



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

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists



April 2017



Health Fair on April 22

All Things Healthy

UUCG sincerely cares about the health of all people and all life on the planet. UUCG is also committed to the preservation of the health of the environment. UUCG believes that when all those who are concerned are equipped with

the knowledge that is necessary to maintain and/or restore health to the people, planet, and environment, a tremendous healing and positive impact will be made within the community at large.

The plan for this fair is that it will include healthy products, farm-fresh wholesome food, and health services. If you would be interested in providing a health education presentation as an Exhibitor or Sponsor, please contact Peggy Averyt at PeggyAveryt@gmail.com.

You're encouraged to invite your favorite businesses in the health industry to be a sponsor or exhibitor too. Exhibitors are welcomed and encouraged to offer free health literature, screenings, product or produce samples, and/or demonstrations. Exhibitors are also welcomed and encouraged to sell their products and/or services at this fair.

This is a fundraiser for UUCG too, with basic exhibitor fees starting at \$50 and sponsorships at all levels welcome. Exhibitor forms are due no later than April 8, 2017 and are available on the UUCG website by visiting www.uucg.org, selecting "Upcoming Events", and selecting "Sign-Up" in the Health Fair section.

The event itself is free and open to the public. Come and find out about local, farm-fresh and wholesome food, and local health services and products. All members and friends of UUCG are encouraged to participate and invite family and friends to come enjoy fun-filled activities, including health education presentations by local experts.

We look forward to your active involvement for this event.

Town Hall Meeting April 30 after service

The April 30 meeting will include a report on the parking lot and a look at our elections as we prepare to vote at the Congregational Meeting on May 21.

Sundays at UUCG

10:00 am Faith Development
 11:00 am Worship Service

April Theme:

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

11am Apr 2: *Setting the Welcome Table*

Karen Smith, Service Leader
 Lorena Gay-Griffin, Worship Associate

11am Apr 9: *The Freedom of Passover*

Rev. Charlotte Arsenault, Service Leader
 Paige Varner, Worship Associate

7:30pm April 14: *Zen Tenebrae*

Bob Patrick, Service Leader

11am Apr 16: *Easter Sunday*

Rev. Duncan Teague, Service Leader
 Evan Varner, Worship Associate
Potluck Luncheon
 UU 101, UU 102

11am Apr 23: *Caring for the Caravan*

Lydia Patrick, Service Leader
 Daniel Bailey, Worship Associate

11am Apr 30: *Conundrum in My Soul*

Rev. Duncan Teague, Service Leader
Town Hall Meeting after service

*April plate contributions are shared
 equally with
 El Refugio
 ElRefugio.org*



Announcements for the May newsletter are due by April 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.



Faith Development at 10:00am

It is our goal to provide you with inspiration and resources to help you live deeper into your UU faith throughout the week. Come join us at 10:00 on Sunday mornings for fellowship and learning, and opportunities to live into the questions as you search for truth and meaning. Childcare will be available. Upcoming programs include:

April 2 - Faith Development Forum: Come, Come Whoever You Are - How does your UU faith call you to embrace radical welcome? An open discussion facilitated by Nathalie Bigord

April 9 – Spiritual Practices: Energy Medicine - There are a number of mind/body/spirit practices that emerge out of the world's spiritual and cultural traditions which, if practiced with intention, can bring energy and insight to us at any age. Using guidance from Donna Eden's work by the same title, we will explore one or more of these practices. (If this session seems helpful, it may be offered again throughout the year to continue exploring practices.) Facilitated by Bob Patrick

April 16 – Easter Sunday – On Easter Sunday, help welcome visitors to a discussion on Unitarian Universalism. Enjoy fellowship and light refreshments too.

April 23– Social Justice: Bending the Arc – If we wish the arc of the moral universe to bend toward justice, it is we who must do the bending. Come share with others the ways you are engaged and involved in working toward change, or to learn about opportunities for engagement. Together, indivisible, we make a difference. Hosted by the Faith Development Team

April 30 – Book Discussion: We will continue our discussion of the ideas discussed in *The Third Reconstruction*. You can participate whether or not you attended the March book discussion, and you need not have completed reading the book in order to find value in this session. Facilitated by Karen Smith



A Discussion on *Traveling Light* by Lynne Branard

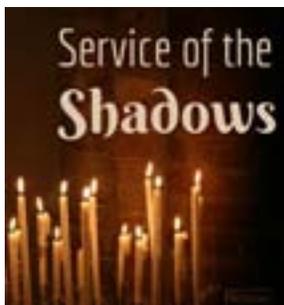
April 25 at 7:00pm

An Invitation from Susan Peterson-Hazan with Book Club

Driving from North Carolina to New Mexico with her three-legged dog, a strange man's ashes, and a waitress named Blossom riding shotgun isn't exactly what Alissa Wells ever wanted to be doing. But it's exactly what she needs...It all starts when Alissa impulsively puts a bid on an abandoned storage unit, only to become the proud new owner of Roger Hart's remains. Two weeks later, she jumps in her car and heads west, thinking that returning the ashes of a dead man might be the first step on her way to a new life.

She isn't wrong.

Did you ever travel light? Are you traveling light now? Do you want to travel light in the future? These were some of the questions that entered my mind when I saw the cover of this book with a white VW similar to my 1972 bug. Join the book club which will meet to Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm to discuss the book & our travels.



Zen Tenebrae--A Good Friday Service

April 14, 2017 at 7:30pm

Bob Patrick, Service Leader

Zen, in the Buddhist tradition, is the Japanese word for something like this: Directly pointing at one's heart, Seeing one's nature, becoming Buddha. Tenebrae is the Latin for "shadows" and is the name of the service traditionally held on Good Friday, the day that Jesus was crucified. This service invites us to enter into the shadows of the end of our own day and, through story, the end of Jesus life, with the intention of finding insight.

Come to this Zen Tenebrae expecting a simple, deep experiential entry into the story of the last day of the life of a man named Jesus. His life and persona have been made bigger than life. This service holds the possibility that if we return to his very human experience of living and dying that we may also see into our own nature, find something significant in our own hearts.

We invite people to come and bring a meditation cushion for sitting on the floor. There will also be chairs for those who prefer to sit in a chair. The service will incorporate candles, darkness, music, Tibetan bells, readings of the last day of Jesus' life from the gospel of Mark--the simplest and oldest version found in the Christian Bible, silence, and the invitation to reflect and ponder the meaning of our lives. We will leave the service in silence and gather again on Sunday morning to celebrate Easter with Rev. Teague leading.

Easter Sunday with Rev. Teague

April 16 at 11:00am



Beltane Celebration:

Seeds for the Harvest

Saturday, April 29, at 6:00pm

Come and celebrate the beginning of Summer and the traditional time of fertile fields in a fertile earth. Plans, work, projects, gardens and various other calls of life become the focus of our gathering and ritual. 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.

Community Connections & Auction



Passover Seder on April 16, 2017 at 5:00pm

Join the Hlava family and UUCG friends for a very special African American Passover Seder Dinner on April 16, 2017 at 5:00pm. This event was originally offered at the 2016 Auction. Seats are still available. Visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events" to sign-up.



Two CUUPS Invitations

April 1 at 7:00pm

Join us for coffee and discussion on the topic of your personal practice. Please come prepared to talk and/or listen to what exactly each person does in their personal practice of paganism.

April 15 at 7:00pm

Join us for Divination Exploration. Come and try all sorts of different divination techniques including tarot cards, runes, reading tea leaves, and many more. Feel free to bring your favorite divination tool if you have one and please bring a potluck snack as you are able.

Flower Communion and Bridging Ceremony



“All Things Healthy”

HEALTH, METAPHYSICS & SUSTAINABILITY FAIR 2017

Open and Free to the Community

Hosted By

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Minister

www.uucg.org

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mightest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

Promoting Healthy Living

Reiki, Nutrition, Spirit, Psychology, Herbs, Recycling, Holistic Health, Reflexology, Breath Work/Inspiration, Healing Touch, Body, Aromatherapy, Green Building, Massage, Mind, Meditation, Natural Health, Music/Sound Therapy

Saturday, April 22, 2017

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

12 Bethesda Church Road

Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044

(For more information or directions related to this event, call the church at 770-717-7913)

- Exhibition of practitioners and businesses who specialize in health and wellness and/or sustainability
- Free health literature, screenings, product and produce samples, demonstrations, and more...
- Healthy products, farm-fresh wholesome food, and health services for purchase

This health fair is hosted by Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett. The exhibitors of this health fair are independent practitioners and/or businesses; thus, they are not representatives of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett. Therefore, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett assumes no liability on behalf of these exhibitors. It is the responsibility of health fair attendees and participants to verify the skills, expertise, and/or the qualifications of these exhibitors before utilizing their services and/or following their advice.



A Pledge to End Racism

UUCG contributed \$408.59 to A Pledge to End Racism. This is the first region-wide Chalice Lighter call for our Southern Region of Unitarian Universalists. Way to go UUCG! With generous donations from Southern Region Chalice Lighters, the Pledge to End Racism organizers will be available to provide curriculum and consultation to congregations programs for their communities. This includes workshops, facilitator training, and promotion resources – all with the goal of building a community-wide movement to end racism.

Spring Cleaning for Yard Sale!

Bit by the cleaning bug this spring?

All your books, clothes, gently used toys and appliances, along with knick-knacks, artworks, Christmas decorations can be donated to the UUCG REUUSE Yard Sale this fall, Yard sale will be September 29 &30, 2017.

All proceeds go to the church. For more information, contact Karen Smith.



Massage Fundraiser at UUCG

April 20 and May 18

Sherree Bailey is offering massage services as a fundraiser at UUCG. She'll setup a special massage table in a private classroom at UUCG and ask for a donation to be made to UUCG. Appointments are available at 1, 3, 5, 7 on the third Thursdays of the month now through May. Contact Sherree at sherree.lynn.bailey@gmail.com

Buying Groceries & Gas & supporting UUCG

34 households participated last quarter in the Kroger Community Rewards, earning UUCG \$53 for the quarter. If you shop at Kroger for gas or groceries, please consider registering UUCG as your non-profit organization of choice. You get to keep all of your Kroger points and regular discounts while selecting one charity for Kroger to support. And if you participated in prior years, please note that Kroger requires customers to re-enroll their card each year as participants, with enrollment year beginning in August. Please visit www.Kroger.com/communityrewards, login, and select UUCG, organization id #19343. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the team members for Kroger Community Rewards at 770.496.7538.



Luck of the Community

If you missed the Auction night fun, there's still time to join a FUNdraiser party and show your support of UUCG. To sign-up just make a generous donation of your choice to UUCG, write the name of the item you want on the memo line or envelope OR visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events". These parties are a great way to meet other congregants too. Events include concerts, hikes, family outings, and craft workshops. Visit www.uucg.org and select "Upcoming Events" for details.



Music & Fellowship on April 1, 2017 at 6:30pm

Join friends from UUCG at a viewing of the performance in Barcelona of Bruce Springsteen's "The Rising" Tour. Your host, Michael McEvoy, will provide food and snacks. Bring your own beverages or special snacks. Fun begins at 6:30pm, concert at 7:00pm.



Ladies Morning Coffee on May 6, 2017 at 10:30am

Ladies, get together a carpool and come on over to Athens for morning coffee. We'll also have mimosas, juice, fruit, bagels, danish, sausage balls, and other goodies. Must have a minimum of 10 guests to hold the party. Contact: June Warfield at 706-395-6132 or jlw@wittsend.com. At Warfields home in Athens, GA.



Bowling for Community on May 13, 2017 at 4:00 pm

Bowling fun with snacks in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Shoe rental included. Contact: Theresa at 770-931-0501.



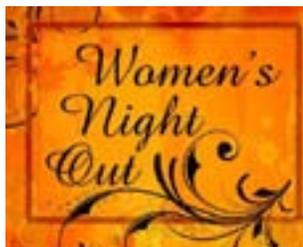
Moonlight, Music & Mimosas on May 20, 2017 from 8-10:00 pm

A live outdoor music event. Barbara and Will provide the live music and the mimosas. Ally providing snacks. Childcare available with reservation a week in advance. Contact: Barbara Jenkins at 770-466-9160. Event held on UUCG Deck.



Music Recital on Sunday, June 4, 2017 from 3-5:00pm

An afternoon of music featuring violin, guitar, flute, & piano of Evan Varner, Sam Varner, Bryan Bishop, Barbara Stahnke, and Jen Garrison. Organized by Barbara Stahnke.



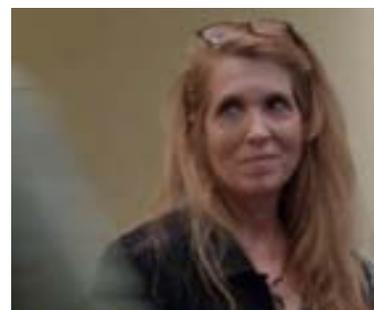
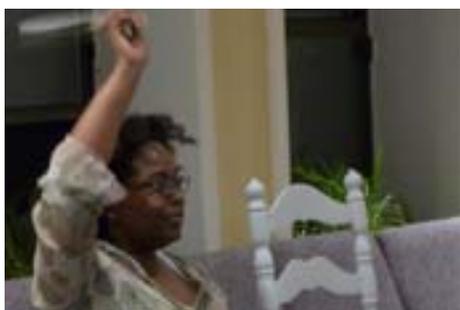
Women's Night on June 24, 2017 at 7:00pm

A Ladies' Night In, to include food, drink, and games! Relax and have fun as we enjoy the company of friends both old and new. Hosted by Theresa Waldrop (770-931-0501).



Indigo Dyeing Workshop coming Summer 2017

We will set up an indigo dye vat and talk about shibori and other methods, then dye tea towels/muslin fabric (or you may supply your own t-shirt). Contact: Lorena Griffin at 770-962-5105
Summer 2017 TBD from 1 - 5pm
at Lorena's Home in Dacula, GA 30019



Give Away the Plate

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Give Away the Plate 2nd Quarter 2017: El Refugio

El Refugio Ministry in Lumpkin, GA, is grateful to be chosen as the Give Away the Plate recipient of the second quarter at UUCG. El Refugio is a ministry of hospitality and visitation that walks alongside families and immigrants detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA. The ministry upholds three core values: hospitality (welcoming the stranger), presence, and education and witness for advocacy. El Refugio is truly a place of radical welcoming.

Many people at UUCG are already familiar with the work of El Refugio. In 2011, the Social Justice committee made its first journey to the little yellow house in Lumpkin to learn about our immigration policy in the US – specifically immigrant detention in our prison-for-profit system. We visited with men being held at Stewart Detention Center. We committed ourselves to actively work for comprehensive and just immigration reform.

It is now 6 years later. Every day our undocumented neighbors and acquaintances live in fear of being pulled over for a minor traffic violation, and hauled off by ICE. UUCG has remained steadfast in its commitment to immigrant rights, and El Refugio in particular. Many of us have now traveled to El Refugio or supported the ministry in other important ways, such as cooking delicious soups and casseroles, doing the laundry, or making a small donation.

I encourage as many people as possible to visit El Refugio and learn more about this amazing ministry. You are all welcome to join me! The work is only possible with the financial support of this church, and other faith communities. Thank you all for your support.



Sabbatical Post Card

Our minister, the Reverend Jan Taddeo, will be on leave from our church through July 30, 2017. Ministerial sabbaticals are renewal periods for clergy. It is a time for intentional exploration and reflection to renew enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment for ministry. Reverend Duncan Teague and Rev. Charlotte Arsenault join our team of Service Leaders during her sabbatical. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience a variety of voices on Sunday mornings. A special sabbatical brochure is available in the foyer at UUCG or download the brochure or video from the website at www.uucg.org to learn more.



Dear Friends -
 The trip to Nicaragua was amazing! The UU College of Social Justice preparation tools and organizational leadership are stellar!
 There is much for me to reflect upon and process from this journey. I will be posting reflections at gaddingabout.uucg.org.
 I miss you all very much - and I remain very grateful for this time. Much love, Reverend Jan



Order of the Owl Wizardry Camp is a Hogwarts experience for the next generation! Campers ages 7-14 will enjoy a week of otherworldly games, spellbinding crafts, enchanting dance moves, wizarding classes, & magical memories that will last a lifetime!
 BONUS: We've added a drama camp!
 Cost per camp \$125 (note price increase schedule below)

Session I: June 5-9 cost \$150 (sibling discount \$125), 10 AM - 2 PM Daily
Session II: June 19-23 cost \$150 (sibling discount \$125) 10 AM - 2 PM Daily
***Wizarding Drama Camp:** June 12-16 cost \$150 (sibling discount \$125)
 *Drama Camp for 2017 featuring the play *Harry Potter and the Obnoxious Noise- the ssssPOOF!* by Jeannette Jaquish.
Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Gwinnett
 12 Bethesda Church Road
 Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Registration request or ?s- e-mail 1692productions@gmail.com or call Julie at 770-241-9805
 UUCG member? Tell us when registering!!! Payment via check to Julie Goodrow or PayPal 1692productions@gmail.com
 Please check in on our Facebook page for details at www.facebook.com/orderoftheowlwizrdrycamp

*******SPECIAL EARLY REGISTRATION PRICES*******
Register for one of our summer camps NOW thru February 28th for only \$125!
 Price increases to \$135 March 1st - March 31st!
 Price increases to \$140 April 1st - April 30th!
 Price is \$150 from May 1st until camps begin. (additional sibling cost remains \$125 throughout price changes)

Visitor Orientation

UU 101 April 16 at 12:45pm
CURIOS – 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 and select “register”, call the UUCG office at 770-717-7913, or just drop in. For more information, contact Peggy at membership@uucg.org.

New Member Class

UU 102 April 16 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 website, through the office at 770-717-7913, or through email to 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, to participate in the next ceremony. Ceremonies take place quarterly in the Pastor’s Parlor, with next ceremony on May 21.



The Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett (UUCG) has signed and adopted our denomination's Declaration of Conscience after unanimous approval of the board and support from our members. It reads as follows:

Declaration of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice. The time is now.

“We have taken this unprecedented step because we see, almost daily, new threats to our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and to the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” said Congregation President Barbara Stahnke. “We intend to live our beliefs, as individuals and as a church, and will, as the statement says, actively ‘oppose any and all unjust actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.’”

Press releases have been sent to the Atlanta Journal Constitution and the Gwinnett Daily News. Thank you for your support in growing our Radically Welcoming sanctuary in a green space that is foster spiritual growth within our walls and beyond.



Racial Justice workshop

Saturday, April 15, 2017 from 10:00am-12:00pm

In light of the recent UUA controversy regarding the hiring of a White, male minister who lives in Arizona as the Regional Lead in the Southern

District, UU congregations are holding meetings, writing letters and otherwise weighing in on their discomfort with the passing over of a Latina religious educator, who lives in the region, for this position. Join the Racial Justice Committee for a discussion on this issue and its implications for our denomination. How can we move forward in love and unity? Potluck refreshments.



Memorial Garden Plantings

Here is one photo of the new ILEX plantings around the memorial garden. 6 dwarf Burfords were put in. They were funded by Mary Beth Hamburger as a part of the Eagle Scout project by Kevin Hamburger. She had requested a male ILEX, so we shall see what the mix is, male and female, when they blossom.



Thank you Steve Smith

Steve Smith and our Buildings and Grounds crew model wonderful stewardship of the UUCG building and Grounds. Here's a photo of the recently repainted picnic table. The photo on the left shows the 100 foot tall dead pine tree that was taken down near the UUCG south west border. It had been identified as a danger to our condo neighbors. Four other dead pine trees on the property, were also taken down, to reduce risk of damage or injury.



Have You Seen the Red Blanket?

We are trying to locate the bright red Fire Blanket that was donated to the church several years ago. For a long time, it was stored inside the pulpit, so that it would be readily available in case someone's clothing caught fire from a candle in the sanctuary. If you know where our Fire Blanket is, please notify Larry Long (LLong47@gmail.com).

Summer Joy Project

Nancy Jacobsen was a member of UUCG for many years. Upon her death in 2015, her niece left a bequest from her estate to be used to improve the UUCG landscape. Proposals included our dreamed nature trail and memorial garden improvements. The idea most heard, which the board approved at our March meeting, is for the mailbox island. This island was where Nancy spent time planting annuals and perennials, removed weeds and continued to work in when her beloved yard was no longer available to her (attached to a house that was too big). Nancy was always a bad ass – social justice warrior. She loved the environment and worked to make it beautiful. We are going to use her bequest this summer to fix that island and make it as beautiful and bad ass as Nancy...and hopefully to last as many years as Nancy gave to the world (90+).

Look forward to sign up sheets for the work. Looking forward to insight and help from all groups at UUCG. The board is currently taking the lead; however, we are willing for another group to take the project on if desired.

Plan: Improve the mailbox island with cement blocks to match closely to the Key Hole garden while maintaining the current plantings as much as possible and saving the railroad ties where salvageable for the parking lot or other areas of UUCG. Add appropriate plantings for a lifetime of joy. Assure this looks like a good place to sit down for a minute to enjoy conversation after worship or events.

Start Date: May 2017

Finish Date: August 2017 (in time for Rev. Jan's return and blessing).

Contact: president@uucg.org

Everything Possible: The Power of Friendship Posted on Words of Wisdom Blog on March 27, 2017 by Bob Patrick

On Saturday night of this past week, our Unitarian Universalist congregation held a potluck dinner to welcome and get to know our Muslim neighbors in our part of metro Atlanta.

Here's the backstory. The President of the United States issued an Executive Order some weeks ago banning travel of Muslims from certain countries into our country deepening the sense of fear and hostilities that he had already incited during his campaign. Almost immediately, one of our members, Lorena Griffin, began to suggest ideas for reaching out to our Muslim neighbors to say that we were glad that they were in our community and that we wanted to create friendships with them. The congregation agreed. We sent flowers and notes of good wishes. One Muslim community sent over 40 of their youth to one of our Sunday services (with doughnuts!). They invited us to "Visit a Mosque Day" and many of us went, learned, enjoyed and deepened budding friendships. We invited them to this potluck. They came. We ate wonderful food. We laughed, had moments of tears, deep conversations, fun and, as I reflect on the evening, some sort of experience that is difficult to put into words.

To me, it felt like the world became smaller, but my own insides, my heart, felt much, much larger. I posted pictures and reflections on Facebook, and within minutes dozens of my FB friends responded positively—people who don't live here or who have never entered our Unitarian Universalist Church. I gazed over the array of my friends who "liked" my post. Let me just "reduce" them to categories for a minute. They include: evangelical Christians, liberal Jews, friends from my childhood neighborhood, brand new Muslim friends, teacher friends from all over the country, conservative friends, men, women, straight and gay, relatives, fellow massage therapists, former students, white and black friends (or as I prefer to say, friends of various shades of brown), wealthier and poorer friends, and, of course, fellow Unitarian Universalist friends.

All things are possible. Look at the gathering of folks around a gather of folks. As one new friend said to me tonight: while we do have some theological differences, we really are all just people trying to live and love and get along in the world. When I consider how quick and diverse the response was to the picture of diverse people reaching out to each other, my heart is broken open to the power of love, kindness and basic human friendship.

And for me, this is God, everything possible.



CROSS CULTURAL TRANSYLVANIA PILGRIMAGE

August 16 – August 29, 2017

Experience Transylvania alongside Khasi Unitarians from NE India! The Unitarian Union of NE India has asked the UUPCC to organize a pilgrimage for its members this August, and they want to share their journey with you. Two weeks visiting the historic Unitarian places, medieval cities, castles, and enjoying the pastoral beauty of central Transylvania - all for less than \$100/day.



This pilgrimage is open to all. Through it we hope to foster a new understanding of our historical roots and build deeper relationships with each other and our co-religionists overseas. The tour logistics will be coordinated by the UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Service which has more than a decade of experience facilitating the visits of North American UUs to Eastern & Central Europe.

To register or to learn more, visit: www.uupcc.org/pilgrimage-opportunities

Deadline to Register: May 15, 2017

Price: From \$1,245/person



Unitarian Universalist Partnership Council

483 E. Lockwood, Ste. 109 | St. Louis, MO 63119 | www.uupcc.org

office@uupcc.org 314-918-2618



General Assembly 2017

General Assembly (GA) is the international gathering of Unitarian Universalists. This year, GA is relatively close - New Orleans. 2017 GA includes the election of a new President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Registration and housing are now open. Discounts are offered through April 30 and housing tends to fill quickly. There are pre-GA racial justice training workshops too. Get updates by liking UU New Orleans on Facebook or visit www.uua.org/ga.

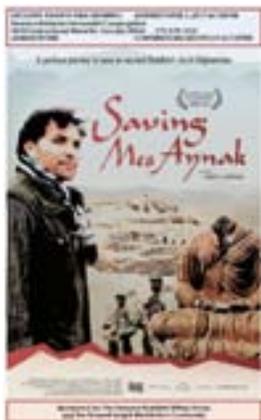


Thank you Rev. Arsenault!

Dahlonega Georgia Unitarian Universalists Rally!

When a Dahlonega, GA property owner decided to send a message to city officials by placing a pro-KKK banner on the historic downtown building, she got more than she bargained for. On Friday evening last week, hundreds of residents of the area turned out for a "unity march" organized by the Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church. Rev. Charlotte Arsenault shared "It was important that a symbol like this was recognized by our community that this wasn't something that we were

going to tolerate. We want to let our neighbors and friends that are of color know that they are a part of our community and we support them." Local news coverage of the unity march at www.thedahlonganugget.com.



Saving Mes Aynak on April 1, 2017 at 7pm in Marietta

The Emerson Buddhist Sitting Group & the Roswell Insight Meditation Community jointly present the film "Saving Mes Aynak." This documentary tells the ongoing story of the efforts save this 5000 year old historical site located in Afghanistan along the ancient Silk Road. About the size of Pompeii & Machu Pichu, only ~10% of this invaluable cultural heritage has excavated. Even so, archaeologists have uncovered unique historical and cultural artifacts which contribute to greater understanding of Afghan and Buddhist history. Mes Aynak is under imminent threat of destruction by copper mining interests that will destroy the entire site as well as the surrounding environment and by threats from the Taliban. Emerson UU at 4010 Canton Road, Marietta, GA 30066. 770-578-1533. Admission free; donations welcome.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

April 29, 2017 – 10AM to 2PM

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications. While locations are not announced at the time of printing, Karen will post locations on Facebook page after they're announced on April 1. Please visit UUCG on Facebook after April 1, 2017 to locate collection sites near you.

UU Youth CONferences and More at The Mountain in Highlands, NC

- Music Week at The Mountain April 16-21
- Homecoming Weekend at The Mountain May 26-29
- Summer Camps - Dates vary by age range with options from June 11 - July 22

Learn more and register at www.themountainrlc.org.



Growing a Beloved Community

Barbara Stahnke, President

This year the board is in preparation for strategic planning. We are reading a short book *Growing a Beloved Community* because it inspires, informs and connects us to our vision. We are asking ourselves key questions that we developed at the Board Retreat in August that can help us understand the best ways to govern for our vision to be achieved. This month's question: What are we doing; how are we inspiring our future leaders? The Chapter we read was "Encourage unity amidst diversity".

As I reflect this month on the question, I am focused on the processes to develop leaders. Are our processes clear? I really don't think so. Many future leaders of UUism exist in our church. How do we grow their active membership? I am one of the older members of the church – signing the book in 2007. This means in terms of our history as a church I have only 20% of the active member life of our congregation. I think about currently active members like Peggy & Dave Averyt and Sue Ann Soloway who have 100% active member life and think what don't I know. (If I've missed someone my bad). Do we track this kind of metric? What about UUism as a whole? Just my current thoughts.

What is your active member life in our congregation? (UUCG is 35 going on 36 years of activity.) Think about this...I am most interested in replies president@uucg.org

I do want to thank everyone who participated in our auction: those that put it together including a special acknowledgement to our staff (Laura and Christiana) who kept us moving forward and positive through some hiccoughs; many volunteers who stepped up at the last minute; members and friends who provided events and items; members and friends who participated at the event and after the event; our auction leaders, who although experiencing personal life challenges, remained with us as active members.

How can we move forward as a faith in meeting our personal needs for growth while growing the faith for another 35 years of active UUism in our community? What are you willing and able to do?

Summary of the month from the board: What are we doing; how are we inspiring our future leaders? Our board discussed many action items we could do to improve active leadership life in UUCG and UUism. Education and connection were the primary themes that resulted. Inviting people into our processes and thoughts. Personally connecting to individuals to understand their dreams and desires. Inviting people (the individual) into activities. Coursework to help folks understand Unitarian Universalism and the need for ongoing continued involvement and connection. Being their friends and extended family.

This is our work as a faith. To connect as human beings – accepting our humanness and thus our differences. The basis for connection here is UU. Let us grow this beloved community together.



Save the Date: Congregational Meeting on May 21

Our annual meeting to elect new members of the Board of Trustees and Leadership and Development Committee, along with annual reports, will be held on May 21 immediately after service. Come to the Town Hall on April 30 for discussions and then come and vote on May 21.

