

September 2024

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The Importance of Every Interaction

Welcome to UUMAN's Membership Team!!!

UUMAN's Membership Team meets virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Here's the link if you're interested:

<https://meet.google.com/nem-ivsm-dhu>

Generally speaking, the role of the Membership Team is to integrate UUMAN members and visitors into the UUMAN community. A few times each year they lead the introduction to Unitarian Universalism courses (UU101), and welcome new members in the Sunday morning new member ceremonies.

Many might think that the bulk of the Membership Team's work takes place on Sunday morning as they welcome new visitors, yet they work hard throughout the week at keeping updated on the status of both members and visitors by coordinating with Greeters, Care Circles, Program Council and Staff.

That said, EVERYONE is an honorary member of the Membership Team. (Yes, that means you... and I bet you didn't know that!) 😊

Back in seminary, during my Leadership Studies class, which was a part of my internship at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, we discussed the topic of "ministerial authority" – what it is and how it is maintained. On one level, authority is spelled out in a contract or job description (e.g. Ministerial Contract); yet my internship supervisor said, "Your true authority is renegotiated in every interaction that you have with a congregant." I have tried my best to carry this with me throughout my ministry at UUMAN.

The importance of every interaction applies to welcoming visitors and engaging new and existing members at UUMAN. Visitors and new people at UUMAN don't have an experience with the "Membership Team" or with "Greeters," they have an experience with "UUMAN." Visitors and new people don't know the Membership Team from the Board, the Program Council, the Communications Team, etc.

If a new person has a bad experience with any single individual or group (e.g. Minister, Communications Team, DRE, 2nd Hour Facilitator) in their mind, it's a bad experience with UUMAN.

How a visitor or new member perceives UUMAN is renegotiated in every interaction that we, all or any of us, have with them.

So, I kindly ask that all honorary members of the Membership Team (again, that is all of you) keep this in mind in ALL interactions you have that pertain to UUMAN.

A new person who is excited about UUMAN might want to jump right in and tackle a project or initiative. Although they might have the best of intentions, they might inadvertently step on a few toes and knock a few things over. Our response, as members of the Membership Team, should be first encouraging, grateful and gentle...and we should be willing to help them. This pertains to in-person interactions, email, social media postings, etc.

We can still have difficult conversations...but we can have them gently, covenantally, lovingly. Welcome to UUMAN's Membership Team. We're so glad you've joined us!!!

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

All In! UU The Vote

We have been working towards acquiring GOOD TROUBLE CONGREGATION status for several months now. Our work is based on several of our UU values and UUMAN mission and vision.

UUtheVote is part of this initiative, calling us to be part of this moment and election which is so vital to the preservation of our democracy.

We want to live our faith in the public square, impacting the world beyond our walls by deepening relationships and fortifying our links to our community.

We have been busy creating opportunities for UUMAN to do just that.

In the Summer we led a service in which everyone had the opportunity to create a RICH PICTURE of the world we envision after the elections. We had the opportunity to work in pairs and extend the grace of deep listening to our peers.

Since then, many of you have also volunteered to write postcards (400) and letters (600) to underrepresented voters. On August 25th we had the opportunity to do that together. 41 members, 25% of our community, showed up to write 400 letters! Not to mention the other 200 many of you took home. Enjoy some of the photos from the August 25th event attached.

We also started the Rosie Chart which is a tool for us to be accountable for our involvement and commitment and celebrate those who are doing the work. Look for it in Fellowship Hall. Add your name and what you are prepared to do.

BUT THERE IS MORE COMING, AND WE NEED TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM!

We are planning a phone banking event with GLAHR – Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights to be announced soon.

SAVE THE DATE: On September 29, during the Social Justice second hour, we will be hosting a **TOWN HALL** meeting together with the Southern Poverty Law Center. We will have speakers, opportunity for questions and discussion and specific call to action. This is an exciting opportunity to work with partners in the community, showcase UUMAN to potential members and get us excited about the work we have in front of us. Volunteers will be needed.

We hope you can join us in any or all events we have coming up. There is a place for everyone!

Your Social Justice Team

socialjustice@gmail.com





Harvest Moon Auction 2024

YES - we will be having our annual Harvest Moon Auction this year!

YES - the date of the live Auction is NOV. 2nd (mark your calendars!)

YES - we have some awesome volunteers already

YES - We need MANY more folks to volunteer because this is a BIG event!

How can you be involved in the Auction you ask? Here's where we need helpers:

DONATIONS - solicit, collect and organize incoming donations

TECH SUPPORT - using Auctria help input items, create the catalog, auction website

PUBLICITY - announcements, emails, ticket/info table on Sundays

FOOD - help plan, purchase and prepare food for live event

BEVERAGE - help plan, procure and set up drink/bar areas for live event

DECORATION - help decorate food tables and stage area for live event

EVENT HELP - set up, tear down, kitchen helpers, kitchen cleaners

EXTRAS - want to help but not sure how? We can set you up with a task to match your time commitment, availability, and skills.

If you are willing and able, please email harvest-moon@uuman.org and we will get you signed up. Working together on the Auction is actually a fun way to meet new people and get involved. Looking forward to hearing from YOU!!

Laurie Wheeler & Elizabeth Rohan
(Harvest Moon Co-Queens- LOL!)



Our 50/50 Shared Plate

Each month, a non-profit organization that is selected by our Social Justice Committee is chosen to receive half of our offering. Half of the cash on the Sunday that a speaker from the organization is here (Sept. 8th) and all month long, half of donations designated 50-50 made through Breeze and by check (memo 50-50), go to the recipient. The other half goes to UUMAN.

For September, the **SAM Foundation** was selected. The mission of the SAM Foundation is to prevent suicide through public awareness and education by equipping our communities with the skills to intervene in a suicidal crisis. Our hope is to change the way our communities view mental health and serve as a resource to those who have been affected by suicide, therefore making our communities more suicide safe. The SAM Foundation believes all members of communities play a vital role in suicide prevention. Through our evidence-based trainings, the SAM Foundation reaches a variety of community members, corporate groups, educators, first responders and mental health professionals.

Grovelay Community Group was the 50-50 recipient for August and received \$390!

- Michelle Liebergesell



Game Night

Game night will be at 6:00 on Saturday, September 7 at the Nagrani house.

Address: 5045 Old Oak Trace, Roswell, 30075

I will be making taco fixings for dinner. Please bring sides, snacks, or desserts and, if you don't have them to bring, just bring yourself.

Traditionally, the games we play are more complex and strategic. I enjoy them because one can enjoy playing even if one is clearly not going to win. We have added a new element to this game night for those who don't want to work at learning a complex game; on one table we will be playing dominoes! If you have a game that you would like to share, please feel free to bring it.

I look forward to socializing, eating, and PLAYING!

Peace,
Shelley Nagrani

MCY September Times

Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

A Look Back and What's Ahead!

Hello UUMAN families!

We've had a fantastic start to the new RE year, and it's been wonderful seeing so many of you involved. August was full of exciting events and changes, and September promises even more. Here's a recap of last month and a preview of what's coming up!

August Highlights ☀️



RE Curriculum Classes Began: All RE classes officially kicked off on August 8th, and it's been great to see so many kids and youth diving into their new lessons and activities. Thank you to everyone for your enthusiastic participation! 📖



Playscape Ribbon Cutting: The playscape is officially open! We celebrated this milestone 🎉 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony right after service. Families explored the new play area, and the kids loved moving the small heart-shaped rocks, symbolizing that "love travels." If you haven't visited yet, we encourage you to stop by!

First Kid Community Session: Our new Kid Community initiative launched successfully. Kids enjoyed calming play and activities during the service, giving them a relaxing space while parents stayed in the sanctuary. This is a wonderful addition to our dual service model.



OWL Classes Have Started: Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes have begun! We are excited about the meaningful discussions and learning taking place.

What's Coming in September

No Programming on Labor Day Weekend: On Sunday, September 1st, there will be no nursery, children, or youth programming before, during, or after the service. This is also the day of our special ****Blessing of the Animals**** service. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaled friends to be blessed! 🐾



Coming of Age (COA) Program: We are thrilled about the exciting new elements in our Coming of Age (COA) program this year! We are fortunate to have Troy and Raffaella, both cradle UUs who grew up right here at UUMAN and experienced the traditional COA program. They bring a wealth of experience and a strong connection to our UU community. As emerging adult mentors, Troy and Raffaella will play a crucial role in helping to mold and shape a new way of Coming of Age. Their involvement is not just about revisiting the past but about innovating and inspiring our youth to explore their identities, beliefs, and place in the UU faith. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in meaningful experiences, including trips to various UU churches in the Atlanta area, providing a broader view of our community and practices. The program aims to culminate in a meaningful journey to Boston, connecting with our UU heritage and visiting historical UU landmarks. We look forward to watching our youth grow and deepen their understanding of Unitarian Universalism through these experiences. 🌟

MCY September Times

(continued)

A Look Back and What's Ahead!



Kid Community Sign-Up: Kid's Community is here! Children can now enjoy our dual-path service: starting with songs and story time in the main service, then moving to the fellowship hall for fun, calm, and engaging games and activities.

To keep Kid's Community running smoothly, we rely on volunteers. We kindly ask parents to volunteer at least twice over a six-month period. We're also open to new ideas for activities, so please email any suggestions to James Luen at anthonyjamesluen@gmail.com.

We're excited to offer this opportunity for the kids, and we encourage all parents to get involved!

- James Luen



Social Justice Multigen Event:

Join us on Sunday, September 29th, for an exciting multigenerational activity that will teach our children and youth about the U.S. voting system by letting them vote on the name of our new outdoor playscape! The playscape team will present 3-5 name options, and the kids will go through the entire voting process:

1. Preliminary Voting: Narrowing down the name choices.
2. Canvassing and Discussions: Talking about the merits of each name and learning about advocacy.

1. Preliminary Voting: Narrowing down the name choices.

2. Canvassing and Discussions: Talking about the merits of each name and learning about advocacy.

3. Campaigning: Creating posters or speeches to support their favorite name.

4. Final Voting: Casting votes to select the official name.

5. Celebrate Democracy: Concluding with a fun celebration of our democratic process!

This 45-minute activity will be a fantastic opportunity for our young members to learn about voting and feel involved in our community. We encourage parents and other adults to join in the fun and participate as well. If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up by contacting Amy Moss.

We look forward to seeing families come together for this meaningful and educational event! 🌍

Key Updates and Needs!



Urgent Need for RE Instructors:

We urgently need at least one more instructor for both the PreK-1st grade and Junior Youth (5th-7th grade) RE classes. Your involvement is critical to the success of our programs. By volunteering, you will play a vital role in shaping the spiritual and personal development of our children and youth. If you or someone you know might be interested, please fill out the attached form. I will personally follow up with everyone who expresses interest. Your support is deeply appreciated and necessary to ensure that we can continue to offer quality programming for our youngest members!

Preparations for our Autumn Festival are underway! If you'd like to join the planning team, please fill out [this form]. Your input will make this event even more special!

Autumn Festival Planning:

Preparations for our Autumn Festival are underway! If you'd like to join the planning team, please fill out [this form]. Your input will make this event even more special!



Thank you for being part of our vibrant UUMAN community. We look forward to a fantastic September filled with learning, growth, and connection. If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out. See you on Sunday!

~ Lexie T. Brown, UUMAN Director of Religious Exploration

Playscape Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Call for Volunteers

Get ready to play! Our Playscape dream has finally become a reality! On Sunday, August 11, we celebrated its grand opening with a fun-filled ceremony. Our own Jim Saunders kicked off the festivities with a heartwarming poem, and then we officially christened the Playscape by driving a "Love is at the Center" railroad spike into the ground. Each child was given a heart to place inside the fence. Laughter and voices, young and old filled the air. It was a truly magical moment!

The fun doesn't stop there! We're excited to announce that the Playscape is about to get even more amazing. A charming playhouse will soon be nestled beneath the magnolia tree, inviting kids to explore and imagine. The Kayak Ministry is working on a cool water play feature called the River Wall, complete with a working sink fed by a raised rainfed cistern. And get ready to hear some beautiful melodies! The Chalice Choir is creating a Musical Wall that will amplify our children's voices. Plus, our talented volunteers led by Michael Arnett are building a stage with a curtain for dramatic performances. We're also adding some trail gravel to the winding pathway to make it more accessible for everyone.

Join the fun and help shape the future of our Playscape! In partnership with the Social Justice Committee, UUMAN will be hosting a mock voting exercise on Sept. 29 to choose the perfect name. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event. If you're interested in getting involved and helping to complete these finishing touches, please reach out to Donna Melcher or Kelly Callen.

- Donna Melcher



Rev. Dave, Dillon Callen, Kyson Phillippi (standing) placing Love at the Center



Kids loving the Stump Jump!

Get Your UUMAN Swag

At a recent outing with friends from UUMAN I was wearing a t-shirt with the UUMAN logo on it. Someone asked me where I got the t-shirt - so I told them - from the UUMAN Gift Shop. What there's UUMAN Gift Shop? Yes there is!

So it got me thinking if this person wasn't aware of the UUMAN Gift Shop others also might not know about it. So here's the deal on where you can get your own UUMAN Swag to wear proudly around our community.

If you click on "Give" on the front page of our website - <https://uuman.org/> and then scroll to the bottom of the Give page you will see a button that will take you to the UUMAN Gift Shop which is hosted by redbubble.com.

Get your cool UUMAN SWAG!

- Bob Popp



The Mountain Learning and Retreat Center

The Mountain Learning and Retreat Center celebrates Unitarian Universalist principles, inspires people of all ages, transforms lives and builds a more compassionate world.

The following lists upcoming events:

Sunday Gatherings - Every Sunday through October

You're invited to join us at the Many Hands Peace Farm at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center for our Sunday Gathering. Enjoy a full day of events, communing with nature, as well as learning more about the native plants and flowers that nurture our mind and body. We will also enjoy a community potluck lunch so be sure to bring a dish to share!

- Mindful Movement & Meditation
- Food Forest Sound Bath & Foraging
- Community Potluck Lunch
- Herbal Tea & Sacred Circle
- Group Garden Cultivation

RSVP and join our community newsletter by emailing farm@themountainrlc.org

Make it a fun weekend and book a stay with us! Call 828-526-5838 or visit www.themountainrlc.org/planning-a-retreat for more info and to make your reservations.

Fall Youth CONferences - Now is the time to start planning for our fall Youth CONS! Join Unitarian Universalist youth, Peer Advocate Leaders (PALs), and advisors from congregations all over the South-east beyond for a weekend full of fun and spiritual growth. Activities include workshops, a dance, and a Coffee House where youth can showcase their talents. Participants stay in our cozy cabins and enjoy healthy, delicious meals suited to each individuals' dietary needs.

- Elementary CON (3rd to 5th grade) - October 18-20
- Intermediate CON (6th to 8th grade) - November 1-3
- Senior High CON (9th to 12th grade) - November 15-17

Learn more and register at: www.themountainrlc.org/youth-conferences

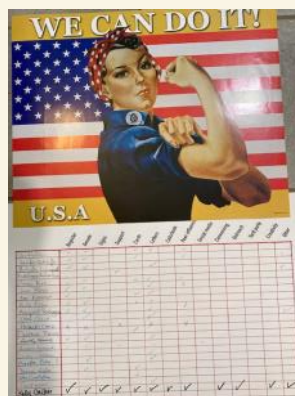
Fall PAL Planning Weekend - September 20-22

Peer Advocate Leaders (PAL) and Mentors (Age 16 & up) gather to plan the upcoming Youth CONference season at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. The focus of this weekend is to build a program for all ages that is aligned with our Unitarian Universalist values as a supplement to congregational Religious Education programs. Space is limited to 25 registrants for the weekend. Only register if you plan on attending one or more of the Youth Conferences during the season.

Learn more and register at: www.themountainrlc.org/youth-con/fall-pal-planning-weekend

Betty Brown
Ambassador

Rosie the Riveter



Rosie the Riveter was a symbol of men and women working and fighting together to defeat Hitler. She lives yet through you and your actions. Sign up, and when you have completed a minimum of 10 hours, we want you in your best Rosie pose featured on the wall with friends, as a beacon for others.

Rarely in human history is there a moment so pregnant with change. Before us is a blessing, an opportunity to move beyond the limitations of the

past and build together with imagination a democracy that belongs to all and serves all that live.

We are the grassroots. We are Americans rising. Georgia, a battleground state is ours to win. Positioned in the suburbs we play a critical role. In our rally we turn fear into celebration. Together we will save this country and this planet as we begin to align ourselves with the heartbeat of the people and the universe.

Work for the candidate of your choice.

- Gus Hadorn

UUMAN is building the future - Dive In!

I was honored to be able to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for UUMAN's new Playscape during August. It's been inspiring to watch our youth lead fundraising efforts and volunteers build out equipment for the renovated area in front of Discovery Cottage.

All this hands-on energy made me nostalgic for my own childhood. I thought I could help out by stopping by the big box hardware store, and bringing back some iron pipes and sharp-edged sheet metal so we could build our structures old school style. But project leads Kelly Callen and Donna Melcher stopped me right there - we have a new, better way! We're making the choice to use sustainable, natural materials for our playscape. We're aligning to safety and accessibility standards. The result is an area for our children that's eye-catching and practical as well as fully aligned with our values.

Not far from our playscape area, check out our new rain garden and backyard fencing. These projects are investments in the beauty and practical use of our campus, with more improvements on the way for our growing, diverse congregation.

There's been a new energy as we've welcomed members and visitors alike back to our campus for the start of a new program year. At our August board retreat, our trustees in key leadership positions discussed themes to keep the momentum going. We'll be talking more about these in the coming weeks and months, but we're looking to build a focus on:

- Increase UUMAN's visibility within our community
- Foster member development
- Explore and plan for congregation growth and expansion

With so many new things going on, there's never been a better time to get involved. And while there's great value in professional skills, you don't need to be a master carpenter or master gardener to get involved. Try joining our "UU the Vote" efforts, or getting involved with our congregations Religious Education programs for youth, or volunteering in the preparation for our annual Harvest Moon fundraising auction, or assisting any of the many other programs and committees all around. We're excited to build UUMAN's future together with you.

- Martin Poteralski

The Magic of Our Rain Garden

Hopefully by now you will have noticed the Rain Garden that was installed in front of our Sanctuary. It was installed as an environmentally friendly way to address a water problem we were having. During heavy rains, mud would be washed onto the south end of the Portico and the path behind the Sanctuary would turn to mud.

The Rain Garden has been a big success completely addressing the source of the "water problem" - the two downspouts on the south side of the Sanctuary and water running downhill from the Discovery Cottage backyard. Now the water from the two downspouts is transported through an underground pipe to the rain garden in front of the Portico and a berm was put in to stop the water from the Discovery Cottage backyard from reaching the path behind the Sanctuary.

A rain garden is a shallow basin designed to collect and hold excess rainwater and allow it to soak into the ground. Plants have been planted around the rain garden to help filter the water by removing pollutants.

The installation of the rain garden took place over several days in July. First dirt was removed from the designated area, then it was partially filled with gravel, sand, and soil. Overflow from the garden was made from chunks of sidewalk that were removed for the pipe installation. It runs onto the parking lot, where it seeps through the pervious pavement. Pollinators were planted all around the rain garden including Rush, Little Joe Pye Weed, Swamp Milkweed, Blue Flag Iris, Button Bush, Dense Blazing Star.

Be sure to check it out the next time it rains or anytime.

Susan Wilson - Operations Chair



Figure 1 Some of the Mud!



Figure 2 Pipe Installation



Figure 3 Rain Garden Under Construction



Figure 4 Rain Garden During Heavy Rain

September: A Month of Sundays



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 34 years.
	William Hunter G. is celebrating a birthday.
9/10	Luc G. is celebrating a birthday.
9/22	Debra and Mike B. are celebrating their anniversary of 39 years.
	Carolina P. and Sam F. are celebrating their anniversary of 24 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 newsletter@uuman.org

Date	Service Description	Service Leader
9/1	<p>Blessing of the Animals</p> <p>Please join us in our annual Blessing of the Animals service. We will bless your furred, feathered, crawling friends in one way or another.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/8	<p>Life is a Joke: Punching up vs. Punching Down</p> <p>There's power in jokes, but like any other powerful weapons, jokes should be deployed in the service of the greater good. Punching up, in theory, is fine. We should be mindful of the danger of punching down, making those who are less well off and least able to respond, the object of ridicule.</p>	Dirk Bender
9/15	<p>What Do You Check at the Door?</p> <p>Alice Walker said, "Any God I ever felt at church I brought with me." Regardless as to how you envision God, do you feel comfortable bringing your whole self to church each Sunday? Are there portions of you that you feel you must check at the door? What is the price of doing this?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/22	<p>The Lost Religion of Unitarian Universalism</p> <p>The year is 4024 and some progressive youth on an archaeological dig come upon some ancient relics of a long, lost religion. How do they reconstruct the purpose and meaning of this faith? How can they resurrect it?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn and Youth
9/29	<p>Our Friends in India's Khasi Hills</p> <p>On September 18, 1887, an anniversary date Khasi Unitarians still celebrate, Hajom Kissor Singh led the first Unitarian church service in his home in Jowai, India. In March 2025, a trip is being planned to visit the Khasi Unitarians and their churches. This will include a trip to visit our partner church in Mawsynjri, Meghalaya.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn