



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

WWW.UUMAN.ORG 11420 CRABAPPLE RD, ROSWELL, GA 30075 770-992-3949

October 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

OUR BEST PRACTICES.....	1
UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND YOUTH CAUCUS.....	2
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE 2016-17 COMMON READ.....	2
UUMAN BOARD RETREAT.....	3
IT'S UNDER THE HARVEST MOON TIME!.....	3
UUMAN PROGRAM FAIR.....	4-5
UUMAN EARTH MINISTRY HOSTED A CAMPING TRIP.....	6
UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE FIELD TRIPS.....	7
UUMAN ADULT ENRICHMENT.....	7
SHARING THE PLATE: 50-50 SUNDAYS.....	8
A PAGE FROM THE PAGE TURNERS.....	8
CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT AT UUMAN.....	8
FROM THE GARDEN.....	9
LIFE CELEBRATIONS.....	9
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS.....	10
OCTOBER EVENTS.....	10



Our Best Practices

Rev. Kenn Hurto, Lead Executive of the UUA's Southern Region, spent the weekend of Aug 26-27 with us to conduct what is called a "New Minister

Startup." The purpose of this startup/workshop was to help get the minister and congregation off and running together—hopefully in the same direction—and hopefully in the right direction. 😊

On Friday evening, all were invited to publicly share, in their own words, the congregation's colorful history. It was a pleasure for me to listen to your stories, though at times I must admit, there were a few details that were concerning. For example, several years ago the Board asked the minister to keep a timecard! (What was that about?)

On Saturday, Rev. Hurto led the Board and the Program Council in what could essentially be called a congregational best practices workshop. Through probing questioning and dialogue, we discussed the following:

- What is the meaning of church? Why do we come? What is our purpose?
- Is our church structured to fulfill that purpose?
- How are decisions made within that structure?
- What does "Growth" mean?

After we hashed out our answers to the above questions and discussed the challenges UUMAN has had in answering them, again and again, over the years, Rev. Hurto offered a picture of best practices for congregations our size.

At the conclusion of the workshop, we (i.e. Board, Program Council & Minister) all agreed that there were some significant gaps between the best practices and what we actually do.

A few of the gaps, are explained below:

UUMAN Bylaws

Apparently UUMAN's bylaws have grown quite legalistic and restrictive over the years. It was pointed out that our bylaws are longer than UU Church of Atlanta's bylaws even though UUMAN is only a third of the size.

Rev. Hurto suggested that many of the restrictive elements of our bylaws could be adjusted to refer to UUMAN policies instead. Since we already have many policies in place, and that these policies can be easily adjusted as circumstances change over time, this could bring flexibility to our work.

Church Committees

Rev. Hurto surprised us by saying that an ideal church should have only four committees:

- Faith Development
- Worship
- Social Witness
- Care

In this model, many of a church's existing committees/initiatives would fit into one of these categories. (For example, a Racial Justice Committee would fall under Social Witness.)

It goes without saying that UUMAN, and most churches, are a long way from this model.

No changes have been made here at UUMAN although these are topics we all need to think about and discuss.

We all need to keep in mind that any changes made will be with the intention of empowering individuals and committees to act. By removing restrictions, empowering individuals (and hopefully minimizing time spent in meetings), it will be easier for us to fulfill our mission and vision.

Take care and be well.

Dave

UUA General Assembly and Youth Caucus

General Assembly is when our association takes care of business. General Assembly is also a time to worship together. General Assembly is also a time to participate in Public Witness, to take a public stand for the anti-oppression perspectives within which we believe, and to reach into the communities affected. General Assembly is also a time to learn about how to do what we do better, whether that's regarding membership, stewardship, worship, social justice, music, or whatever.

On September 4, I shared a bit about the experience of attending General Assembly this past June. This is a short excerpt of what I shared.

Toward the end of General Assembly this year, a Responsive Resolution was brought to the delegates Reaffirming our Commitment to Racial Justice. The resolution charged the board to do less witnessing and more acting in the interest of racial justice, and report back to General Assembly the responses to Black Lives Matter undertaken by the board, staff, congregations and the denomination as a whole.

The delegates were practically unanimous in support of this resolution, but the motion to accept by acclimation was opposed, opposed by the resolution's supporters, so that the resolution would have its allotted period of time for debate – so that those who proposed the resolution – the youth caucus at General Assembly – would be heard, and hopefully would have their perspectives understood and valued in a substantive way.

In support of this resolution, youth and young adults shared their views on what seemed to them to be the association's unwillingness to change. Some talked about the loneliness of being Black UUs, and the damage our democratic process does when it places fairness over the holy. Some highlighted the harm caused by self-congratulation and tokenism.

I don't mean to minimize the importance of the resolution, what it calls for, and why it was needed. I'm hopeful that that is clear to everyone already. But I need to say something else about this resolution. I need highlight for you that this was brought to us by our youth – for the second time in as many years, this issue was brought to us by our youth, including Ali, the daughter of a friend of mine from Massachusetts. Please let me share with you a bit about this young woman's experience at General Assembly.

For those of us who grew up in some other faith tradition, it is pretty likely that our lives would have been somewhat different if we grew up UU; but I cannot imagine what my life may have been like if I, like Ali, was a fifteen, sixteen or seventeen year old UU, and like Ali, came to this General Assembly, and like Ali, participated in this year's youth caucus, and like Ali, donned an angel costume to protest against the hatred peddled by the Westboro Baptist Church, and like Ali, walked on stage at General Session with dozens of other youth to highlight the association's own challenges regarding anti-racism.

In Ali's report to her congregation after General Assembly, she described how the Youth Caucus was a venue for connection and community and fun, but also a venue for youth worship, and for playing a role in our faith. She cited the passion for justice, equality, and spirituality within the Youth Caucus, and how amazing it was to see the impact of this group of determined youth.

I hope that by sharing my experiences at General Assembly with you that I can inspire more of you to join us at General Assembly next year in New Orleans, and by sharing Allie's experiences at General Assembly with you that I can inspire parents to join us with their children.

The UUA offers youth and young adult scholarships to support youth

attendance at General Assembly. The scholarships cover the youth applicant's GA registration fee and up to \$500 for expenses associated with attendance at GA. In addition to my responsibility to keep the congregation informed about this scholarship and encourage youth to apply, I am working with the Board and the MCY Council to see if it makes sense to backstop the UUA scholarship for some of our youth. If you are interested in this possibility, please join the discussion.

We hope that UUMAN has a larger presence at General Assembly next year in New Orleans, with a strong youth contingent.

For more information about General Assembly, the Youth Caucus, or the possibility of backstopping the UUA GA Youth scholarship, please contact me: Brian Kohn at denominationalaffairs@uuman.org

Denominational Affairs and the 2016-17 Common Read

The Denominational Affairs committee is responsible for the congregation's relationships with other Unitarian Universalist (or Unitarian Universalist-adjacent) organizations, which are not strictly specific to the work of one other UUMAN committee. Individual members of the committee are responsible for specific relationships. Ann Creech is responsible for UU regional activities; Linda Etheridge is responsible for our relationship with the UUSC; Anna Hamblen with the Mountain; and I'm responsible for our relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, especially with regard to Congregational Study/Action Initiatives and other business related to and stemming from General Assembly.

One of our first activities is this year's UUA Common Read, which invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time, affording us a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations within our congregation. This year's Common Read is *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016).

The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

We encourage members to read the book during the month of October, and to join us on Sunday, November 6, for a special worship service. Regardless of whether you are able to read the book before November 6, this service will offer you a summary of its core messages, and then open our community up to a facilitated discussion of those messages.

For more information on the Common Read, or on Denominational Affairs, or if you want to get involved as a liaison between UUMAN and another UU organization, please contact me: Brian Kohn at denominationalaffairs@uuman.org

UUMAN Board Retreat

You would think by the name, that a “retreat”, would be a fun-filled day at the beach or in the mountains right? Now don’t get me wrong the Board Retreat this year on September 10, was not hard labor or misery! Kelly Callen was nice enough to chase her family out of the house and host us for the day. We were well fed and kept caffeinated at all times! 😊

We started our time together after chalice and check-in/ice breaker with a couple of short videos on the topic of Transformational Leadership. We learned what it means to be “intentional” and “adaptive”. I’m almost certain you will be learning more about these subjects during the coming months. A key take away for me was this phrase —“we can’t become what we need to be by remaining what we are”! I think we will have to explore more what that means for UUMAN.

Steve and Dave then led us in a discussion and brainstorming session on “What we (UUMAN) need to be?” Here is what we came up with in a very short period of time. This is not an exhaustive list and you will have opportunities in the coming months to provide your input and ideas. I hope that many of these ideas will resonate with you as they did with us.

- Beautiful/Inspiring Place To Be
- Present In The Community
- A Place To Be Courageous
- A New Paradigm For Church
- Market Our Resources
- Proactive With Our Resources
- Evangelical
- Fulfilling Our Potential
- Resource For Transformation & Connection
- Radically Inclusive
- Congregation Of Leaders (Not Water Walkers)

Our retreat was not a “day at the beach” but it was a great experience and a chance for your Board to come together and focus our energies for the coming year!!

— Bob Popp

It’s Under the Harvest Moon Time!



Shine on, Shine on Harvest Moon

Up in the sky,

I ain’t had no biddin’ since...

Last November!

One of UUMAN’s favorite events is almost here. The Under the Harvest Moon auction will be held on Saturday, November 5th, at 7:00 pm.

The goods and services this year include many old favorites, like destination vacations, artwork by our own artists, jewelry, and theme dinners. In addition, we have many exciting new offerings. Plus door prizes and dozens of silent auction items, from kayak trips to gift baskets. The bidding will be furious!

Note: This year, we plan to advertise the auction in the local community, as a way of increasing revenue and recruiting new members.

Perhaps the best feature of the Harvest Moon auction is a night out with our UUMAN family, to celebrate what makes our community special. There will be music, good food, and spirits. A chance to catch up with old friends, and to make new friends. Plus, there’s nothing quite like the thrill of bidding and winning. You have to be there!

Tickets will be available soon, before and after services. Childcare will be provided. All proceeds go to UUMAN.

- Your Under the Harvest Moon Committee

UUMAN Program Fair

Let's Do Something Together

Why do you come to UUMAN? Spirituality? Fellowship? A desire to make a difference in the world? These are among the reasons that many of us have sought a “church home”. Hopefully, UUMAN can be that place for you.

But how can that happen? While the message or the music in the weekly service might be meaningful, how do you take the next step? It's not necessarily so easy to develop something deeper just by shaking hands or sipping coffee together on Sunday mornings.

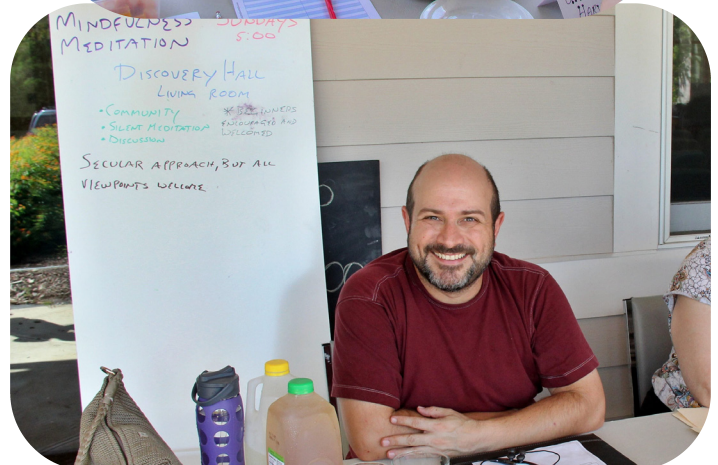
One of the most effective ways to overcome the awkwardness of chatting with strangers is to do something together. UUMAN offers a variety of groups that you can try. Our programs include free-wheeling discussion groups, meditation, social justice and environmental activism, art, music, games, and fun. You can join with new friends to do something for yourself, for UUMAN, and for the wider world.



On a recent September Sunday, the Program Fair showcased UUMAN's many different groups. Tables were set up on the porch with information and snacks, hoping to intrigue. Every one of these groups wants and needs you. They want your questions, passion, experience, sense of humor—whatever your unique, individual self wants to bring. Curiosity, not long-term commitment, is all you need. Check out our web site to find out more. A program on our Learning, Justice, or Connection pages may speak to you!

—Carole Herman

Photos by Dan Ben-David



UUMAN PROGRAM FAIR



Photos by Dan Ben-David

UUMAN Earth Ministry Hosted a Camping Trip

A group of nature-loving UUMANites went camping at the Vogel State Park near Blairsville, GA, the weekend of September 16-18. What a fun way to commune with the outdoors and with each other!



Photos by Guillermo Kuhl



Upcoming Social Justice Field Trips

The Social Justice & Action Committee is on the move! We are working on a number of opportunities to put our faith in action in our community. We hope you can join us!

October 9 – Atlanta Pride. Atlanta Pride Committee strives to promote unity, visibility and self-esteem in lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons in Atlanta and beyond: <http://atlantapride.org/>.

November 19 (partnering with MCY) – IRC Thanksgiving Dinner. The International Rescue Committee provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America: <https://www.rescue.org/united-states/atlanta-ga>.

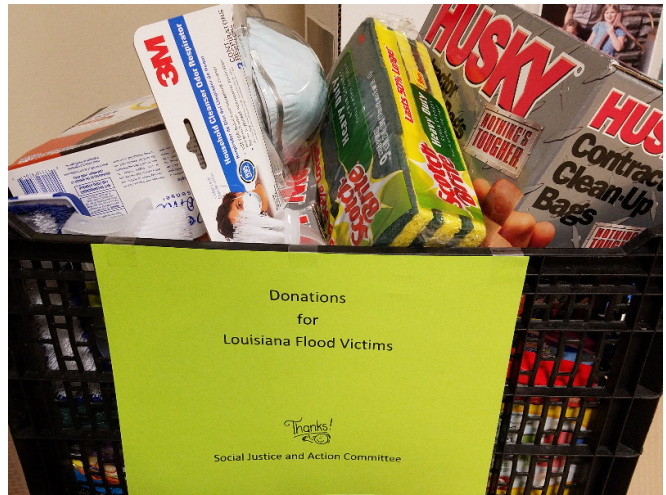
December TBD – Lost-n-Found Youth. There are over 750 homeless LGBTQ youth in Atlanta right now. Learn about volunteering at: <http://Infy.org/>.

Also in the works, if there is enough interest, are plans to see the movie *Loving*. Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, are sentenced to prison in Virginia in 1958 for getting married: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRXuCY7tRgk>.

A trip to **The Booth Western Art Museum** in Cartersville—Special Exhibition Gallery—to view *By Her Hand: Native American Women, Their Art, and The Photographs of Edward S. Curtis*. Focused on Native American women and their art, the exhibition allows us to more deeply understand their roles within Native society, culture and family: <http://boothmuseum.org/>.

If you would like to suggest a field trip for 2017, please feel free to contact Jen Saltzman at saltzmanjen@yahoo.com or Sheila K. Smith at piercingthrutheveil@yahoo.com

Donations for Louisiana Flood Victims



We just had to tell you how much we appreciate your donations to help Louisiana flood victims. Thank you for being so generous and thoughtful!

—Social Justice and Action Committee

UUMAN Adult Enrichment

The UUMAN Adult Enrichment Team will offer up to three Covenant Groups in the fall of 2016 – with trained facilitators. The groups will meet for six (6) sessions – between mid-October and late December. Groups that “click” may wish to continue beyond the six sessions; we would support that, but that is not the intention of this program: our intention with these groups is to introduce the concept to those who haven’t experienced it – and to offer an opportunity for those who have, but wish to make only a short-term commitment. Covenant Groups (also known as Small Group Ministries) are intentional lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of the congregation. They provide both intimacy (depth of relationship with one another) and ultimacy (the opportunity to focus on meaning and significance).

- Small enough (a maximum of 8 people) to allow members to relate on a deeper, more intentional way.
- Groups formed randomly or generically – or around specific interests or identities (men, women, youth, seniors, for example).
- Provide a ministry for and by the members of the group – a caring or being present with each other that relates to the spiritual as well as the physical and emotional well-being of the group participants.

UUMAN’s worship service on Oct. 2, presented by the Spiritual Autobiography class, will offer a glimpse into the power of Covenant Groups. For more information – or to sign up - see Pat Shea or Dave Hudson after the service on Oct. 2 or Oct. 9 – or contact us by email: patricia.shea@gmail.com

hudsondavid@bellsouth.net

Dave Hudson – for the Adult Enrichment Team



Sharing the Plate: 50-50

Once each month a non-profit organization chosen by the Social Justice Committee receives half of the undesignated plate offering.

The amount collected for **Lost -n- Found Youth** last Sunday was \$389.43. **Homestretch** will be the 50-50 recipient this month on October 16.

—Linda Etheridge

A Page from The Page Turners

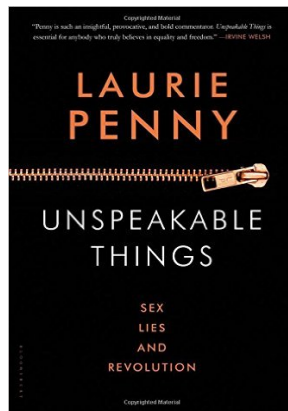


The next meeting of The Page Turners, our women's book club, will be Saturday evening, October 8. The book: *Unspeakable Things: Sex, Lies and Revolution*. Written by Laurie Penney, a young British journalist and feminist, it sweeps across modern Western society. You may find that her thought-provoking ideas and her vivid, bracing style grab you and keep you reading. Besides her books and magazine columns, she has a web site and blog, <http://laurie-penny.com/>. In future months we are planning to read Garth Stein's well-known 2008 novel, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, and Hope Jahren's 2016 best-selling, unconventional memoir about loving science, *Lab Girl*.

If you enjoy reading and discussing books in a variety of genres, meeting over snacks and wine, getting to know one another, and having fun, this is the group for you.

Become a "regular," or just try us out whenever you see that we're sponsoring a book you're interested in. Contact Carolina Patlis for the details. All women, whether UUMAN members or not, are warmly invited to the Page Turners!

—Carole Herman



Classical Music Concert at UUMAN



On November 6 at 3:00 PM at UUMAN, the Riverside Chamber Players will perform the incomparable Mendelssohn Octet; scored for two string quartets. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the greatest compositions ever written for 8 stringed instruments, 4 violins, 2 violas, and 2 cellos!

They will also perform a string trio by Gideon Klein, a Czech composer. This composition was the last piece Klein ever composed while being held prisoner in the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz. An incredibly moving piece by a leading composer of his time whose life tragically ended too soon.

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

The Riverside Chamber Players is 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 marclee@bellsouth.net

General admission \$15
Senior (55+) \$10
Students/Teachers - free

- Marc Lee

FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

We'll be continuing our work in the garden at UUMAN on Monday, October 10 and Monday, October 24, working from 9:00 a.m. to around 11:00 a.m. We will continue our work throughout the year on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month through November (or some-times, December). UUMAN announcements will be sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please feel free to stop by and see what it's all about. Hope to see you there!

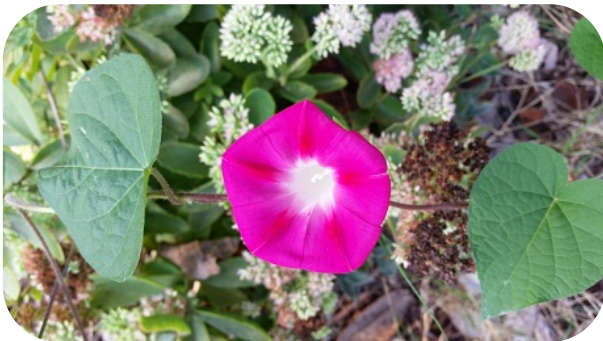
Claire Sullivan cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



Yellow Mums



Butterfly on Zinnia



A Morning Glory amongst the Sedum



Caterpillar on a Weed



Single Lantana



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
10/2	John and Miriam Patanian are celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary!
10/3	Dillon Langston is celebrating a birthday
10/4	Jacob P. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
10/5	Bruce and McPatti Langston are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary!
10/8	Ryan Dunn and Heather Moll-Dunn are celebrating their 16th wedding anniversary!
10/18	Marshall Fogel is celebrating a birthday
	Olivia P. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Suzanne Rezelman is celebrating a birthday
10/19	Becky Norris is celebrating a birthday
10/22	Jim Saunders and Annette Pate are celebrating their 22nd wedding anniversary!
10/23	Jim Saunders and Annette Pate are celebrating the 24th anniversary of the day they met
10/25	Stephen Shanahan is celebrating a birthday
10/26	Asher G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
10/28	Ilona Walker is celebrating a birthday
	Jan Wilson and Doug Stump are celebrating their 4th wedding anniversary!
10/29	John Patanian is celebrating a birthday
10/30	Marshall and Julia Fogel are celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary!
	Jan Wilson is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
10/2	Let's Get Real Members of UUMAN's current Spiritual Autobiography group share their experience of the practice of spiritual writing and testify to the great value of identifying and naming the important themes of our respective lives.	Bruce Langston/David Hudson Worship Associates
10/9	A Unitarian Universalist Day of Atonement October 12 is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in Judaism. Is there an equivalent "holiday" in Unitarian Universalism? Why or why not? What does our answer signify?	Rev. Dave Dunn Randy Blasch, Worship Associate
10/16	Blessing of the Animals This multigenerational service will be our annual Blessing of the Animals celebration.	Rev. Dave Dunn Darya Aberback, Worship Associate
10/23	Membership: It's Not Just For Breakfast Anymore "Becoming a member" isn't simply a set of steps that ends with the signing of a membership book. Membership itself is a never-ending process of becoming. What does this mean for us as members and what	Rev. Dave Dunn Brian Kohn, Worship Associate
10/30	Reflections of a Hospice Chaplain Staring into the depths of our existence with those who face life's final moments – why would one choose this as their life's work? Where can meaning be found? What is the role of the hospice chaplain? In seminary, Dave served as a chaplain intern at a hospice facility 2013	Rev. Dave Dunn Bruce Langston, Worship Associate

October Events

Date	Event
2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at peltier.john@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group Come paint with us in a relaxed atmosphere with a glass of wine. All are welcome. There is a fee but half is donated to UUMAN.
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 at dan@uuman.org
Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! 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.
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 9:10 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. For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito campoften@aol.com
Every other Sunday afternoon, 12-2:00 p.m.	Spiritual Autobiography Explore the key passages of our lives, in a way that allows us to begin to uncover our true selves, our vital inner core, and the spirit of life that animates us. For more information, contact Dave Hudson: hudsondavid@bellsouth.net

For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at 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

October Events

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 lletheridge1@gmail.com
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