



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett  
12 Bethesda Church Road  
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044  
www.uucg.org 770-717-7913

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists



## Gadding About

When I was 15 a mentor gave me a poem called, "Listen" by Ralph Roughton. It was written on a piece of yellow lined notepad paper. I've carried that original piece of paper with me for all these years.

"When I ask you to listen to me and you start giving advice, you have not done what I asked. When I ask you to listen to me and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings. When I ask you to listen to me and you feel

you have to do something to solve my problem, you have failed me, strange as that may seem. Listen! All I asked was that you listen, not talk or do - just hear me. Advice is cheap. 10 cents will get you both Dear Abby and Billy Graham in the same newspaper. And I can do for myself. I'm not helpless. Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

"When you do something for me that I can do for myself, you contribute to my fear and inadequacy. But when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can quit trying to convince you and can get about the business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling. And when that's clear, the answers are obvious and I don't need advice. Irrational feelings make sense when we understand what's behind them. Perhaps that's why prayer works, sometimes, for some people -- because God is mute and doesn't give advice or try to fix things. So please listen and just hear me. And, if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn, and I'll listen to you."

Even after 40 years I'm still working to master this kind of listening. This is the kind of listening we aspire to in our Covenant Groups ... a deep listening that gives people space to explore the deeper meaning in their life experiences, the greater truths in their stories, and the voice of wisdom deep within. As our Covenant Group program grows to include more people over time, this can become the way we listen to one another in our other small group ministries: youth group, committee meetings, Board meetings, working groups, task forces ... anytime we are engaged with one another doing the work of the congregation is an opportunity for deeper sharing and intentional listening. This way we are moving towards our newly adopted vision statement: *We are a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space. We foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections and community within our walls and beyond.*

How do you listen? How do you listen to those closest to you, to strangers, to nature, to your own small voice within? Do you listen to understand before being understood? Do you listen for a pause so you can tell your story, or do you breathe through the pause for the other person to find their next words?

Listening - with trust, compassion and inquiry,  
~)(<  
Reverend Jan

June 2016

### Sundays at UUCG

11:00 am Worship Service

10:00 am Religious  
Exploration Programs

**Theme: Listening**

**Monthly Hymn  
#15**

*The Lone Wild Bird*

#### June 5: *The Art of Listening*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader  
Paige Varner, Worship Associate

#### June 12: *Listening for Joy*

Rev. Jan Taddeo Service Leader  
Daniel Bailey, Worship Associate

#### June 19: *A Question of Balance*

Karen Smith, Service Leader  
Rae Haynes, Worship Associate  
*Third Sunday Pot-Luck*  
*Visitor Orientation (UU 101)*  
*New Member Classs (UU 102)*

#### June 26: *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Lydia Patrick, Service Leader  
Kate Hlava, Worship Associates

#### July Theme: Blessings

*Plate contributions in June are  
shared equally with  
The Next Stop  
www.TheNextStop.org*



Announcements for the July GNUUS are due by June 25. Announcements for the weekly e-newsletter and Order of Service are due on Tuesdays at noon. Send announcements to "announcements@uucg.org". Contact Ldecastro@uucg.org to subscribe to newsletters.

# Religious Exploration

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## Religious Exploration: Playtime, Leadership, and More

On June 5, our 10:00am Religious Exploration Session for adults & teens will be facilitated by Joey Humble: *Thought Police: Accepting those who don't accept us*. Discovering new ways to accept worldviews that conflict with UU core values, as well as finding ways to cope when we feel targeted by these view points. The Nursery will be open for childcare for ages 0-7. We are seeking volunteers to supervise activities on the playground. If we have supervision, play time will be available for children too! Contact Christiana McQuain or utilize the sign-up sheet in the Lounge if you can sign-up to help a Sunday or two this summer. In July, the Leadership Development Committee will offer a series of workshops at 10:00am.

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out a survey and share your thoughts on how the current program model is serving you and your family. The Faith Development Team will be considering all off the input received at our June meeting, and make decisions for the coming year with your feelings in mind. Please know that – even outside of the survey period – members of the Faith Development Team are always eager to hear your thoughts about what you'd like to see and what is working well for you. Your voices are a valuable contribution in the effort to provide programs that engage and inspire.

In addition, we are extremely grateful to all of our volunteers who served the RE program this year! If you were in attendance at the worship service on May 22nd when Reverend Jan formally offered our thanks, you were able to see the size of the village it takes to create our program. Please consider joining us in the year ahead and volunteering your time and talent to make RE a spiritually enriching experience for all participants. "The congregation is the curriculum"!

Beginning in July, registration will open for the 2016-2017 Program Year. Look for an announcement in mid to late June with links to the online registration form, as well as paper copies on the Religious Exploration bulletin board in the UUCG foyer.



## Summer Solstice: Longest Light Beginning Night

**Saturday, June 18, 2016 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Come and celebrate the longest day of the year and all the growth that we are experiencing in our lives. This Summer Solstice ritual is open to the public and led by members of the Sylvan Sanctuary Grove of Druids. Ritual begins at 6:00 with shared snacks and fellowship afterwards. Ritual attire is welcome but not required.



## Wizardry Summer Camp Comes to UUCG

**Offered June 20-24 & July 11-15, 2016; 10:00am - 2:00pm**

Order of the Owl Wizardry Camp is a Hogwarts experience where campers ages 7-14 enjoy a week of otherworldly games, spellbinding crafts, enchanting dance moves, wizarding classes, & magical memories! Cost per camp \$125, UUCG member \$100. If we have overflow, we will add a third week July 25th-29th! To register, call Julie at 770-241-9805 or e-mail 1692productions@gmail.com. Please make checks payable to Julie Goodrow or PayPal 1692productions@gmail.com.

## Learn the Art of Improvisation in June at UUCG

Always wanted to learn the art of improvisation but didn't want to have to sign-up for 10 weeks of classes in downtown Atlanta? The OTC Comedy Troupe offers classes for teens and adults who want to learn the basics of improv. Our workshops are fast paced and offer a relaxed atmosphere that is supportive and fun using theater games and performance pieces we use in our own shows. These are hands on interactive workshops so dress comfortably and get ready to learn how to think on your feet. The classes are taught by Kelley Cody-Grimm, OTC Artistic Director. Cost for the workshops are \$50 for a four week session. You can also drop-in and take the workshop for \$15 per class.

## Universalism 101: A Book Report

by Sara Heath, UUCG Bookstore Coordinator

While searching for informative books for new UU members I came across the book *Universalism 101, An Introduction for Leaders of Unitarian Universalist Congregations* by Richard Trudeau. "In 1960-61 when the Unitarian and Universalist denominations combined, the Universalists—less prosperous, less educated, less confident, and outnumbered five to one—were afraid of being swallowed up." This book, written in 2005, was one attempt to keep that from happening.

The symbol of Universalism, a large circle with a cross off set to the left, defines a central principle of the denomination. The circle represents the universe. The empty space at the center represents the mystery at the heart of the universe that people call God. The cross represents Christianity—one path toward God and the path from which Universalism (and UUism) has grown; it is off to the side to leave room for other points of view and to acknowledge the validity of other paths toward God.

Universalism seems to have grown out of the idea that God is love rather than the stern and judging God of early Protestants. Salvation was not a reward for good behavior but an expression of God's love. God sent Jesus not to pay the price for our sins but to remind humans of God's love. In the twentieth century as many Universalists moved away from traditional theism, the principle that no one is condemned was rephrased without reference to a supreme being. "We avow our faith in the supreme worth of every human personality." This evolved into the first principle of the UUA. In Universalism, the reward for doing good is not salvation in a possible next life but happiness in this one.

In this 98-page book, Rev. Trudeau goes into deeper exploration of Humanism, Christianity and the other beliefs that have shaped UUs. He doesn't want us to forget where we came from when we move on from our more fundamentalist Christian backgrounds. The book is rich in history and reminds us of the path that has led us to our Universalist foundations that we often overlook.

The book will be placed in the church library if you would like to find out more.



## Book Club Discussion: *My Life on the Road* by Gloria Steinem

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 7PM

"Gloria Steinem had an itinerant childhood. Every fall, her father would pack the family into the car and they would drive across the country, in search of their next adventure. The seeds were planted: Steinem would spend much of her life on the road, as a journalist, organizer, activist, and speaker. In vivid stories that span an entire career, Steinem writes about her time on the campaign trail, from Bobby Kennedy to Hillary Clinton; her early exposure to social activism in India, and the decades spent organizing ground-up movements in America; the taxi drivers who were "vectors of modern myths" and the airline stewardesses who embraced the feminist revolution; and the infinite, surprising contrasts, the "surrealism in everyday life" that Steinem encountered as she traveled back and forth across the country. With the unique perspective of one of the greatest feminist icons of the 20th and 21st centuries, here is an inspiring, profound, enlightening memoir of one woman's life-long journey."





## Fundraising Update

We expected our annual auction and other fundraisers to raise \$14,291 and so far we have raised \$5,618.34. With the Yard Sale as the only remaining 2016 fundraiser scheduled, UUCG's income is \$9,300 short. What can you do? Here are some ideas:

1. If you are not current on your pledge, please catch up. Don't wait until the end of the year, or until the next statements go out.
2. If you have the ability to pay your pledge ahead, please do. If you know you will be away on vacation in July, please pay that pledge in June, rather than wait until you get back in August.
3. If you have the means to increase your overall giving, now is the time. Perhaps you thought you would spend \$500 at the auction, and you didn't - isn't that money already earmarked for UUCG? You don't have to increase your pledge to increase your contributions.
4. If you have any ideas on how to increase our income, especially income from outside the congregation, please let us know. Our Resource Development Team is looking for ways to increase funds to our operational budget.
5. If you have any suggestions to lower expenses, let's hear them. We think we have been careful stewards on the expense side, but we could be missing something that would make a significant difference. We'll never know unless someone makes a suggestion.
6. If you shop online at Amazon, use the link at the bottom of the UUCG website, [www.uucg.org](http://www.uucg.org), before making a purchase. UUCG will receive a 4-6% commission on your purchase. Our fundraising target is \$200 a month, which we have reached in the past, but we are significantly short this year.
7. If you shop at Kroger, please consider registering your Kroger Plus Card ([www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com)) with UUCG as the named charity of your choice. You get to keep all of your Kroger Plus benefits and Kroger will make a donation to UUCG in proportion.
8. Consider making a donation to UUCG and sign-up for one of the parties donated for the Auction that still have seats available. See the next page on



community  
rewards



### Seats Still Available at Auction Events

If you were too busy dancing to bid on items at our Auction on May 14 or missed the fun or want more opportunities for fellowship, you can still sign-up for several of the parties and events. Please make a generous donation to UUCG and write the name of the Auction event on your check or visit [www.uucg.org](http://www.uucg.org) and select "Register for Events".

- **Breathwork.** Compassion Centered Breathwork uses breathing methods to create inner states helpful in cultivating compassion and emotional release. Take a journey through your soul, mind, and body! You may experience insight, release, forgiveness of self and others, or even visionary states. All of this and more, in a safe container for self-discovery and expression. The event will be held in the UUCG Sanctuary; hosted by Daniel Bailey. Saturday, June 04, 2016, 11:00am - 02:00pm.
- **Memorial Hike on the Cherokee Trail.** In honor of Karl Adams we will hike the base trail (about 5.5 miles) around Stone Mountain. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. Organized by Jan Taddeo. Saturday, Oct. 08, 2016. Time TBD.
- **Self-Discovery Creative Workshop.** Join Reverend Jan and Christiana in the Playhouse room at UUCG for a hands-on workshop that will allow you to access your intuition via the creation of a personalized deck of cards, using the process of SoulCollage® as described by Senna B. Frost. Saturday, November 05, 2016, 10:00am - 02:00pm.
- **Cookie Exchange.** Ally is hosting a fun holiday event for all ages. Come to the UUCG kitchen to bake a variety of Christmas cookies and exchange with others. Children welcome. December TBD.
- **Family Bowling Night.** Join the Taddeos for a fun family time at "Stars & Stripes" in Dacula. Two (2) hours of bowling, with shoes and snacks provided. Please indicate how many in your party. December 3 from 4-6pm.
- **Recital.** Join Barbara and Bryan in the UUCG Sanctuary for an evening of classical music and tea. Barbara will be playing her flute and Bryan will be on the piano. Sunday, February 05, 2017, 03:00pm - 05:00pm.
- **Plarn Waterbottle Workshop.** Wonder what to do with all those old plastic bags? Janet Hazzard has offered to teach a workshop at UUCG on how to make plastic yarn (plarn) from recycled plastic grocery bags. Date: TBD.
- **A Walk in Harbins Park.** Join Wally for a lovely 6 mile walk through Harbins Park. The park is located in Dacula and offers a mostly level, shaded but unpaved trail rated as moderate. Date: TBD.
- **Ebenezer Church Service & Mary Mac Tea Room.** Debra and Ida are hosting a visit to a church service at historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where both MLK Sr. and MLK Jr. preached. After the service you will continue on to Mary Mac's Tea Room for a nice luncheon. Date TBD.
- **Tarot Party.** Sherree and Daniel are hosting a Tarot card reading and discussion at UUCG. Get a reading or bring a deck and learn basic reading techniques. Date: TBD.
- **Passover Seder.** Join the Hlava family for a very special African American Passover Seder Dinner. April 16 2017 at 5:00pm.

## Community Connections & Auction



**Fun, Food, Dancing and Winning Tickets for Prizes**





# From your Board of Trustees

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## Emanuel Day Ritual

**Saturday, June 18**

**10:00am - 12:00pm**

**Stone Mountain, GA**

Gather by Confederate Hall at Stone Mountain and join the UUCG Racial Equity Organizing Team for a special commemoration of the nine souls taken on June 17, 2015 at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. A Cairn Building Ritual will take place at the base of the Stone Mountain Walk-Up Trail. People will also take stones to the top of the mountain to lay a Cairn of Remembrance there. Contact Amanda Murray for more information.



## My Year of Polity as Spiritual Practice Barbara Stahnke, President

I love UUCG, and I love our vision statement:

*We are a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space. We foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections and community within our walls and beyond.*

Now as a board member, I and we, the board, can ask ourselves the questions as we decide

1. Are we moving toward our vision with this choice?
2. Are we living our vision when we recommend this change?
3. Are we helping UUCG be radically welcoming while living in a green space?
4. Are we fostering our spiritual growth among ourselves and our larger community?

Knowing that we as a community have these focus areas will help us as we work through the changes that this new millenia is bringing to us. I think our vision let's others know we want them to join us in our spiritual and life struggles for a better world through loving together in community. We are not perfect, and we will continue to work this together in conversation and community. We belong to each other and the interdependent world in this work.

As a piece of this hard work, each of you will receive a letter about our financial situation as we push forward on our vision. Please read it carefully. I hope you will ask me or a board member questions. I hope you will respond quickly. We are in this together to create our most loving community. Everyone matters in this work.

## Slate Adopted at May Congregational Meeting 2016-2017 Board of Trustees

- Barbara Stahnke, President
- Ben Lower, Vice-President
- Steve Smith, Treasurer
- Ally Perras, Secretary
- Sara Heath, At-Large Trustee
- James Riddlesperger, At-Large Trustee
- Theresa Waldrop, At-Large Trustee
- Phoenix Lastinger, Youth Associate

## Leadership Development Committee:

- Denise Benshoof
- Terry Welsher
- Viki Andino
- Plus two to be appointed by Board of Trustees

*Terms begin July 1, 2016.*

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Dankie Gracias شكرًا  
Спасибо  
Köszönjük  
Grazie Dziękujemy  
Đakujeme Vielen Dank Paldies  
Kiitos Täname teid 谢谢  
**Thank You** Tak  
感謝您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz  
Σας ευχαριστούμε  
Bedankt Děkujeme vám  
ありがとうございます  
Tack



## Creating Memories at the Youth Retreat

The UUCG Youth Group took their annual retreat on the road from the evening of April 29th to the afternoon of Sunday May 1st at Watson Mill Bridge State Park in Colbert, Georgia. The group got to experience, hiking, improv games, a trip to the river and an opportunity to experience the wilderness while still having a log cabin to stay in. Each youth was asked to help with ideas on next year's program as well as helping with meals and clean-up. Some of the highlights included seeing an equestrian competition as well as playing the game "Snake Oil" around a campfire and making new friends with a youth who was staying nearby.

The group had worked all year raising money through the holiday bake-sale and talent show to help pay for the expenses of the trip. The UUCG youth participating included Shea and Devon McQuain, Amber and Danielle Grimm, Ian Peters and Aiyana Haynes. The Youth Advisors were Connie Quirk, Ally Perras, Brendan Strallow and Kelley Cody-Grimm.

Check back soon for news of our new youth advisors and upcoming events!



## Visitor Orientation

**UU 101 June 19 at 12:45pm**

**CURIOUS** – If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or just new to UUCG, this class should answer some of your questions. **COURAGEOUS** – Join us in the library on third Sundays immediately following the service.

**COMPASSIONATE** – We hope the information and discussions will help you on your spiritual journey.

Childcare and lunch provided. Sign up on the bulletin board by the nametags, visit [www.uucg.org](http://www.uucg.org) and select "register", call the UUCG office at 770-717-7913, or just drop in. For more information, contact Peggy at [membership@uucg.org](mailto:membership@uucg.org).

## New Member Class

**UU 102 June 19 at 12:45pm**

If you have taken UU 101 and feel ready to move on to the next step, please join us. UU 102 meets in the Lounge. Childcare will be available and lunch provided. Sign up is available by selecting "register" on the [www.uucg.org](http://www.uucg.org) website, through the office at 770-717-7913, or through email to [membership@uucg.org](mailto:membership@uucg.org). After completing UU 102, you are eligible to become an official member of UUCG at an upcoming signing ceremony.

## Signing Ceremony

If you are considering becoming a member of UUCG, please contact [membership@uucg.org](mailto:membership@uucg.org), to participate in the next ceremony. Ceremonies take place quarterly in the Pastor's Parlor.

# UUCG

Unitarian Universalist  
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## Building Open

Sunday: 9:30am-12:30pm  
Tuesday: 10:00am-3:30pm  
Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm  
By Appointment: 770-717-7913

## Staff

### Rev. Jan Taddeo, Parish Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org  
Office: 770-717-7913  
Cell: 678-558-4834  
Our Minister keeps flexible hours.  
Friday is her Sabbath day.  
Appointments suggested.  
*Rev. Taddeo will be on vacation and study leave from June 15 - July 24.*

### Laura de Castro, Administrator

Ldecastro@uucg.org  
Office: 770-717-7913  
Our Administrator is in the building on Tuesdays, Fridays and 3rd Sundays and available through email 12-3:30 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Appointments suggested.

### Christiana McQuain, Program Assistant

cmcquain@uucg.org

### Kevin McKinney, Choir Director

kmckinney@uucg.org

## Board of Trustees

### Barbara Stahnke, President

president@uucg.org

### Ben Lower, Vice President

vp@uucg.org

### Steve Smith, Treasurer

treasurer@uucg.org

### Carol Vey, Secretary

secretary@uucg.org

### Board Members at Large

Sara Heath  
James Riddlesperger  
Theresa Waldrop  
Phoenix Lastinger  
Nick Graff



## Join a Covenant Group!

Covenant Groups are small groups of 8 to 10 people who meet twice a month for 4 months. People explore our monthly themes through guided discussion that draws out the meaning in our personal stories and deepens our connections in

the congregation. Four groups are starting in mid-August, and we encourage people to register soon. You can choose which group you prefer:

- 1st/3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- 2nd/4th Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- 1st/3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am
- 1st/3rd Saturdays at 10:00 am.

Go to [www.uucg.org](http://www.uucg.org) and click on the "Register" button. Contact Rev. Taddeo, Bill Benshoof, or Carol Richardson if you have questions.



## UUCG Store Now Open

Anniversary t-shirts & more at:  
<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/shopuucg>



Curiosity. Courage. Compassion.

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