



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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IN THE INTERIM: Marvin Gaye on the Seine



Some highlights from my recent trip to France that probably won't make it into a sermon, although you never know.

Soundtrack: American music from the 1980s seems to be a Parisian trend. The good stuff, not the irritating "ear worm" one suffers for days upon being subjected to an elevator riff. On the long ride from Charles de Gaulle airport to our distant hotel, our shuttle driver played Rod Stewart's greatest hits. The first day's view from our riverboat glide along the Seine flowed gently to the silky tones of Marvin Gaye, before someone official on the crew switched to classical—nice but predictable.

Souvenir #1: Pope Francis. What I love about Europe is that everything is so old. Boston is an infant. What I dislike about historical landmarks anywhere is the crowds, although they did an impressive job of staying quiet at Notre Dame. My favorite among the ancient chapels lining the sanctuary was the one dedicated to Pope Francis. Mainly it contained a poster of him grinning and urging us all to live a satisfying life, because that's what God really, really wants. (Spice Girls lyric reference is my loose but accurate translation from the French.) At the kiosks where Notre Dame memorabilia are dispensed, I bought a Pope Francis medallion for 2 euros. I'm a fan girl.

Souvenir #2: A t-shirt and a sore shoulder. These commemorate my visit to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, where I tripped over a low barrier while trying to read a sign on the wall and did a face plant among the Impressionists. Two ladies of a certain age (possibly my own) and a slightly younger man to whom they gestured wildly for help hoisted me to my feet. Mercifully this incident is not depicted on my new t-shirt, although the two Gauguin-style women who adorn it do seem to be chuckling.

Souvenir #3: An Eiffel Tower. My affection for the Eiffel Tower has to do with engineering romance, not the classic Parisian kind. I've done some homework. I know quite a bit about the construction and the politics of the tower and of Monsieur Eiffel. (I'm his fan girl too.)

I felt no need to ascend. Marveling from below worked just fine. However at the souvenir shop on the east base I purchased my very own Eiffel Tower—a snow globe (4 euros).

Small World: Most people on the Seine cruise from Paris to Honfleur spoke fluent French, primarily because they were French people. I have a considerable vocabulary of French nouns and parts of speech that I can't readily assemble into sentences. Dinner is not the best time for practicing. At the English-speaking table to which we were assigned, there was a couple from Decatur and a woman from Cumming. Buoyed by a glass of wine, I cheerfully invited them to visit UUMAN. The couple made appreciative sounds. The woman looked horrified.

France is beautiful and convivial. I could live there. Given enough time, I'm sure I could learn to speak in complete French sentences.

...

My Summer Schedule

From June 22 to 28 I will be in Portland, OR for the annual UUA General Assembly, preceded by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association professional days. Along with me, UUMAN's official delegates to G.A. will be Anna Swafford, Paula Watson, and Bruce Langston. Paula and Rick are looking forward to singing in the G.A. choir.

From July 19 to August 16 (Ingathering Sunday/Water Ceremony) I will be on study leave at home in South Carolina. I will be on call during that period should an emergency arise at UUMAN. I will also be in Roswell August 3-5 to prepare for the coming "church year", meeting with congregation leaders and staff.

- Rev. Cynthia Prescott



Life Events Gifting

There are envelopes waiting for you to pick up in the narthex at UUMAN. They are attached to the bottom of the poster explaining Life Events Gifting. The envelopes make it easy for your donation to be recognized as earmarked for Life Events Gifting. If it is more convenient, use your own envelope and just write Life Events Gifting on the outside, the occasion and honoree. These envelopes may be dropped in the collection plate, mailed to UUMAN or hand delivered to Jan Wilson or Carolyn Lee. We will send the person or family being honored or remembered a handwritten note telling them of your thoughtfulness, and you will receive an acknowledgement which can be used for tax purposes.

There are a multitude of reasons for using Life Events Gifting: weddings, birthdays, graduations, showing appreciation, honoring an achievement, memorials for the deceased, and many others. Please consider this alternative when you want to let someone know you are sharing their joys or sorrows.

Please contact me if you need more information:

Jan Wilson

janbillwilson@msn.com



Summer Day Camp at Emerson UUC

Just a Few Weeks Until Summer Day Camp at Emerson UUC

Join the fun at Hogwarts "Wizards and Wonders" day camp coming to Emerson UUC, Monday- Friday, June 22-26, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. daily.

Campers from age 4 (by June 1st) up to rising 5th graders are invited. Older kids are welcome to interview to be "House Elves", assisting our Professors and Madame Flammus (our Camp Director, Beth Kline). We'll be practicing Quidditch skills, wand and potion-making (crafts & culinary arts), herbology (creating things from natural materials), animatology (discovery of new animals), Divination and Incantations (stories and music), with time to work on our "defenses against the dark arts" skills like anti-bully strategies and hands-on good deeds to help others.

Register now to assure your child's space. Registration fee is \$150 per child with checks written to Emerson UU Congregation; note "Day Camp- CHILD'S NAME" in memo line please. Payment and registration due by June 8.

Students bring their lunches from home daily. Healthy snacks will be made as part of the "Potions" class activity daily.

Do you want to be one of our Professors (program activity leaders) or Elves (Jr. counselors) at Hogwarts camp this summer? Adult, teen and "tween 11-12 yr old" volunteers who enjoy working with kids and want to work as a team are welcome to help at day camp, but must be scheduled in advance and attend training. Training is mandatory and lesson/activity plans are provided. Community service volunteer hours are available along with recommendation letter from Director upon satisfactory completion of camp assignments.

Contact Beth Kline, Camp Director, at dre@emersonuu.org. Register here:

<http://www.emersonuu.org/religious-education/youth-religious-education-docs.html>



Book Sale

Dear Fellow UUMANS,

Time to clean out those bookshelves and boxes of all the books you've read and know you REALLY won't have time to read again, even if you wanted to!

The UUMAN Library is holding another used book sale on Sunday, June 14th. All types of used books are welcome to donate for resale. Paperbacks sell for \$1 and hardcovers for \$2. Proceeds go towards new purchases for the library. Please drop off your used books in the marked boxes on the library floor.

We also accept donations of books, new or gently used, to add to the library collection. These books must be about UU-relevant topics such as social justice, environment, spirituality, religion, or UU history. We also gladly accept all types of children's books.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 14th!

Ilona Walker
Librarian ;-)

Poetry from the UUMAN

Annual Poetry Service

A HINT

by Jim Saunders

I find the Universe making its presence known
In the most subtle and unprovable ways
A hint
An insinuation
In the whisper of the wind in the trees
In my peripheral vision
In the glare of the sun
There is an awareness
Of a connection to all things
And as startling as seeing a fairy
Dancing on a flower pedal
Because if you saw that
Whom could you tell?
How could you deny it?
You would feel out of sync with the world
So the Universe can only imply
It's involvement in our lives
Like a smile and a wink
On an ethereal level

WITHIN MYSELF

by Sonova Balli

Normal.
A simple word.
Words
Merely simple utterances.
Utterances
Have so much power.
Power over the greatest of people.
Power over you.
Over myself.
But only if you let them.
I let them.
Normal.
Ruler of my existence.
For much of my life.
I woke every morning
Attempting to bore holes into
That twin in the mirror
Mentally scolding her absence of progression
Nowhere near Normal.
Far from the average.
Especially on the outside.
Even more so on the inside.
Normal.
"Fix yourself."
I cringed at the idea.
Constantly playing in my head

I should...
I could...
I would.
I feared rejection.
Even more so
I feared the shame I would bring.
I tinkered with my brain.
Rewiring its contents was no electrician's job.
I failed.
Over and over again.
Failure.
Normal.
The word was back
Haunting me
And then...
I was accepted.
By every single person in my life.
All of them.
But myself.
Until I met myself.
Learning to close my eyes and
Be.
Never simple.
Always possible.
Transformation.
With this word
I first think:
Outward modifications.
Everyone is aware.
Conscious.
Able to perceive their own idea about the change.
What once mattered to be most.
Can no longer tip the scale.
Through finding myself.
I found essence of the universe.
Whom I like to call God.
I discovered
It is with internal transformation
Wherein lies true strength.
I now hold the power.
No.
I am now aware of the power I have always held.
I create and alter my experiences.
Reactions.
Attitudes.
Feelings.
I wake in the morning
And as Normal crosses my thoughts
I can stand unmoving.
Cross my arms.
And say
"I win."

Poetry from the UUMAN Annual Poetry Service

TINY ORCHESTRA

by Steve Allerton

Within a wooded place I walk is yet
A brook-fed pool I chanced to find
in stepping off the well-worn path
as per my soul, leads me in twine.

It's here I like to look and listen
for a music quietly given.
Rock and water beats the time, toots and brays,
sounds the chimes, chirps and clucks..
pulls and plucks.

And for a novel movement learned, I tried a
different vantage point, so as to hear this
dainty philharmonic sampling, with a
finer understanding..

Up along the bank I stepped, careful not
to lose my footing – age – imperils all like me,
since falls now taken – like the leaves,
from the trees, leaves us lying, leaves us dying.

And gazing down by grace I found some tiny leaves
locked in a twirling, helpless dancing
Whirlpool'd souls locked in a circling,
denied the current's final answering.

And mustering a soothing takt, in hopes of
touching cries unheard, I took the stick, 'twas
lying near, and eased them
toward the rushing clear...

One by one, given tow, each leafy soul
toward watery flow. I saw them go, I heard them play,
My kind baton sent all that way.

OM BALD

by Sheila Smith

Why is she bald?
Because she is....
Why, Sheila, why?
Well, why not?
It is not that serious.
It really isn't that deep.
This is not a poem about losing hair.
This is a poem about being bold and beautiful.
This is a poem about living from the inside out.
If you do not understand, this is not the poem for you.
Perhaps there will be others.

For now, this is a poem for Sheila,
about Sheila, by Sheila...
Namaste, Sheila, you are not your hair.

CHALLENGES

by Guillermo Kuhl

There are personal challenges
And there are selfless challenges.
Challenges that in some way
Forces us to engage in
Selfless acts of kindness.

When faced by them,
It is within our basic instinct
to respond to them
to respond to them in ways that we did not expect or knew we could!

That creative response,
That invisible force
Help us become more human.

Challenges are part of our human evolution A revolution of strength
and perseverance.

When we confront them and overcome them
It gives us a feeling of endurance
And the willingness to face them without fear.

A PRAYER FOR RECOVERY

by Mary McGrath

The light of consciousness has become a glare,
An addiction to form, to whole, to know.
Aroused by the smell of death on a forest path
Night is demanding my homage.
One moment at a time
I ask for an eternity of blackness
Held in one fragrant night.
To lay down on the cold earth
To wrestle the night and joyfully lose,
Dissolving into a single nerve, one current,
With a pulse that unguels time and space
Arcwelding toes to ears
And tongue to roof of mouth
In growling need.
To float on the ripe musk
Of undifferentiated body parts.
To send an exultant, anguished keening
In praise of nothing I can know.

Poetry from the UUMAN

Annual Poetry Service

THE ROAD

by David R. Hudson

The sign on the steep, narrow road from Dillard to Highlands
Beckoned to me:

“Thirty five spectacular acres!
Your mountaintop paradise!”
Who can buy a mountaintop?
Me?

Those in the modest houses on the long road
Across the foothills of upstate South Carolina?
Some neat, freshly painted, loved –
Others weathered, worn, decaying –
Not for lack of love.
No, not those people.

My father was one of those people,
He whose father, the bricklayer,
Died a Depression Era death –
Pneumonia –
Walking the streets of distant northern cities,
In winter,
looking for work.

My father,
Whose modest home in a drab steel town
In the panhandle of West Virginia
Was heated by coal
Scavenged from railroad beds,
Fallen from passing trains.
In what condition was that house?
In what state of repair
Or disrepair?
I wonder now.

And what road brought me here,
On my way to a board meeting
At a tranquil mountaintop retreat center?
What chance, serendipity, happenstance, good fortune?

The Methodist college in the mountains of West Virginia
That offered my father an education,
Lifting him into a new world?

The wise mentor who guided him through seminary
And introduced him to his daughter?
“He didn’t tell me about you,” the story goes.

When she became ill,
The wealthy parishioner who sent their eldest son
to the summer camp in Maine
where his love of nature was nurtured?

The neighbor who introduced him to the prestigious school
that led to the prestigious college?

The little school in Concord
Looking for a teacher of nature
Just as he began to search for his first job?

The colleague with a corporate executive friend
Looking for a presentable young man
Who could talk intelligently with captains of industry?

The miracle that he survived the drunken excesses of his youth?

The woman who loved him
Despite his flaws and quirks
Through long periods of unlovability?

The same woman –
Who found religious communities
That loved him for no good reason,
Recognized his gifts
And nurtured them?

It was these things
Along that long road
That brought him there
To that place on the mountain –
Love and loving kindness,
Generosity,
Charity,
Grace,
Chance encounters,
Accidents of birth
And circumstances that allowed him
To land
Inexplicably
On his feet,
Time after time.

There,
Before the sign,
I know that
I did not steer this course;
I did not chart it.
I rode it,
Often clumsily,
Sometimes recklessly.
I know that I have been passenger more than pilot.
Somehow
staying aboard.

There
Before the sign
I am humble,
And I am grateful.

I am grateful.

FROM THE GARDEN

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Our work days will be on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of June; i.e., June 8 and June 22. We'll be finishing up the wood chip spreading and will be moving on to cleaning up the yard and foundation plantings around Discovery Hall. Hope you can join us!

Claire Sullivan
UUMAN Gardening Group
cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



In the Butterfly Garden



Climbing Black-eyed Susan



Light Pink Roses



Deep Pink Roses



Pieris



Meditation Garden



Pink Lily

UUMAN Directory



Life Celebrations

Dear UUMAN Member,

In the next few weeks, you will receive an email from “Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North <noreply@iconcmo.com>”. This email will give you information on how to access our new on-line directory, developed by Icon Systems, which can be viewed from your computer or your smart phone. The email will include a link to the login page and a username. Once you have accessed the login page, you will need to choose a password, at which point you will be able to login to the directory.

The directory will first take you to your “Home” page and “Family Information tab”, which will show your name(s), street address, main phone number, main email address, and picture (if we have all that information for you and your household). You will be able to edit your household name, email, phone number, and mailing address, if you wish to do so, by clicking the word “Edit”. You will also have the ability to remove your household, or just your email address, or just your phone number from the directory. Note that if you are unlisted currently in our printed directory, you will not be shown in this on-line directory.

You can also click on the “Individual Information” tab to update or remove additional information about yourself, including such information as work emails and phone numbers.

The on-line directory also gives you access to the full “Church Directory”. When you click on those words, you will be shown an alphabetical listing (by last name) of all households, with their names, home addresses, main phone numbers, main email addresses, and pictures (again, if we have all that information). Note that if a given household has two different last names, the one that has been listed first is the only listing that will be shown. For example, if Jim Smith and Jane Doe are listed as “Jane Doe and Jim Smith”, then you will find the listing under “Doe”, not “Smith”. We have asked the Icon software people to allow a search on last names, but that is not yet available.

The other main choices shown are “Contributions”, “Settings”, and “Log Off”. Currently, we are not using the “Contributions” section of the directory. You can select the “Settings” choice to change your password. The “Log Off” selection will log you out of the system. You should always log off if you are using a public computer.

If you also want to change your username, you can do so by scrolling to the bottom of the screen and choosing “Classic Interface”. Once there, you will see the same information in a slightly different format, but on this screen, if you choose “Security Settings”, you will also be given the chance to change your username, as well as your password. We have asked Icon to make this username change available on the new format screen, but they have not yet done so.

If you have any questions about or problems with using this software, or if you would like to send an updated picture to be used in this directory, please contact Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Also, please note that if you wish to change your mailing address with the UUA, in order to continue receiving *UU World*, please visit their website at www.uua.org or contact Claire Sullivan for assistance.

Thank you!

UUMAN Membership Committee

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 Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
6/6	Elizabeth K. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Miriam Patanian is celebrating a birthday
6/10	Burk and Merilee Hufnagel are celebrating their 26th wedding anniversary
6/12	Corbin M.-D. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Sara Thorpe-Kuhl is celebrating a birthday
6/14	Carole and Larry Marra are celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary
6/16	Tori S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
6/18	Jim Saunders is celebrating a birthday
6/19	Ken Fry is celebrating a birthday
	Phillip Seaver and Suzanne Rezelmann are celebrating their 22nd anniversary
6/22	Emily K. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
6/24	Marc and Carolyn Lee are celebrating their 25th anniversary
6/27	Bob and Rosie Popp are celebrating their 32nd anniversary
	Ryan and Meghan Vidal are celebrating their 7th anniversary
6/28	Sam and Monique Tibbs are celebrating their 12th anniversary

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
6/7/15	The Journey Called Faith Resistance to the word itself can keep us from exploring what faith actually is—not doctrine or dogma, not unwavering certainty, but a lifelong journey toward ever-deepening understanding of self and world.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
6/14/15	There's Still a Person Inside Most of us know, or soon enough will know, a loved one who is afflicted with dementia and/or other physical and mental changes that go along with advancing age. Join me in a reflection on the difficulties and the unexpected rewards of caregiving, from nearby or at a geographic distance.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
6/21/15	Has Anything Become Clear to You? Life keeps challenging us to speed up (and change!) when sometimes what we most need to do is slow down and wait. We don't have to have all the answers at once . . . especially in times of transition.	Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Marni Harmony
6/28/15	What do we really have to offer? Everything. We give gifts of service to our loved ones. We also receive a gift from our loved ones of the opportunity to be present for and of service to them. Consider how service to others is spirituality in practice.	Guest Speaker: Brian Kohn

June Events

Date	Event
Humanism 2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at peltier.john@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group Come paint with us in a relaxed atmosphere with a glass of wine. All are welcome. There is a fee but half is donated to UUMAN.
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David at dan@uuman.org
Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House <i>Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen!</i> Doors open at 7 pm (except April this year it is the 3rd Saturday). Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences. For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at campoften@aol.com

For more information about events, see the *UUMAN Events Calendar* at www.uuman.org.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org