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

# the gnus

June 2017

#### **Sundays at UUCG**

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

#### June Theme:

#### **Blue Boat Home**

#### June 4: It's Just a Plastic Bag

Rev. Duncan Teague, Service Leader Lorena Griffin, Worship Associate Lydia Patrick, Pianist

Choir Practice before service

#### June 11

Miriam Patrick, Service Leader Devon McQuain, Worship Associate Bryan Bishop, Pianist Michael off. No choir practice.

#### June 18

Daniel Bailey, Service Leader Toby Lyles, Worship Associate Bryan Bishop, Pianist Potluck Lunch UU 101 and UU 102 Choir Practice before service

#### June 25

Lydia Patrick, Service Leader Karen Smith, Worship Associate Bryan Bishop, Pianist Choir Practice before service

#### July 2:

Rev. Charlotte Arsenault, Service Leader Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate Sandi O'Toole, Pianist Choir Practice before service

June plate contributions are shared equally with El Refugio

ElRefugio.org



Announcements for the July newsletter 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.

### Thank you UUCG Leaders!

UUCG adopted the slate presented by the Leadership Development Committee at the May 21 Congregational Meeting.

#### Board of Trustees for 2017-2018:

President: Theresa Waldrop

Vice-President: Bill Benshoof

Secretary: Steve Smith

Treasurer: Barbara Stahnke

Member-at-Large: Ally Perras

Member-at-Large: Nathlaie Bigord

Member-at-Large: Open

Youth Associate: Evan Varner

Youth Associate: Open



Denise Benshoof

Thomas Yun

Katrina Yurko

Open

Open

If you have a youth who is looking to see what it is like to govern we would be grateful to have them join us.

As you can see from the slate, you will have some experienced members and passionate UUs to support you. Contact Denise Benshoof (herstoryian@yahoo.com) if you are willing to serve.

Barbara Stahnke (President), Ben Lower (Vice President), Ally Perras (Secretary), Steve Smith (Treasurer), Sara Heath (At-Large Trustee), and Phoenix Lastinger (Youth Associate) complete their terms on the Board of Trustees on June 30, 2017. James Riddlesperger was unable to fulfill his term and Nathalie Bigord was appointed for the two years remaining on his term. Theresa Waldrop had one year remaining on her term as At-Large Trustee.

Viki Andino joined the LDC July 1, 2015; Sherree Bailey joined in July 1, 2016 and served for 7 months; and Terry Welsher joined July 1, 2013 and has served for 4 years.

We are deeply grateful for their excellent work and service.

## Spiritual Growth

#### Faith Development at 10:00am



During the summer months of June and July, the Faith Development Team will present a Ware Lecture Series during the 10 o'clock hour. Drop in for coffee and enjoy a presentation of select talks given at past sessions of UUA General Assembly.

For a complete schedule of lectures being shown, please check the Faith Development bulletin board in the foyer of UUCG, or online at uucg.org under the Learning - Religious Exploration menu, beginning June 1st.

On Sunday morning, June 25th, we will be streaming the GA Worship Service live from New Orleans, from 9:00 am until 10:30am. Come gather together to share (from afar) the experience of GA worship with our larger UU community. Light refreshments and (of course) fair trade coffee will be provided.

#### **Our Whole Lives Program for Teens and Tweens**



It is our tradition here at UUCG to offer specialized youth programs annually, on alternating years. This coming spring (2018), Faith Development will be offering O.W.L. for 7th - 9th grade students.

O.W.L. stands for Our Whole Lives. Developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ, OWL is a sexuality education curriculum available for ages 5 through adult. At UUCG, we present the program for adolescents. OWL is more than just a lesson in the nuts and bolts

of sex. It is a program designed to model and teach caring, compassion, respect, and justice. OWL addresses the values and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world. And your community of faith is a great place to start this conversation.

We require a minimum of 6 enrolled youth to hold the program. If you are interested in learning more and attending a parent orientation this fall, please contact Christiana McQuain at cmcquain@uucg.org.

#### **Building Community with Faith Development**



Are you longing to contribute to the future of the world? Do you want to empower youth to think for themselves? Are you interested to hear what kids these days are really thinking (and how little things have changed since you were a kid)? Then volunteer to become an O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) facilitator! O.W.L. is a comprehensive sexuality education course, and UUCG is currently seeking facilitators for the 7th-9th grade age group. There will be a training in east Tennessee in mid-October of this year, and if you're interested, we want to send you! Contact Christiana McQuain (cmcquain@uucg.org) or Karen Smith (kms22543@

gmail.com) for more information and get with the program!

#### Summer Solstice: Longest Light, Beginning Night



Saturday, June 17, at 6:00pm

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.

#### **CUUPs Gathering**



June 3 at 7:00pm

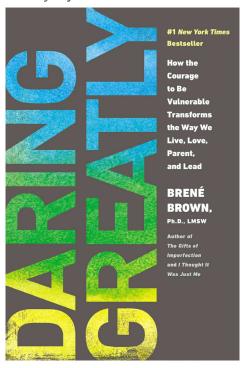
You're invited to come for a meditation and experience on power animals.



Our Faith Development program year begins in August. We are repeating the theme "Return Again" for Rev Jan's return after sabbatical. Following our summer series of Ware Lectures at 10:00am on Sundays, our 2017-2018 year resumes with

- Forum First on the first Sunday of the month,
- Spiritual Practices on the second,
- Faith in Action for the third
- Book discussion on the fourth Sunday with an accompanying suggestion to read with/to children. Book discussions will run for a two month period.

The August/September book discussion will be *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown.



August	Return Again  Return again  Return again  Return again  Return again  Return again
September	Beauty
October	Hospitality
November	Faith
December	Hope
January	Justice
February	Love
March	Humility
April	Transformation
May	Beloved Community
June	Wisdom
July	Liberty
August	Unity/ Diversity

Photo Credits—Beauty: For Georgia. Happy Birthday, photo by mario, November 15, 2007, (CC BY 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/64738468@N00/2035319066 / Hospitality: Ye olde faithful candle shot, photo by Neil H, January 6, 2011, (CC BY 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/neilghamilton/5373285598 / Faith: Faith, photo by Beryl\_snw, February 2, 2014, (CC 0 1.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/beryl\_snw/13059882085 / Hope: Faith, photo by zeitfaenger.at, January 28, 2012, (CC BY 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/kwarz/6819033935 / Justice: A Lady of Justice, photo by Joel Kramer, November 2, 2007, (CC BY 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/75001512@N00/1833105328 / Love: Love, photo by jbarreiros, October 9, 2009, (CC BY-SA 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/tintedglasssky/2991012234 / Humility: Humility, photo by Hafiz Issadeen, January 23, 2011, (CC BY-ND 2.0), https://www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/www.flickr.com/photos/brighteyedmedia/6205829019 / Wisdom: Owl on the Pr-OWL, photo by turtlemom/photos/pepsiline/4303850653 / Unity/Diversity: Crayons, photo by Jeff Golden, July 26, 2009, (CC BY-SA), https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeffanddayna/3760002491

## Mental Health

Ronald Braunstein, Music Director

## Join us!



Jen Garrison, Me2/Atlanta Affiliate Facilitator

re you a musician who plays classical music and is interested in erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness? Please join us! Me2/Orchestra ("me, too") is the world's only classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and people who support them.

We are holding an informational meeting on Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 from 4:00-5:30 pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett (UUCG): 12 Bethesda Church Rd. Lawrenceville, GA 30044 with the goal of launching a new Me2/ affiliate in the Atlanta, GA metro area.

Learn more about the Me2/ organization and the two existing orchestras in Vermont and Massachusetts by visiting the website below. We hope to form an ensemble (or multiple chamber music ensembles) who can begin performing for unconventional audiences in Atlanta in the near future.

Please email Jen Garrison at 1blonde.violin@gmail.com to find out more.

#### www.Me2orchestra.org







#### It Takes a Village

#### A Message from Barbara Stahnke

UUCG welcomes families of all types and sizes at UUCG. As part of this welcoming practice, we gladly offer childcare at all UUCG events so that all adults may fully participate in the life of the congregation.

As part of creating a safe community, children and teens are supervised at all times at UUCG. In our classes, programs, and childcare, UUCG policy specifies that a minimum of two adults, from different households and with a current background check on file, provide supervision. For those in our nursery or toddler room, one adult is from our professional childcare staff and the other is an approved volunteer.

If you are a committee chair or group planner and would like childcare at your event, please provide a month's notice of your event so we can advertise accordingly, make arrangements with our professional staff, and solicit childcare reservations. Please also identify the volunteer providing childcare so that we can verify the background check is on file or make those arrangements. Or, notify Christiana McQuain at cmcquain@uucg.org if you need assistance in locating a volunteer childcare provider.

If you are a parent and seeking childcare at an event other than Sunday morning, please visit www. uucg.org and select "Register for Event". We ask at least a week's notice to make arrangements for childcare. Childcare is available without a reservation for Sunday morning, including 10:00am Faith Development programs, 11:00am Worship services, and 12:30pm Congregational Meetings.

If you enjoy working with children and would like to be added to our list of childcare volunteers, please contact Christiana McQuain or Laura de Castro (Ldecastro@uucg.org). Laura completes all UUCG background checks and both administrative staff members can answer questions and access the list of approved volunteers. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the children of fellow congregants and their families.

Children and teens are welcome to attend events with parents too.

If you have questions or wish to discuss the policy further, please contact Barbara Stahnke, UUCG President, or our administrative staff.



We have openings for adults to work with our youth group. Training is available. Please contact Christiana McQuain, Karen Smith, or Nathalie Bigord at FaithDevelopment@uucg.org if you'd like to attend training or work with teens at UUCG.



## **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: "How do we communicate with our congregation and our committees in doing our work toward our vision?" The Chapter we read was Spread our Good News.

As I reflect this month on the question, I am recalling all the good news in our Annual Report. When I think about all the activities we did just this year, I am impressed and overjoyed. Remember this good news and the fact that UUCG has been doing this kind of work for 35 going on 36 years. Now how do we take this kind of activity to grow our faith into that beloved community that we envision with our radical welcome and connections within our walls and beyond?

To become radically welcoming and connecting within our community and beyond, we must deal with the white supremacy in our systems. Our good news is that we have a tool to stay with the work – our covenant. I know that I try to live that covenant every day of my life, and I am emboldened to do so by seeing at work in our community. Our good news is that we have faith leaders and elders in our home church that are willing to learn, try, stumble and then try again in our safe and healing space. The healing we do for and with each other, the forgiveness we grant ourselves and each other, the knowledge we gain from others and share from within ourselves, all of this we take out of UUCG into the wider world. That is our good news. We are going to live this stuff day in and day out because we are called to create the world we want to live in. Let us strengthen ourselves with our good news so that we can look at our systems, at our policies, at our procedures, at our ministries to dismantle white supremacy once and for all.

Summary of the month from the board: How do we communicate with our congregation and our committees in doing our work toward our vision? We are a safe and healing space. The way we are with each other – being in covenant. Just being a Unitarian Universalist with our neighbors without defining it for them – living out our values. Every meeting we should be talking about the good news of what we are doing.

We don't have to be perfect to evangelize for our faith. We just need to live our UU values with our family, friends, coworkers and communities – and stay in the battle for all of our lives. Let us grow this beloved community together.

#### Annual Report Available Online

The Annual Report referenced above and at the May 21 Congregational Meeting, is also available online. Visit www.uucg. org and select "About", then "Our Governance" and "Congregational Meetings".



# Thank you Amanda! Our Volly of the Quarter for January-March 2017 is Amanda Perkins. Thank you Amanda for your service in the nursery, finance committee, Family Nights, Auction crafts, and much more!

#### **Luck of the Community**

With ongoing donations for parties from our 2017 Auction, we have exceeded our Auction goal with net proceeds of \$8184. Additional donations will go to capital improvement projects at UUCG - like the giant hole in the parking lot or our aging air conditioner. So, take a look below and consider an additional donation to UUCG for fun at the Music Recital, Women's Night or other event. 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.



#### 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 on July 1 at 1:00pm

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
Saturday, July 1, from 1 - 5pm at Lorena's Home in Dacula, GA 30019



#### **Harbins Hike Coming Fall 2017**

6 mile moderate hike in the woods. Picnic lunch will be provided. Contact Wally at 678-463-4652

Date: Fall 2017



#### Left, Right, & Center Party on October 14

Come play Left, Right & Center (a fun dice game!), and enjoy food & fellowship at the Averyt's house. One person will win about \$45 at the end of the game!

Contact Peggy at 404-354-3226 October 14, 2017 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm The Averyt Home in Grayson, GA



#### **Ebeneezer and Mary Mac's Field Trip Coming 2018**

Enjoy 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

Contact Debra Greenwood

Date: 2018



#### **CONSTITUENT COMMENTS**

Dear Member of Congress,		
I am a constituent from (city)	(state)	
I want you to know that I am:  Extremely concerned about climate charged about clima	ange	
I am especially concerned about the following  Sea Level Rise and Ice Melt  Extreme Weather  National Security Implications  Fresh Water Supplies  Agricultural Disruption	— Health Im — Flooding of Marine Education Species Education Education Species Education Education Figure 1997	pacts (pollution) or Drought cosystem Impacts Species
Message to Congress:		
Signed:	Date:	
Your Name:		(print clearly)
Address:		
City:	_ State: Ziŗ	D:
Email:	Γρί·	

Privacy Statement: Congressional offices require contact information to fully process comments. Your personal information will be used by Citizens' Climate Lobby to connect your comments to the relevant member of Congress and to communicate with you about this form. You will also be signed up on the Citizens' Climate Lobby email list. You will be able to unsubscribe at any time by emailing <a href="mailto:unsubscribe@citizensclimatelobby.org">unsubscribe@citizensclimatelobby.org</a>. We do not share our contact lists with any other groups or individuals.

#### **Green Team Seeks Your Comments**



In preparation for an intensive day of non-partisan Climate Advocacy Lobbying on Capitol Hill on June 13, you have an opportunity to raise your voice during the meetings. Just fill out the Constituent Comment form available on page 8 of this issue of the GNUUS or pickup a copy from the Sanctuary or at www.uucg.org. You can do as many as three (House Rep & two Senators). Also, if you haven't filled out the Green Sanctuary survey yet please do. Blank surveys are also available at the back of the Sanctuary and on the UUCG website under "Justice - Green Team".

	you recycle? a. Always b. Sometimes		<ul><li>c. Never</li><li>d. Curbside pick-up not offered where I live</li></ul>	
	UUCG recycle? . Yes	b. No	c. Don't know	
4. Do y	ou compost?			
a	Yes need more information	b. No	c. Interested b	u
5. Does	UUCG compost?			
a	. Yes	b. No	c. Don't know	
a b c d e f. g h i j. k	. Decreasing electricity us	ucts and foods se by turning off lights, a ntings to decrease sun a ices to use less gas it of your home done n or carpool whenever o ces es in your neighborhood lled at your home or bus ble bags for your purch energy/water consuming ic car ight bulbs (LEDs,	adjusting thermostats, etc. and/or wind exposure to your home  ften  //community siness hases when shopping g foods (e.g. beef, dairy	1
<ul> <li>7. What</li> <li>a</li> <li>b</li> <li>c</li> <li>d</li> <li>e</li> <li>f</li> <li>g</li> <li>h</li> <li>i</li> <li>1</li> <li>8. Do y</li> <li>a</li> </ul>	World Wildlife Fund     Greener Georgia     Other  ou consider the environm     Yes	ness  ght y and/or Georgia Conser  ental impact when your	vancy  dietary choices?  Not sure what the environmental	
a				would like to

9. Did you fill out the baseline version of this survey in 2014?

b. No

c. Don't remember

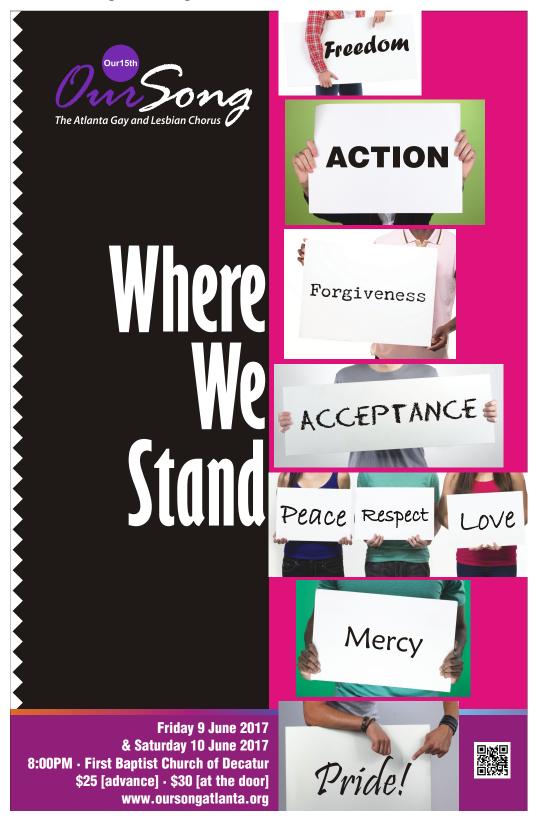
a. Yes

## Beyond Our Walls

#### **Invitation from OurSong**

OurSong, Atlanta's LGBTQ and Allie Chorus invites UUCG to its next Atlanta Concert. Friday, June 9th, and Saturday, June 10th, 8:00 pm at First Baptist Church Decatur 308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, Georgia 30030

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Advance tickets available for purchase at www.oursongatlanta.org and from chorus members.



#### **UUCG Small Group Ministry**



## Registration for Covenant Groups is now open!

The Covenant Group Leader Team invites everyone seeking a closer connection to our Beloved Community to consider registering for a Covenant Group. About ten people meet for about eight sessions to discuss readings related to our Monthly Worship

Themes. This is an experience in appreciative listening that is very helpful to the speaker and the listeners. A special feature is that each person in the group may speak from their own experience for five minutes, without interruption. Please join with us to share the experience of "creating a space that listens everyone into speech." If you are looking for a new spiritual practice, you will find one. If you are looking for a way to better understand the stories, passions, and interests of others, you will find one. And, if you are looking for a place to tell your story, whether it includes tears, laughter, or anything in between, you will find that as well!

To register, visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events".

The groups meet in the Playhouse at UUCG, and this is the planned schedule (with one or two possible exceptions) for the group meetings:

- 1st/3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30: 8/16, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 12/6
- 2nd/4th Wednesday, 7:00-9:00: 8/9, 8/23, 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/29 (gap due to Thanksgiving)
- 1st/3rd Thursday, 10:00-12:00: 8/17, 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7

#### Planning for Summer Joy Project



#### June 3 at 10am

This summer, UUCG will engage in a Summer Joy project to repair the mailbox island at the sidewalk entrance. Nancy Jacobsen planted annuals and perennials in this island and the funding to repair it comes from a bequest from Nancy Jacobsen's estate. Members, friends, family, etc. who are interested in participating in the planning are welcome to

participate in the planning meeting to be held June 3 at 10:00am in the Library at UUCG. Let us plan for some fun work this summer making UUCG as beautiful as Nancy J.'s spirit.

#### Visitor Orientation UU 101 June 18 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 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 June 18 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 August 20.

#### **UUCG**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett 12 Bethesda Church Road Lawrenceville, GA 30044 www.uucg.org 770.717.7913

#### **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 Our Minister is on sabbatical through July 31. Contact Staff or Board at the numbers below or our Pastoral Care Associates at 770-847-0566.

#### Laura de Castro, Administrator

Ldecastro@uucg.org
Office: 770-717-7913
Our Administrator is in the building on most Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.
She will be on vacation June 8-June 19.
Appointments suggested.

Christiana McQuain, Program Assistant cmcquain@uucq.org

**Michael Parker,** Choir Director choir@uucg.org

#### **Board of Trustees**

Barbara Stahnke, President president@uucg.org

**Ben Lower, Vice President** vp@uucg.org

**Steve Smith, Treasurer** treasurer@uucg.org

Ally Perras, Secretary secretary@uucg.org

Board Members at Large

Nathalie Bigord Sara Heath Theresa Waldrop Phoenix Lastinger Youth Vacant



## Racial Justice Workshop June 17 at 10:00am



Join the Racial Justice Committee in the viewing of the documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* which highlights the life and teachings of James Baldwin.

## **General Assembly June 21-25 in New Orleans**



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY** 

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. If you are unable to travel to the New Orleans event, you can still participate or view the workshops,

worship services and business meetings. You can register to participate off-site or visit www.uua.org/ga to stream events, download materials, or watch videos on-demand. *UU World* will also be reporting and posting timely articles on their blog. Look for news on the elections and other big events.





Curiosity. Courage. Compassion.

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.