Elementary School with about six other families and a new minister and

started what has now become UUMAN. At the time we had no children but knew that it would not be long before they would be with us and we needed a liberal religious faith community to ground us and help us grow as humans. The years have gone by very quickly but UUMAN has been there for us, even when we had a falling out with the founding minister. We have put our hearts and energies into UUMAN and have gotten far more than we have given.

We are now living in very turbulent and stressful times. We as a nation and world are facing at least three pandemics at the same time: Covid-19, racism, and global warming. It goes without saying that our work at UUMAN is far from being done. Now is not the time to sit on the sidelines or lose hope. Now is the time to act and be hopeful, to make our Congregation, Community and World stronger and healthier.

Thanks to the strong leadership of many individuals at UUMAN, especially Elizabeth Rohan, we now have a new Mission and Vision! It is now up to you, our Congregation and Ministry Teams to deliver on the Mission and Vision. To assist in this regard the Board, under the leadership of our new Special Projects Trustee, Donna Melcher will begin a joint planning process this fall with the Congregation to determine our Strategic and Long-Range Plans! How will we fulfill our Mission and reach out for our

Vision? Only you can answer this question so when the planning begins please step forward, get involved and make your voice heard.

The past year was incredibly challenging for UUMAN, but we successfully met those challenges head on with the leadership and determination of many people at UUMAN. I want to thank the outgoing Board members, Elizabeth Rohan, Leslie Wolfe, Jim Nickens and Colin Decker for their service and commitment to UUMAN. Their time and talent were truly a large gift to UUMAN!

The new Board will be meeting on Saturday, August 1 for the Annual Board Retreat to bring new members up to speed and start planning goals for this year. I feel extremely fortunate to be taking on the Board President role with such a strong Board and following in the footsteps of Todd Callen. I could not be happier that Jennifer Ratcliffe agreed to be our Vice-President, Donna Melcher our Special Projects Trustee, Tanya Romine our Treasurer and Elizabeth Norris our Secretary. All have a wealth of experience and bring to the Board a lot of passion and commitment.

We can be successful in facing the challenges ahead if we stay focused and committed to our Mission and Vision. Let's get busy!

- Bob Popp

## Black Lives Matter March

On March 12th several hundred people, including several members of UUMAN and Rev. Dave Dunn, participated on the March of Solidarity on Roswell.

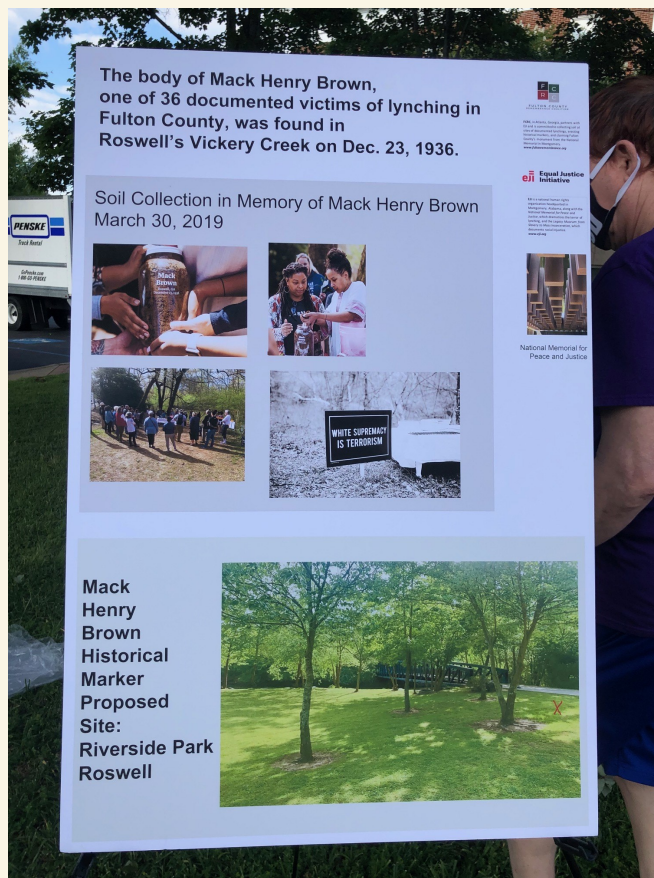
It was a heart warming event organized by Eagles Nest Church, a historic black church, located in Roswell.

by Carla Kapeskas



## Historic Marker for Mack Brown

As some of you might recall, Fulton County Remembrance Coalition is working to honor the life of 37 men lynched in Fulton County as a result of racial terror. (Remember our trip to the National Museum for Peace and Justice?)



The location that marks the life of those men is where Mack's body was found, according to EJI (Equal Justice Initiative), in Roswell's Vickery Creek.

The Roswell chapter of FCRC has been working with the community and locals officials to find a location for the Historic Marker.

We have presently incredible support from Roswell city officials and it looks like Riverside Park has been chosen for the location of the marker.

The ceremony should be taken place in February during the Roswell Roots Festival. More details to follow.

by Carla Kapeskas



## Life Celebrations

General Assembly is in full swing (online!) and Rev. Ashley Horan and I just made our pitch to GA attendees to support UU the Vote.

Already folks have generously pledged more than \$15,000 to help fund our massive phone banking effort. Still, we need to raise a minimum of \$60,000 this week to counter the massive voter suppression actions happening around the country.

In partnership with Reclaim Our Vote, we have set a goal to make 100,000 phone calls to voters to give them the information they need to overcome the barriers the state of Texas is placing in their way—and to complete 3 million calls nationally by Election Day!

Here in Georgia, where I live, we're deploying the dialer in partnership with the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights "Soy Georgia" campaign. Everything is on the line in 2020.

We've already seen primary elections in Wisconsin, Georgia and most recently Kentucky—which slashed its polling places from 3,700 down to fewer than 200 statewide—marred by intentional chaos and confusion. Voter suppression, pure and simple.

That's why we are investing in virtual phone bank technology which will allow hundreds, possibly thousands, of volunteers to easily contact voters with the information they need to be able to vote in November.

Additionally, in this historic moment, there is a directive and an imperative for white Unitarian Universalists to actively engage other white people in dialogue about race, racism, and their perceptions of power. UUs can both increase voter turnout, effectively flank frontline communities, and be the messengers and listeners to move more people to an anti-racist, more loving perspective.

The next four months are crucial

We are building out our plan for national Days of Action for UUs to phone voters throughout the summer and fall. With your help we can activate 3 million voters and potential voters in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and other focus states targeted by voter suppression tactics. With traditional door-to-door canvassing no longer viable in the age of COVID-19, phone banking is critical to our success.

Nicole Pressley  
UU the Vote National Organizer

P.S. Unitarian Universalists have the power to create meaningful change this electoral cycle. Help us reach our goal with [a gift to UU the Vote](#) today. And if you're registered for GA, or following it online, and already made a gift, thank you!

*Submitted by 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 [marcwlee@bellsouth.net](mailto:marcwlee@bellsouth.net)

Date	Celebration
7/3	Elizabeth Rohan is celebrating a birthday
7/7	Ilona Walker and Randy Jue are celebrating their 24rd anniversary!
7/8	Marjorie Pomper and Ken Fry are celebrating their 30th anniversary!
7/10	Lawton Etheridge is celebrating a birthday
7/12	Dillon C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/20	Marcia Hagood is celebrating a birthday
7/30	Benny Ben-David is celebrating a birthday



## Our Happy Place



Discovery Hall is a happy place where adults and youth meet to create community, to grow spiritually and intellectually. It NOW looks more like the happy place it actually is thanks to many people at UUMAN .

Thank you to the Religious Education Council and the Architectural Board for approving this project and moving it forward. Thank you to all the people who help to clean the wall and purchase the products. It always takes a village and this project is no exception but a ton of gratitude is owed to the enormously talented Annette Pate. Annette when approached by this new and unartistic, Interim DRE with "I have an idea about perhaps painting a mural on the outside of Discovery Hall" responded with "Okay, I can do that". And then did it more beautifully than I could have imagined.



These are her humble words.

"Jim and I enjoyed doing the mural together. It was a beautiful day and it felt good to be at UUMAN. Doing something for our community which has given us so much, was a pleasure! It's great to be able to use our ability to further the mission."

Melinda Mischik

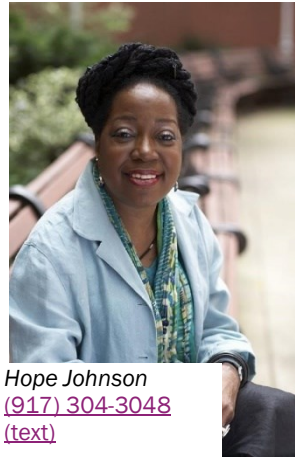
Interim Director of Religious Education

Pronouns: she/her/hers

## Reflect, Recharge and Renew Weekend

On the weekend of July 11-12 (see detailed logistics below), you are invited to Reflect, Recharge and Renew (RRR) with your UUMAN community. The RRR team have been working very hard to open a beautiful space virtually for this gathering and we really hope you join us.

We have an opportunity to transform and to harvest some learnings at this time. Your part is to think about UUMAN- what you have gained, what you have lost in the past, what you would like to let go of and leave behind, and what intentions you would like to carry into the future. Please come with us on this journey!



Hope Johnson  
[\(917\) 304-3048](tel:(917)304-3048)  
 [\(text\)](text)

Joining us and helping to facilitate the program are Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson and Cameron Young, UUA Congregational Life Consultants. You may have met them at the Coffee and Conversation on June 14 and they have been working behind the scenes to 'get a sense' of UUMAN and what might help us at this time. They have offered to be available prior to this weekend to hear anything that you would like them to know. See their contact information on their pictures.

This offering is for our members and friends who have been at UUMAN for a long time and also for a very short time (and everywhere in between). The content is most appropriate for adults and youth however, nothing would be inappropriate for our youngest (although probably not terribly interesting).



Cameron Young  
[\(972\) 383-9197](tel:(972)383-9197)  
[cyoung@uua.org](mailto:cyoung@uua.org)

The weekend will be divided into three parts (all three parts make the experience whole):

- 1. Saturday July 11 (10:30-12:30) – A Reflect and Renew virtual Workshop** - There will be a recap on how we find ourselves where we are today and also time for all voices who want to be heard. We acknowledge our past with humility and open heartedness towards ourselves and others.
- 2. Saturday July 11 (1:45-2:30) – A Burning Ceremony at UUMAN** – Ready to release stories you are holding or some feelings that no longer serve your life or our mission? Write them down and then load into the car and actually drive to UUMAN!!! We will have a great fire going in the firepit and Melinda and Dave and helpers will take care of the "drive-by" burning. You don't even have to get out of your car! To entice the young ones to join you for the drive, there will be cookies! (Gluten free offering available too). Please wear masks.
- 3. Sunday July 12 (10:30-11:30) – A virtual Service of Renewal** – We agree to be present in this moment and we renew our covenant with each other. There are times in church life when we need to transform and take a breath of fresh air. This is one.

For links to the Zoom meetings for Saturday morning and Sunday morning, please see our Website and Facebook page.

Donna Melcher

## UUMAN Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Every Sunday 11:15 a.m.	<p><b>Youth Sunday School</b> Children and Youth 1st-12th grade are invited to class via an email to their parents from the Sunday School teachers during the week.</p> <p>Email Melinda Mischik at DRE@UUMAN.org for the Meeting Link if you haven't received one yet.</p>
Every Sunday 11:15 a.m.	<p><b>Coffee &amp; Conversation</b> Gather together with your fellow congregants to check in with each other, chat, and even have some show and tell time.</p> <p>Here is the link for Coffee and Conversation at 11:15: (It can also be accessed from the UUMAN home page.)</p> <p>Google Meet meet.google.com/ajw-teyx-iio</p> <p>Phone Numbers (US)+1 860-470-6397</p> <p>PIN: 229 991 635#</p>
First and Third Sundays 12 -1 p.m.	<p><b>Cancer Support Group</b> Open to survivors of cancer and their caretakers. Contact Kim Palmer for the meeting link at: <a href="mailto:kpalmer01@gmail.com">kpalmer01@gmail.com</a></p>
Friday, July 31 at 7:00 PM ET	<p><b>UUMAN Multi Gen Social Justice Book Discussion</b> Zoom - link TBD</p> <p>You are invited to join us for the First Ever UUMAN Multi Generational Social Justice Summer Read! Don't miss this opportunity to connect with UUMANITES Pre-Teen to 100 by reading "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas.</p> <p>Contact: Jennifer Phillippi or Kelly Callen</p>

Date	Event
Friday, July 17 at 7:00 PM ET	<p><b>Earth Ministry Movie Discussion</b> Zoom - link TBD</p> <p>Watch the film "Tomorrow" at your leisure any time before July 17. Then, on the evening of the 17th from 7-8pm, join us for a lively discussion about what we learned and what actions we hope to take based on this new knowledge.</p> <p>Contact: Jennifer Phillippi <a href="https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4449576/">https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4449576/</a></p>
Saturday, July 11 10am-1pm	<p><b>A Time to Reflect, Recharge, and Renew Workshop</b> Zoom - link TBD</p> <p>The goal of the workshop will be to reflect on the past few years, recharge as we work on moving forward in healthy ways in a covenantal, beloved community, and renew. In preparation for the weekend, we are asking each of you to start thinking about UUMAN- what you have gained, what you have lost in the past, what you would like to let go of and leave behind, and what intentions you would like to carry into the future. Joining us and helping to facilitate the program are Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson and Cameron Young, UUA Congregational Life Consultants.</p> <p>Contact: Elizabeth Rohan</p>
Saturday, July 18 4-6pm	<p><b>"White Rage" Book Discussion</b> Zoom - link TBD</p> <p>Continue the discussion of racism in America by reading and discussing the book "White Rage - The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide" by Carol Anderson.</p> <p>You are welcome to join us!</p> <p>Contact: Shelley Nagrani</p>

## July 2020: A Month of Sundays

All in-person Sunday services and any meetings or groups at UUMAN are canceled until further notice. See [this page](#) for more details.

We plan to continue live-streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#).

Date	Topic	Service Leaders	
7/12	<p>Reflect Recharge and Renew</p> <p>July 11 and 12 will be our weekend to “Reflect, Recharge, and Renew.”</p> <p>In preparation, we are asking each of you—members and friends of our church—to start thinking about UUMAN.</p> <p>What you have gained, what you have lost in the past, what you would like to let go of and leave behind, and what intentions you would like to carry into the future.</p> <p>Joining us and helping to facilitate the program are Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson and Cameron Young, UUA Congregational Life Consultants.</p>	<p><b>Cameron Young and Hope Johnson</b></p>	<p><b>ABOUT THE UUMANTimes:</b> 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.</p> <p>Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at <a href="mailto:newsletter@uuman.org">newsletter@uuman.org</a></p>
7/19	TBA		
7/26	TBA		