

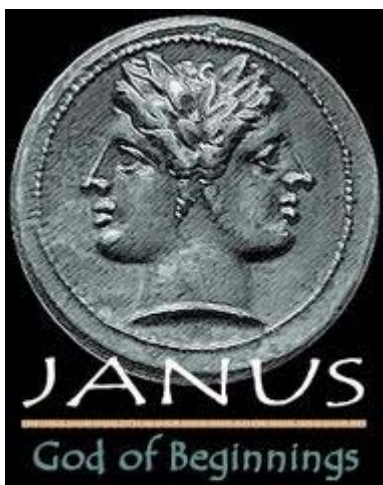


Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

Uncommon Sense

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In the Interim: Future Pacing

Congratulations! We've completed the first four months of this Interim transition, even as each of us has completed the twelve months of 2010, and a New Year is upon us. Individually and collectively, what shall we make of it and how? Many years ago, The Rev. Roscoe E. Trueblood writing about the New Year said, "Use your spirit. Use your courage. Use your hope and intelligence. Use your powers for good; you may never yet have used them to capacity. Use your faith that where there is ebb there is flow."

Individually and collectively we are standing, together, in the present. And inevitably the question – "Where do we go from here?" rises up like the mist of an early dawn. It would be easy enough to make assumptions about the future, where we are going and how we will get there. Assumptions though are tricky things – rather like icebergs – more submerged than apparent.

Instead of striking off into individual or collective assumptions, now is the time when we begin the work of building and actualizing a collective vision of the future of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta. We will begin right here in the shared present of January 2011 and work our way forward into the future we envision together. I hope that you will make every effort to participate in the 2nd Sunday Potluck and Transitional Conversations beginning, again, on Sunday, January 9th.

Between then and the Annual Meeting on the 2nd Sunday in June we will revise, update and recreate the Vision, Mission and Goals for this congregation. With your help, we will remember past efforts and craft a guiding vision for UUCA. As we work we will have two guidelines.

First, rather than simply thinking that something is a good idea, we will "future pace" our vision, mission and goals. Future-pacing is a process of seeing and feeling ourselves in the future. We will use what we discern from that mind-based time travel to further refine, fine-tune and restore our flow in the future.

And second, we will avoid – not ignore but avoid - numbers. Too often visioning turns into something like growing to X number of members or increasing our budget to XX dollars. Such numbers are not unimportant, but, these numbers are results not goals in and of themselves. Our focus is on vision and heart. Where vision and heart thrive the numbers follow.

Along the path between here and June we will continue to share and enjoy the every day and every week activities of church life. And to quote The Rev. John Buehrens, writing while he was President of the UUA, "In this New Year, let us gain more enjoyment from life's ordinary moments – a winter's evening walk, the greeting of a friend, the warmth of the sun, the first rays of dawn. The resources for refreshment of the human spirit are, after all, infinite. Let us maintain long-range perspectives, placing each event and anxiety within a center of larger meanings and deeper calm."

Here's to our spirit, our courage, our heart and our intelligence and the larger meanings and deeper calm of long-range perspectives.

Many Blessings
Rev. Dacia

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Q & A: Adult Religious Education at UUCA

Q: Are we running an Adult R.E. Program this year?

A: Yes – the program is called “Wednesday Connections.” There are four different options.

Q: When are the meetings?

A: Wednesday Connections will meet every Wednesday – but you get to decide if you participate on one, two or more Wednesdays each month. If you participate on the 1st Wednesday of each month you will participate in a discussion of the book, Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age by Jack Mendelsohn. Second, 3rd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays each have a different focus. The full list is below.

Q: What time of day are the meetings?

A: We plan to offer the programs at 7pm on Wednesday evenings and, if there is interest, earlier in the day.

Q: Who is facilitating?

A: Each group will help to facilitate itself and Rev. Dacia is working with a number of people to further organize the facilitation. Every meeting will begin with opening words – usually from the focus book and a check-in.

Q: I heard that I have to read the whole book before the first meeting. That's not very much time.

A: We hope that you will have purchased, borrowed or arranged a plan to share the book before the first meeting. Each group will meet once a month, January – May or June – meaning that you have 5 to 6 months to read the focus book. The group will decide, together, how much to read between meetings.

Q: Can I attend any Wednesday that is convenient?

A: These conversations are intended to be on-going, so just dropping in would not be the best way to participate. The best way to participate is to commit to participating on every 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th Wednesday. Of course – something may come up and you might miss a meeting. On the other hand, 5th Wednesdays will work well for just dropping in for a one-shot meeting/event.

Q: Do I have to sign up ahead of time?

A: We would appreciate advanced sign-up. You can call the church office or use the sign-up sheets located in the Common Room on the divider walls that create the R.E. classroom.

1st Wednesdays beginning January 5th

Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age: Why I am a Unitarian Universalist by Jack Mendelsohn

2nd Wednesdays beginning January 12th

Singing Meditation: Together in Sound and Silence by Ruthie Rosauer and Liz Hill

3rd Wednesdays beginning January 19th

“Another Voice” – Responding from love to the social issues and political concerns of our days based on Writing Dissent: Taking Radical Ideas from the Margins to the Mainstream by Robert Jensen

4th Wednesdays beginning January 26th

Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting by Michelle Richards

5th Wednesdays – There are several – will be devoted to Arts activities for all ages.

Attend one Wednesday or several Wednesdays each month – it's up to you!-)

Childcare will be available – Advance requests will simplify planning.

Copies of Being Liberal, Tending the Flame and Singing Meditation are available from the church office. Writing Dissent is least expensive purchased, used, from various on-line sellers.

Interested in helping with organization or facilitation – contact Rev. Dacia

Need help with a book purchase – contact Rev. Dacia

minister@uuugusta.org - 706-733-7939

Out With the Old and In With the New

(excerpt of a letter to The Executive Committee)
From: Frank Carl, Chair Building and Grounds

It has been brought to my attention that the chairs in the Common Room are becoming rather worn. I am a big fan of "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle," and I believe that these chairs are ready to move into the third realm of the triad. When they were purchased (about 20 years ago), we bought only what the Sanctuary would hold (Reduce). When they became too raggedy for the Sanctuary, we moved them to the Common Room (Reuse). But now they are becoming too raggedy even for the Common Room. I propose that we recycle them by offering them for sale at the annual Rumage Sale. In the meantime I suggest (actually Laura and Ruth suggested and I agreed) that we replace them with individually purchased chairs. Laura and Ruth have found a chair at Sam's Club that they think is acceptable. .. Laura, Ruth, Jan, and I would be willing to buy the first eight chairs at \$21.00 each. Each Sunday for several weeks we would offer a chair replacement program

by setting a new chair and an old chair side by side and asking our members if they would like to replace that old chair with a new one like this one for just \$21.00.

Given that the Common Room is the introduction to our church that many people get (AA, Sierra, Freethinkers), we might benefit by bringing our chair population up to par with our table population.

At the date of print, sixteen 2011-model chairs have been purchased; 6 are presently in the "choir loft" and 9 are in the new Classroom #3 for Grades 4-5. Look for the display of old and new chairs with information on how you can make your contribution in the Common Room. Donations are tax-deductible.

Nominating Committee Notes

by Alice Reese

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for leadership positions for the church year 2011 – 2012 starting in July. The positions are President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 Board Members at-large (2yr. term), and 2 members of the Nominating Committee (2 yr. term).

If you are interested please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Members are Richard Dillenbeck, Margaret Tuck, Ellie Parker, Sam Booher and Alice Reese.



Josef Patchen raised over \$900 for UUCA with his holiday benefit concert on December 5th. Thank you , Joe!

PFLAG Planning Meeting to be Held at UUCA

by Gaye Ortiz

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is an advocacy, education and support organization that was established in 1981.) It is an organization that supports gender diversity by organizing chapters throughout the United States. The closest chapters to Augusta are in Macon and Atlanta; in light of this year's rash of bullying and suicides involving LGBT youth across the country, it seems to be time to offer support for youth in our area. The Lambda Alliance at Augusta State University and the Augusta Pride group have both offered their support and are willing to be involved and we will invite progressive religious communities that might want to become involved besides our own.

A planning meeting organized and hosted by our church will take place on Saturday January 29th at 2pm in the Common Room. All UUCA members and friends who would like to be actively in-

involved in carrying forward this project are invited to attend; we expect a working group to be formed from this meeting to carry forward the affiliation process with PFLAG.

The PFLAG mission statement is: "PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity." More information about PFLAG can be found at www.pflag.org.

Uncommon Sense

Sunday Vespers: Full Moon Meditations

by Jezibell Anat

Many earth-centered spiritualities recognize the full moon as a time of abundance and celebration.

Beginning in 2011 Jezibell Anat and Joseph Zuchowski will be presenting Full Moon Meditations on the Sunday closest to the full moon. These will be eclectic services drawing from many Pagan traditions and will include drumming, chanting and sacred movement. The first one will be January 16th at 7:00 pm.

Feel free to bring drums and other acoustic instruments.

Let us know in advance if you need childcare.

Contact Jezibell for more info, kyriapanagia@yahoo.com.



Orientation Conversations for Guests, Friends and Members

Membership Co-chairs: Tracy Craig & Liz Goodson

Orientation classes will be held for guests, friends and members who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, the UU Church of Augusta, and each other!

Sunday, January 16th, Rev. Dacia Reid will lead an orientation class (UU101) which includes a brief history of our faith and our principles. The meeting will be held at 12:45pm in the Common Room. A light lunch will be provided.

Sunday, January 30th, Tracy Craig will give an introduction to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta (UU102), which includes a history of our church and information on church activities and events. The class will be held at 12:45pm in the Common Room. A light lunch will be provided.

To reserve your spot for one or both classes, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Hallway or contact the UUCA office.

The Nightmare After Christmas Vespers

by Ophelia Anu

The Nightmare After Christmas exemplified itself along with the message it intended to purvey to those attending.

Often during the holidays we have expectations of get-togethers, finances, or family and feel let down that everything does not necessarily happen the way that we would have dreamt it might. The message of the service was that we often have everything that we really need to be happy and often the way things happen can be an adventure to be treasured for the rest of your life. Even if it was not what you assumed it would be like, experience often lends itself to learning, growth and eventually, happiness.

We had our own adventure. Ice on the road left a music-centered vespers service separated from its brilliant centerpiece: Josef Patchen. We had no key as of 5pm until the arrival of Limbo Crowd's chair, April Wilson. Once we all shook off the dust of snow from our coats and began to turn on lights our minds began to shape how to bring the music into our midst.

Luckily, several people present had Smartphones; oh, how I began to love technology on the 26th of December, my friends. Our music was YouTube karaoke run through a PA system. There was laughter, tears, some confusion and good food!

Aaron Grubbs sang "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and wowed us with his amazing voice; sometimes the quiet ones are the people that bring moments home to you with their talent. Buffy Duncan saved the day with the arrival of vegetarian cuisine and her lighter for our chalice lighting. Zachary, son of Elisabeth Garrett and Oliver McKeon did a reading of some Eminem lyrics that suited the occasion unexpectedly well.

Friends were made and the flukes made everything seem even more poignant and beautiful. Thanks to the weather, the people, the technology and the love to all who were there and hope to see all of you who were not next year.



Second Sunday Share the Plate

Social Justice Committee Co-chairs: Denice Traina & April Wilson

One the Second Sunday of the month, UUCA donates half of the unrestricted cash that is collected during the Sunday Service to a charitable organization that does work that is consistent with our UU principles. Charities are nominated by members of UUCA and then selected by the Social Justice Committee. Members of UUCA may nominate organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Non-profit status -501(c) (3)
- No political affiliation
- Serve the local community
- Dedicated to social justice issues consistent with our UU Principles
- Organizations which also offer opportunities for religious

education and/or church member involvement

This month, Second Sunday Share the Plate will go to Family Counseling Center located here in Augusta “which offers counseling to the community and while we accept insurance providers, no one is denied service based on ability to pay. F.C.C. is also an advocate for mental wellbeing in the community. F.C.C. is starting a campaign to *promote kindness* in the community at large. The campaign looks to promote simple acts of kindness that anyone can do. This campaign will entail fundraising with the goal of advancing curriculum based on non-violence, conflict resolution and communication in the schools.”

Martin Luther King Celebrations

On Monday, January 10th the annual Martin Luther King Celebration service, organized by The Progressive Clergy of Augusta will take place at Tabernacle Baptist Church (1223 Laney-Walker Boulevard)at 7pm. The keynote speaker will be Omar Neal, Mayor of Tuskegee. Rev. Dacia and Jezibell Anat will be representing UUCA

The Social Justice Council invites everyone to march with us in the 2011 Martin Luther King Parade on Saturday, January 15th. This year's theme is Stop the Killings, Stop the Violence. The Parade starts at Dyess Park Community Center 902 James Brown Boulevard, proceed south on James Brown Boulevard, west onto Wrightsboro Road, north onto Augusta Avenue, east to Laney Walker Boulevard, north onto 11th Street, and east onto D'Antignac Street. Lineup is 11:00 am, and the Parade starts at 1:00 pm.

Last year, in addition to our UU banners, we carried posters of UU martyrs James Reed and Viola Liusa, which were very well received. These will be even more poignant with this year's theme. We also carry candy to distribute to the children along the way. Our presence in this parade sends a strong message of support to our neighbors in the fight for equality and justice and we hope you will join us.

Save the Date—March 5th Sound of MUUSIC Sing-along

by Gaye Ortiz

The hills are alive with the sound of UUs singing! Yes, you finally will have the chance to sing along to the music of *The Sound of Music* – and do it in your favorite costume from the movie starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer.

Come lend your voice to a night of von Trapp classics as we screen the film *The Sound of Music* in the church sanctuary at 7pm on Saturday, March 5th. The Sound of MUUSIC Singalong is a fundraising event coordinated by the Music Committee to help choir members cover some of the costs to go to the June 2011 General Assembly in Charlotte, NC; there they will have the opportunity to sing and play with other UU musicians at the major services, like the Service of the Living Tradition.

The Sound of MUUSIC Singalong will be a fun evening for all ages. Everyone who comes gets a goodie bag with items to use during the Singalong! A suggested voluntary donation of \$10 from those attending includes intermission refreshments.

In addition to singing along to the movie, the audience can dress up to compete in the costume contest held during intermission – come as the Count or the Nazi, a von Trapp child or one of the nuns in the monastery. Or use your imagination and come as a brown paper package tied up with string or (with friends) the Swiss Alps!

The Music Committee is looking for volunteers who would like to help plan and work on the Singalong. For more information please contact Jessica King, who will be setting a date for the first planning meeting in January.



Board Notes:

2nd Sunday Potlucks & Transitional Conversations Resume

Sunday January 9th will be a 2nd Sunday Potluck followed by a Transitional Conversation.

The focus of the Transitional Conversation will be Hopes, Wishes, Ideas & Concerns. You won't want to miss this interactive "Future-pacing" process which is a first step on the road to developing an updated Vision, Mission and Goals. Rev. Dacia will facilitate.

Staff Appreciation Sunday

Sunday January 9th is Staff Appreciation Sunday. Our hard-working staff will be recognized during the worship service and treated to first cuts of the special Thank-YOU! cake provided by the Board at the potluck following the service. Do plan to attend!

Leadership Meeting with District Executive – Saturday January 22nd

The Board, Committee Chairs, Group Conveners, Interim Minister, staff and interested others will be meeting with Annette Marquis on Saturday January 22nd from 9am to 4pm for a Leadership and Interim Check-in that will help us clarify some of the next steps on our journey of transition.

Stewardship Planning Underway

The Board has targeted Sunday March 27th as the kick-off Sunday for the Annual Budget Drive.

The tentative theme is Building Bridges. If you are interested in helping with this process – do contact any member of the Executive Committee of the Board, that would be – Jim Bentley, Jan Parsons, Margaret Sargent Meyers or Saralyn Ingram.

Thank you Tony – Welcome Karl

The Board is pleased to welcome Karl Wenger as a new Trustee, stepping into a vacated seat. We know that Karl will be a thoughtful and productive Board member.

The Board is sorry to accept the resignation of Tony Urry, whose work has taken him too many miles away for a reasonable commute to Board Meetings. We greatly appreciate Tony's work as a UUCA Trustee.

December Attendance

Attendance for December services was: December 5th – 75; December 12th – 72; December 19th – 110; December 19th Solstice Vespers—25; December 24th – 47; December 26th – 47; December 26th Nightmare After Christmas Vespers—25.

UUA General Assembly

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend UUA General Assembly (GA) this year in Charlotte, NC; June 22 – 26. Being so close to home, you could attend for a day or attend the entire time. Annette Marquis, District Executive of the Thomas Jefferson District, has challenged all churches in the district to send 25% of the membership to attend.

It is a wonderful experience to be with thousands of Unitarian Universalists. In addition to conducting the business of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, there are worship services, workshops, lots of singing, special lectures and more.

Mark Your Calendar!
Sunday, January 9th



**2nd Sunday Potluck &
Transitional Conversation**

We welcome stories, news and pictures sent in for our monthly Newsletter. Guidelines can be found at: UUAugusta.org or e-mailed directly to the church office officeadmin@uuaugusta.org

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Church of Augusta*

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