

September 2023

Inside this issue:

Metro Atlanta's Proposed Police Training Facility	1
Common Grounds Coffee House	2
An October Event	2
What You Need To Know About the UUMAN Podcast	3
Under the Harvest Moon Auction 2023!	3
Meet Martin Poteralski, UUMAN Board Vice President	4
The Next UU 101 Class	4
Adult Religious Education Committee Activities	5
September 2023: A Month of Sundays	6
Life Celebrations	6



Metro Atlanta's Proposed Police Training Facility

You've likely heard about Atlanta City Council's and the Atlanta Police Foundation's wish to construct a state-of-the-art police

training facility in the nation's largest urban forest – right here in Metro Atlanta. You may have heard this training facility referred to as “Cop City.”

This issue can be in inflection point, a cause for division amongst people (including our Unitarian Universalist congregations)...yet I believe it need not be.

This facility is merely a specialized response to address specific problems in our culture – culture that is unfortunately characterized by guns and violence. Yet our culture is also unfortunately characterized by many other problems – the marginalization of people economically, politically, socially, etc.; a justice system that doesn't work for everybody, for-profit prisons, income inequality, climate change, the erosion of our democracy, the undoing of women's rights and the targeting of LGBTQIA+ people, etc.

Looking closely, all of these unfortunate problems are part of an interconnected system (i.e. our culture) and I believe that the system as a whole needs to be looked at when proposing solutions to the specific problems of the system.

The Roswell Police routinely reach out to the local faith community and I've met Chief James Conroy on numerous occasions. Although I don't claim to know him well, he seems to be a respectful, stand-up individual who wants to serve Roswell as best he can. And although everyone has the right to feel about the police what they will, I believe that ultimately, how we “feel” about the police doesn't come into play when deciding whether this training facility is a good idea or a bad one.

Among other things, all agree that this facility will include a planned replica of an Atlanta city block with mock apartments and hotel rooms for police to practice raids and address active shooter scenarios.

I don't blame Atlanta City Council for their wanting the police to be trained. We need our officers to be trained. Yet, this type of training facility is a specialized response to specific problems we have going on in a much larger interconnected system (i.e. our culture). This proposed training facility is a specialized, escalatory response to the culture of guns and violence. Regardless of that specific problem, what we need over the long-term are holistic solutions to de-escalate, de-gun, de-tox the whole system; and I don't think the spirit of the proposed training facility will focus on that.

It is for these reasons that the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in June passed an Action of Immediate Witness called “Rise Up to Stop Cop City” which says, in part:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT as Unitarian Universalists we recognize the momentum of collective action to demand social change and we call upon the UUA and its member congregations to Stop Cop City

We will take action through self-organized ... campaigns...and other solidarity actions.

We will support those engaged in direct action to Stop Cop City with spiritual and material resources

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave



Common Grounds Coffee House

The next Common Grounds Coffee House will be on September 16. Doors open at 7 pm, show starts at 7:30 pm. \$5 suggested donation at the door, cash only, bring some extra cash to buy some treats from the kitchen and to tip the awesome performers.

Our performers for September will be:

Celia McDermott with Mike Cerra



About Mike Cerra: Mike has been playing and writing longer than he should probably admit in mixed company. A very talented multi-instrumentalist and singer, he has performed with multiple electric bands as well as acoustically for both vocal and solo instrumental music. Currently he is also playing with the classic rock band "The Turn"

About Celia McDermott: An early love of singing brought her to study arranging and vocals at Berklee College of Music. She performed locally with and without her guitar in the Boston, New York, and Atlanta areas for years in many various groups, featuring many varied styles of music. She served many years as an assistant choir director for a vibrant music ministry, spent ten years directing and singing in "Cheaper Than Therapy", an a cappella group, has been a featured singer on many recordings, and has performed with many different musicians in the Atlanta area, crossing genres spanning from jazz to rock to Americana to gospel, including several years of being a featured soloist for the ASO Gospel Choir. Together, Mike and Celia bring an eclectic set of interesting arrangements of songs ranging from Americana to folk to popular, as well as beautiful originals, to Common Grounds.

Hiro Sasayama



Hiro Sasayama is from Hiroshima, Japan. He started playing guitar, writing, and singing at an early age, and has performed at various Japanese coffee-houses and events throughout his life. His music is influenced by American folk singers who believed that their songs could change the world for the better. Nineteen years ago he came to Atlanta with his wife and 3 children. Here in America he began making original songs in English. Hiro says, "I hope my songs will be a blessing to many people."

- Janet Lacey

An October Event

Coming in October, the Acworth Book & Storytelling Festival, free for all ages. Our own Joe Lamb will be there signing his books.

Acworth Book & Storytelling Festival

**10AM- 4PM Oct. 14
The Rosenwald School**

**4410 Cherokee Street
Acworth, GA**



- 2 keynote speakers
- 1 panel discussion
- 40+ authors
- Live storytellers

*Words
& Stories
of Many
Voices*

**Free for
all ages**



Acworthculturalarts.org

What You Need To Know About the UUMAN Podcast



Did you know that UUMAN has a podcast? It's easy to find, just enter UUMAN into your favorite site—Apple, Google, Spotify, Podbean, etc.

Please check it out - LIKE IT - rate it, and share it with friends. The podcast is a carefully edited version of our weekly services and an occasional "bonus" episode. The UUMAN podcast is another way for UUMAN to reach a larger audience.

Where did the hymns go? What about that amazing cover version of "___"?

UUMAN takes its legal obligations seriously. We cannot include copyright-protected music in a downloadable podcast format. Therefore, you'll probably not hear a worship associate say "please rise and turn to page 327 in your hymnal," since most of these musical arrangements fall under the category of protected content. Likewise, a cover version of another songwriter's efforts will not be included.

Thankfully there are exceptions to this rule. Our talented Music Director Alex Pietsch composes original musical pieces which he contributes to UUMAN. These are made available for download with his permission, so a typical podcast episode does include a substantial amount of musical content. We have on occasion secured the permission of songwriters from outside the congregation, and included this music, as well. Also, if you've read this far, and are a songwriter yourself who'd like to have their compositions included in service, great! Contact Alex Pietsch to see if such material could find use in the future.

Why a pod? What's in a pod?

From October 23, 2001 through May 10, 2022, Apple manufactured a device called the "iPod." This device spawned a genuine revolution in audio distribution among music, news, and commentary listeners. Prior to the iPod's release, these listeners relied on either terrestrial AM or FM broadcasts or their own personally downloaded digital music files, played back on a variety of competing hardware formats.

While the iPod has been replaced in the hearts and minds of its former users with the iPhone (or sometimes a 'Droid, but not usually—it's just most of the planet who use Android devices, as opposed to Americans with money and influence), it's the "pod" that lingers in this transportable audio in our collective ears.

So, that's why a pod. And why we pod.

—Dirk Bender, Communications Deputy



**Mark your calendars
for UUMAN's 2023
Under the
Harvest Moon
Auction!**

Date: Saturday, November 11, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Location: Join us in person at UUMAN, or virtually!

Donate Goods/Services:

Have something you would like to donate to the auction? Awesome!!!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to submit details.

Volunteers:

Interested in volunteering for this awesome event? We'd LOVE for you to Join us!!!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know!

Thanks to all who've contributed in so many ways to make this event a wonderful success and benefit UUMAN each year!

Details:

Each year UUMAN holds its annual Under the Harvest Moon Goods and Services Auction. This is a "fun"-raiser with a collection of special items, meals, trips, baskets, and services for attendees. In addition, hand-knitted scarves by someone you know, handmade jewelry, beautiful paintings from familiar artists, gift cards to local restaurants, and the ever-coveted UUMAN Parking Spot will all hopefully make their way into the catalog of items this year!

Come, socialize, spend some money, and have lots of fun!!!

Tickets will be available soon. Stay tuned for more information!

Miriam Patanian

Meet Martin Poteralski, UUMAN Board Vice President

I am excited to be joining the UUMAN Board for the first time in 2023. The past few weeks have already given me an opportunity to better understand everything we do for each other and the community here, and how it all works together behind the scenes.

This occasion has caused me to reflect a bit on when my family first visited UUMAN six years ago. We were in the process of looking to move from Richmond, Virginia, to North Fulton County as I had taken a new job in the area. It was going to be a lot of change in a short time: our family had to look for a new home in a new state, and our elementary-school-age children would be attending a new school.

On one of our first visits here, we stopped by UUMAN to attend a Sunday service. Since we had been members of a church in Virginia, we hoped that this could provide a new community with some continuity of values and traditions from what we had experienced in Virginia - and were worried that we would miss. We were warmly welcomed by friendly faces on our first visit to UUMAN, providing us the encouragement to continue to attend and become members.

Much has happened and changed over six years with good times and challenging times. Our children have grown up quite a bit through participation in OWL and RE programs. I've had the opportunity to work with many of you on committees and projects such as our annual Under the Harvest Moon Auction and our recent Stewardship campaign.

We are now at an interesting, challenging, and important time in our church history. The reduction in the COVID pandemic and the completion of critical emergency repairs in our sanctuary building this year enable us to once again be physically present together in our space. All around us is a changing political landscape at the local, state, and national level that leaves many feeling bewildered, uncertain, or afraid. North Fulton County and surrounding areas continue to grow and diversify. Just as it was offered to my family, can we offer the "welcome home" of community and spiritual growth that people around us are seeking?

- Martin Poteralski

The Next UU 101 Class

The next UU 101 will be held October 1, 11:15 am-12:30 pm and October 8, 11:15 am -12:30 pm. This 2-session class is for visitors, active non-members or even long time members - anyone who wants to learn more about our faith or who is considering becoming a member. You will learn about Unitarian Universalism, our welcoming culture and long history of social justice. You will learn all about UUMAN and our great programs. You will even get a tour of our campus. We hold this class several times each year, so if you can't make it this time, we will look forward to having you attend at the next session. If you have questions about the class or about becoming a member, feel free to email the Membership Committee at membership@uuman.org

Here are the dates for the Fall UU101 class sessions and the link to sign up:

Session 1: Sunday, October 1, 11:15 am-12:30 pm

Session 2: Sunday, October 8, 11:15 am-12:30 pm

Sign Up: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/a4b4307614>

- Laura Keck

Adult Religious Education Committee Activities, UUMAN: Is this a good fit for you?

Rollin Mathis has done an amazing job of getting second hour Adult Education started at UUMAN. He is stepping down from his coordinator role, creating an opportunity for congregants interested in Adult Education. As the committee has grown and the classes have become quite popular, we are looking to create a committee to replace Rollin. He has outlined the work to be done by that committee in a memo, which I am sharing with all of you. If you are interested in working on Adult Education at UUMAN, please let Dave Dunn know.

Shelley, you asked me to address the duties and activities of the adult RE coordination during my tenure, which began in summer 2018 and ended June 2023. Those activities evolved over time due to such changes as the introduction of 2nd hour programming; transition to Breeze for calendaring, attendance, and email communication; and changes in the membership of the committee. I anticipate that the activities and duties will continue to change so please consider this memo to be for purposes of institutional knowledge and not a fixed checklist of committee duties. Most important will be the composition of the committee. Since we are volunteers, the activities will reflect the interests, skills, and time constraints of the committee members. This transition is an opportunity to reimagine the activities & duties of the committee.

Class management and content: We currently offer three types of classes: (1) 2nd hour programming, (2) ongoing classes that meet outside of 2nd hour, and (3) special offerings by other ministries such as social justice and earth ministry. The special offerings by other ministries are independent of the adult RE committee, although we coordinate space and time issues. For 2nd hour and ongoing classes outside of 2nd hour, individual facilitators determine the content and management style of the classes; this is not done by the adult RE committee. The adult RE committee assists with communication and administrative matters, described below.

Communication: This is the primary role of the committee: to act as an information clearing house. The committee does not manage the internal operation of the classes; the individual facilitators handle that. This communication includes, but is not limited to:

1) Fielding questions sent to adultenrichment@uuman.org (or such other address as the communications team may devise, given the concerns about the “enrichment” label);

2) Fielding questions from facilitators, such as room assignment, signup procedures, monitor availability, space & time conflicts;

3) Speaking with visitors about small group programming (I can continue to do this on an unofficial basis);

4) Speaking about adult education at UU101 (I can continue to do this on an unofficial basis);

5) Reporting to the Program Council;

Administrative procedures:

1) Space assignments: Currently Dave is assigning class space, since he has an overview of all the programming, including groups that might not fall under adult education.

2) Attendance: Individual facilitators take attendance and log it into Breeze or select someone to handle Breeze for that class.

3) Calendaring: This is done by communications with input from the course facilitators. Communications has expressed a desire to have the facilitators do this, so this can be worked out between the adult RE committee, the individual facilitators, and communications. At the very least, the facilitators would need to initiate the process by providing time and class description information.

Outreach: Currently, communications handles this in the online world and I have only done this in person with visitors; however, if the new committee has members with the appropriate interests and skill sets, online outreach would be a major new opportunity for the committee to expand its impact.

Shelley Nagrani

UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

September 2023: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
9/3	Blessing of the Animals Please join us in our annual Blessing of the Animals service. Please bring your furried, feathered, crawling friends to the service and we will bless them in one way or another.	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/10	36 Righteous People There is an idea in mystical Judaism that there are 36 righteous people in the world; and that these 36, whose identities are unknown, justify the existence of all of humanity. Who might they be? What does this mean for us?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/17	Are We Ready for Pride? Pride Sunday is October 15. Atlanta UUs will have a decorated float in the Pride Parade. The LGBTQIA+ community has been a target of those waging a culture war. How can we support them?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/24	Freedom, Obedience and Submission We Americans (and we UUs) definitely value freedom; yet many religious paths stress obedience and submission. Is this conflict built into American life and religion? Are these ideas mutually exclusive, one at the expense of the other; or can they co-exist?	Rev. Dave Dunn



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 membership@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
9/9	Ann and Dirk B. are celebrating their anniversary of 33 years.
9/10	Luc G. is celebrating a birthday.
9/22	Debra and Mike B. are celebrating their anniversary of 38 years. Sam F. and Carolina P. are celebrating their anniversary of 23 years.
9/28	Troy V. D. B. is celebrating a birthday.

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