



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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Living the Pledge

While strolling through the General Assembly bookstore this past summer and promising myself not to buy yet another book (as it would likely

have to be added to my very long list of “to be read” books), I came across the following title: “Rules for Revolutionaries: How Big Organizing Can Change Everything.” The book was co-written by Becky Bond and Zack Exley who were key architects of Bernie Sanders’ grass-roots organization that led him to the cusp of winning the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. The book had twenty-two rules for “big organizing.”

Because I’ve always been interested in organizing, I wondered what big organizing might be. “Hey, aren’t those some UU necklaces over there?” I asked Tammy in an attempt to throw her off my trail. While she was distracted with UU bling, I bought the book.

Back home, I began looking at the twenty-two rules more closely and I found rule number four most interesting; it seemed almost out of place for a book about political organizing.

Rule #4: Fighting Racism Must Be at the Core of the Message to Everyone.

I could understand most of the other rules.

Rule # 5: Get on the Phone!

Rule #9: Fight the Tyranny of the Annoying

Rule #16: Best Practices Become Worst Practices

.... But Rule #4 seemed out of place.

Their argument for the inclusion of Rule #4 comes in three parts:

Racism is immoral, unjust and unethical.

To build the kind of momentum necessary to completely re-invent America will require a mass movement that simply has to be multiracial and multicultural – one that includes people from all walks of life (i.e. mass movements simply aren’t possible by simply targeting specific categories of voters).

Racism is the dysfunctional, systemic core to most all society’s problems to the extent that attempting to solve the problems without addressing the core is pointless.

As Unitarian Universalists, I believe we understand that racism is immoral (argument one). I believe we are trying our best to be open and welcoming to all (argument 2). I’m not sure we all understand the depth of racism’s dysfunction. I’m not sure we understand how the tentacles of a systemically racist culture are entwined around all aspects of what it means to be an American.

At UUMAN, we hope to understand this better. We will be offering a facilitated workshop following a proven curriculum offered by the First Unitarian Church of Richmond called “Living the Pledge.” It will be offered once a month for two hours each session for a total of eight sessions.

If you had time for only a single social justice initiative this year, attending the Living the Pledge workshops should probably be that initiative. (I know it would be the one I’d choose.)

Please sign-up!

- Dave

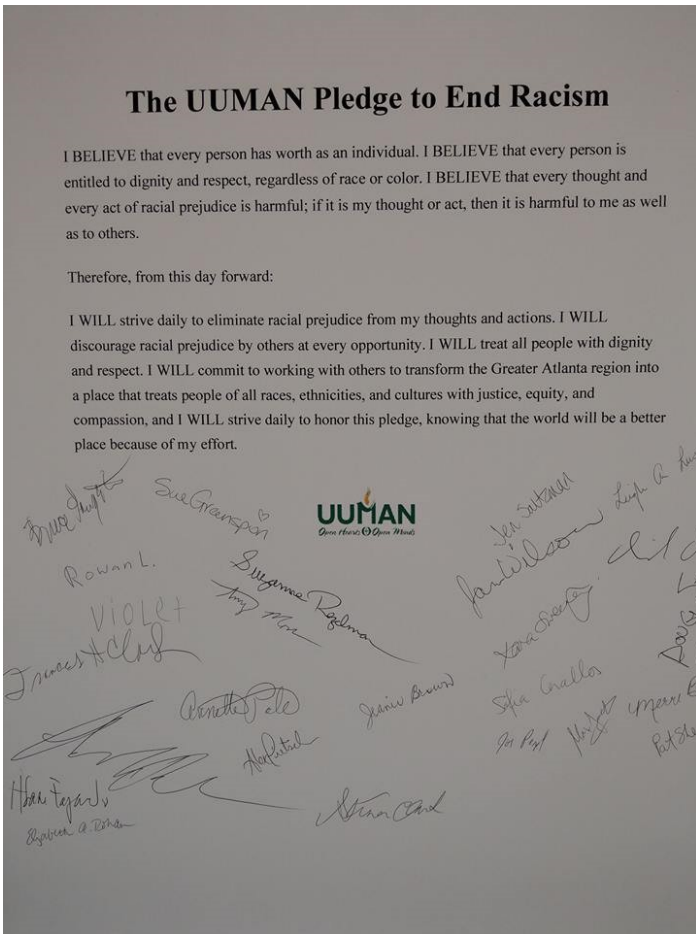
See the next page for more information on Living the Pledge and the workshop dates.

UUMAN Pledge to End Racism

At UUMAN we are working to live into our mission: promoting an open-minded search for truth and justice both within our walls and beyond.

You are invited to join us in this work by participating in the Living the Pledge Workshop and making a commitment to confront racism in our community as well as your everyday life.

The UUMAN Pledge to End Racism is based on the Richmond Pledge (<http://richmondpledge.org/livingthepledgeworkshop/>): participants develop a community of support and an understanding of how to use support in deepening our work in building a just and equitable multi-cultural world.



Participants are asked to commit to being present at all sessions. You are also required to do reading/viewing assignments before the workshop and other assignments between sessions.

Join us for our inaugural session on Sunday, October 29, 12 – 2 pm in the UUMAN Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided.

Living the Pledge Workshop Dates

Location: UUMAN Sanctuary

Time: 12 – 2 pm

Oct. 29, 2017

Nov. 19, 2017

Dec. 17, 2017

Jan. 21, 2018

Feb. 18, 2018

Mar. 18, 2018

Apr. 15, 2018

May 21, 2018

Childcare will be provided.

Sign-Up Contact: Sheila K. Smith, piercingthrutheveil@yahoo.com

Or: socialjustice@uuman.org



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

One Sunday a month, a non-profit organization chosen by us, receives half of our undesignated plate offering. Last month the recipient was **International Rescue Committee**

This month our recipient is **Pride School Atlanta**. Pride School Atlanta admits students of any race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, affectional preference, sexual orientation, marital or relationship status, gender identity or gender expression to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.



COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE

The September Common Grounds Coffee House was a good one! Thanks to the volunteers who made it happen! Mark Sexton did the sound for the night, Darya served delicious treats in the kitchen and Phillip Seaver was the MC. Bill Kahler and Lashbrooks put on a great show!

In October our performers will be talented guitarist and singer/songwriter Bob Bakert and the fabulous Celtic band Keltic Kudzu. Jan Wilson and Doug Stump bid on and won a special night at the Coffee House at the 2016 Under the Harvest Moon Auction, and that will be at the October Coffee House. It all came together beautifully, Bob Bakert and Keltic Kudzu are two of their favorite performers. And that is their Anniversary weekend and also Jan's Birthday weekend. In an act of generosity, Jan and Doug have offered to pay for everyone's admission to the Coffee House in October. So in October, admission to the Coffee House is free!

Bob Bakert Bio



Bob Bakert

Bob Bakert is a regular performer at the Common Grounds Coffee House. Bob has a passion for music that is evident in all that he does. He has the kind of talent that only comes from a lifetime of dedication and practice. He has a wonderful voice, is extremely talented on guitar and is just an all-around great entertainer. Bob is very well connected and respected within the Atlanta music community.

We are eternally grateful that Bob was willing to help us get the Common Grounds Coffee House up and running five years ago. We couldn't have done it without him. www.bobbakert.com

Keltic Kudzu Bio



Kelly Thomas, Tom Crawford, Tim Porterfield, Lori Gomez

Formed at the turn of the 21st Century, Keltic Kudzu is a straight up Celtic/Southern fusion band. We use our traditional acoustic instruments to generate all the energy and fun of your typical full-blown Celtic rock band without the deafening volume and studded leather vests! Four part harmony, dueling fiddles, guitar, mando, bouzouki, whistle and bagpipes join forces to wipe out stress and put a smile on your face. www.keltickudzu.com

HELP WANTED:

The Common Grounds Coffee House is looking for a few good people to join our team. We are in need of strong people who have about 30-60 minutes to share a month. And you don't have to do it every month. We need Roadies. This important work includes rearranging the chairs in the Sanctuary, bringing in four long tables and four round tables, and putting up the black curtain backdrop. If we have two people it takes about an hour and you have two very tired people. If we have 4-5 volunteers it takes about 30 minutes and everyone is very happy. If you are able to help, please send an email to coffeehouse@uuman.org and we will add you to the email list to sign up on the google doc that Mike Chambers sends out.

Coffee House could also use a few more bakers (and food donators). We sell snacks and sweet treats at the Coffee House. If you would like to bake something or donate an item purchased (cake, cookies, cheese & crackers, fruit), send an email to coffeehouse@uuman.org and we will add your name to the monthly email sign up list.

- Janet Lacey

FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

We have two regularly-scheduled work days in October; the first on Monday, October 9 and the second on Monday, October 23 (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. 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



UFO—Unidentified Flowering Objects



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



Lilies



Roses



Sedum



Zinnias

Date	Celebration
10/2	John and Miriam Patanian are celebrating their 13th 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 26th wedding anniversary!
10/8	Ryan Dunn and Heather Moll-Dunn are celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary!
10/11	Michelle Liebergesell is celebrating a birthday
10/14	Alex Pietch is celebrating a birthday
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 23rd wedding anniversary!
10/23	Jim Saunders and Annette Pate are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the day they met
10/24	Ellen Meadows is celebrating a birthday
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 5th wedding anniversary!
10/29	John Patanian is celebrating a birthday
10/30	Marshall and Julia Fogel are celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary!
	Jan Wilson is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
10/1	<p>Teshuvah: To Return to God's Will</p> <p>Teshuvah, literally returning to God's will, is the focus during the ten days of repentance in the Judaic calendar which culminates at Yom Kippur. With many Unitarian Universalists having different concepts of God, what can Teshuvah mean for us?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/8	<p>Humble Pie Anyone?</p> <p>The waters we are navigating require us to be our best selves. In addition to the many helpful actions, a lot of hubris is on display. Why might an approach of humility be the most appropriate in moving forward together? Humble pie is a deep dish with spoons for all.</p>	Donna Melcher
10/15	<p>Multigenerational Service</p> <p>Join with us for our multigenerational service</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/22	<p>The Courage to Doubt</p> <p>Must "what we believe" involve certainty? Is faith without doubt any different than fundamentalism? Can doubt open us up to new ways of being and thus enrich our lives?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/29	<p>All Hallows</p> <p>According to ancient folklore, the boundary between our world and the other-world is particularly thin during All Hallows Eve and All Hallows Day. How can we be more connected to that which is beyond ourselves?</p>	Dave Dunn and Colin Decker

October Connections

Date	Event
<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>Fall Session from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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>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! 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. 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 lletheridge1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Saturdays , 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is</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 (470) 723-4070 jkevinking@yahoo.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 preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org