



Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

Uncommon Sense

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In the Interim: Feelings and Opinions

Everybody

Everybody has feelings
 Everybody has dreams
 Everybody can laugh and cry
 Everybody it seems.

Everybody has wishes,
 Everybody likes to play,
 Everybody needs some loving,
 Everybody, every day.

When I began exploring Unitarian Universalism I was amazed to discover that a nursery song titled, “Everybody” that I had used in a class in the 1960s was the work of our great Unitarian Religious Educator, Sophia Fahs, and was published by Beacon Press. That information meant nothing to me at the time but strikes me, now, as an early step on my journey into Unitarian Universalism.

Despite the simplicity of the words – they hold great truth and we would not be misled by letting them inform our thinking and provide some guidance for our interactions with others.

Everybody also has opinions. Some people are calmly accepting of their own opinions and the differing opinions of others. Some people feel attacked and disrespected when someone holds an opinion that differs from their own. Some people are fascinated by the ways that opinions differ from person to person and spend time putting thought into anticipating the opinion of others. Opinion polls tell us how our opinions compare to some subset of other people’s opinions.

We Unitarian Universalists generally have strong opinions, and we are likely to highly value our particular opinions. Sometimes we value our own opinions so highly that in our rush to assert our opinions we trample the feelings (and wellbeing) of others.

Sharing opinions, while respecting the feelings and opinions of others, particularly within the bounds of a larger relationship like a church community, is an art form. It is an art that has much in common with dance. It reminds me of the writing of Anne Morrow Lindbergh who said, in *Gift from the Sea*, “A good relationship has a pattern like a dance and is built on some of the same rules. The partners do not need to hold on tightly because they move confidently in the same pattern, intricate but gay and swift and free, like a country dance of Mozart’s. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the movement, to check the endlessly changing beauty of its unfolding. There is not place here for the possessive clutch, the clinging arm, the heavy hand; only the barest touch in passing. Now arm in arm, now face to face, now back to back – it does not matter which. Because they know they are partners moving to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together, and being invisibly nourished by it. The joy of such a pattern is not only the joy of creation or the joy of participation, it is also the joy of living in the moment. Lightness of touch and living in the moment are intertwined.”

We are partners in the dance of congregational life. It is a life we value. It is a life we want to savor. It is a life that must be shared in order to thrive. Congregational life is neither simple nor easy – but it is enormously satisfying and reassuring when the partners (each and all of us) succeed in recognizing and valuing the opinions and the feelings that we share and respecting the dance we share when our feelings and opinions differ.

Yours in Transition – Many blessings

Rev. Dacia



Uncommon Sense

From the President

Hopefully, the President's Report for the Annual Meeting will cover the substantive issues that I would usually cover in a newsletter article, and then some. I do want to thank the members of the Board, the church staff, committee members and chairs, and all others who have worked so hard this year.

At this time last year, we were in a very different place. Just to mention one aspect of that, at this time last year, we were only beginning the Interim Minister search process. What a difference a year can make. Personally, there were a number of things that I would have liked to see accomplished this year that weren't, but I think we started with the most pressing matters first, and we got a lot done, particularly with regard to structure, communication, and atmospherics. I hope we set the table for Jan and the new Board so they can hit the ground running in July.

Four and a half consecutive years on the Board is a pretty good chunk of time. I've enjoyed most of it, and it's never been boring. Thanks for the opportunity, and thanks for all that each of you do to make UUCA what it is.

-Jim Bentley

UU Buddhist Exploration Resumes

by Dick Donnelley

The Thursday evening UU Buddhist exploration sitting group will resume beginning **June 9th** at **7pm**. Each evening will include guided meditation and sharing of Buddhist philosophy.



The beginning meditation will explain exactly what meditation is and is not. Meditation mats pillows and stools may be used but a straight back chair will serve the same purpose. There will be Buddhist philosophy handouts will be used to explain and discuss the philosophy. The first session will explain who Sidartha Gotama was where the name Buddha came from.

What can you realize from studying the Buddha's teaching? Studying Buddhism is not about religion but studies the origin of suffering, greed and craving and how it affects our daily lives. Buddhism is not a religion. It does not have a creator god. This can be a plus or minus depending on your spiritual path or belief system.

Many of the Jesuit missionaries who first visited Japan in the 16th century became Buddhists while still serving as catholic priests. We will also discuss living in the present moment and how it can affect our daily lives.

The sitting group will meet at 7pm for about an hour but can be extended depending on the participants interest.

For information email Dick: donneld@knology.net

AUGUSTA PRIDE



Once again UUCA is supporting Augusta Pride on Saturday, **June 25th** on the Augusta Commons.

The event begins with a parade at 10 am, then the festival opens at **11:00am**. Because this event is the same weekend as General Assembly, the Social Justice Committee would like to know who's available to participate.

For the parade, marchers meet by 9:30 am at 10th and Jones Street, and the route goes down to 10th Street, along Broad Street, then back up 6th Street to the Commons. It's a short, easy march, and this year's theme is Love Wins. We'll also have an info table on the Commons and would like volunteers to staff it during the day. There'll be a sign-up sheet in the lobby, and we'll be discussing this more at the next SJ meeting on June 5th.

Contact Jezibell: kyriapanagia@yahoo.com.

May Attendance

May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	May 29th
120	92	106	94	95

Sunday, June 26th 7:00 PM
Walking in the Light of Love
Rev. Mark Kiyimba,
UU Association of Uganda



UUCA has the unique opportunity to host Rev. Mark Kiyimba, the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Uganda, for a special Vespers service during Pride weekend. This service is part of UUA's Standing on the Side of Love initiative. Rev. Kiyimba will speak about the anti-LGBT legislation in Uganda, followed by a question and answer session. Our offerings for this service will go to support Rev. Kiyimba's work in Uganda.

In addition to leading the Ugandan UU church, Rev. Kiyimba also operates a primary school for over 500 students as well as a children's home for AIDS orphans near Masaka. Rev. Kiyimba has been an outspoken critic of Uganda's anti-LGBT legislation which would mandate harsh penalties such as life imprisonment or death just for being homosexual. Members of the LGBT community in Uganda, as well as their supporters, have been persecuted, beaten, and even killed and the violence appears to be increasing.

Rev. Kiyimba himself has recently had to leave Uganda due to concerns for his safety, while concerns continue for the well-being of the students of his school and residents of his children's home. Childcare will be available, and refreshments will be served following the service. This is our opportunity to walk with and stand beside Rev. Kiyimba and the many other justice seekers in Uganda.

Missionaries of Hate

"Missionaries of Hate" is a documentary movie about the anti-homosexual legislation proposals and deadly targeting of gays in Uganda. This film provides excellent background for understanding the power and the risks of work done by Rev. Kiyimba.

UUCA Showings

Sunday June 19th – 5pm & conversation with Thomas & Angie Drake who have traveled in Uganda & met with Rev. Kiyimba.

Sunday June 26th at 5:45 pm a second showing for those who didn't get to see it on June 19th and want to see this documentary prior to the Vespers service at 7 pm.

Summer Solstice Vespers - June 19

We are holding earth-centered Vespers every month, sometimes around the full moon, and sometimes celebrating a Pagan holiday. Our worship service follows the structure of a Pagan circle, honoring the four directions, and includes drumming, chanting and meditation. In April our focus was the world tree and in May we explored the cross-cultural symbolism of weaving. During the warm weather we meet on the patio, weather permitting and in the sanctuary otherwise.

On **June 19th at 7pm** we'll celebrate the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year and the height of solar power. For the rest of 2011, our upcoming services are July 17 and August 14, Full Moon; September 18, Fall Equinox; October 30, Samhain; November 13, Full Moon, and December 18, Winter Solstice. All are welcome to attend. Contact Jezibell: kyriapanagia@yahoo.com.



Summer Worship Services

The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that plans are in place for our worship services in July and August.

Our speakers include:

The Rev. Jane Page,
Thomas Drake,
Rev. J. C. Williams,
Dr. Andy Reese,
Jezibell Anat,
Naomi Frost-Hewitt,
The 2nd Annual UUCA Camp Meeting Sing-a-Long
Jim Key, President of our Southeast District.

Here Comes Summer!

Our summer programming for the Children's Religious Education Sunday programming starts **Sunday, June 5th**, followed by an **R.E. Family Spaghetti Lunch and Parent Conversation** about our vision for the future of our Youth and Children Religious Education Program. Childcare will be provided. Parents, guardians and other interested adults are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our summer Preschool and Kindergarten class programming has been written and developed by volunteer teachers, Lyn Bonner and Rae Vautrin, both of whom are long time UUs and dedicated Early Education Professionals in our public school system. Kudos Lyn and Rae!!!

The theme for the class for Elementary grades 1-5, is "Experiences with the Web of Life" and the lessons come from the UU curriculum of the same name. A sampling of some of the lesson titles are: "Experiences with Insects", "Experiences Related to Bats", "Experiences with Earth Worms", "Experiences with a Cat" and "Experiences with Bees".

Also on Sunday, June 5th, the teens will perform a skit during the "Story for All Ages" part of the worship service in the Sanctuary. The skit provides insight into what the Teen Group will be doing this summer and into the fall.

Please note: We are suggesting that each participant in our program move up into their rising grade for the 2011-2012 school year at this time but only if it seems appropriate. We realize that often children need the summer to make the adjustment more smoothly. Please discuss this with your child and any one of the teachers or with Ruth Garrison, program director.

Ruth Garrison, Director of Religious Education



Sundays in June

Sunday June 5th –

11 AM Worship with Rev. Dacia Reid, “How’s Your UU Identity?”
Youth Group will share a skit highlighting their work on UU Identity.
New Members will be welcomed.

Sunday June 12th –

11 AM Worship with Rev. Dacia Reid,
“The Power & Challenge of Process”
5th Graders will Bridge into Youth Group and Young Adults will Bridge into
the LIMBO Crowd.
Potluck lunch immediately following Worship
Annual Meeting – immediately following Potluck
Desserts served during Annual Meeting

Sunday June 19th –

11 AM Worship – John Black & Natalia Bowdoin & Rev. Dacia Reid –
“On Buddhism in the Life of UUs”
5 PM – “Missionaries of Hatred” and conversation with Thomas & Angie
Drake who have visited with Rev. Kiyimba in Uganda
7 PM – Summer Solstice Vespers Service with Jezibell Anat and Joe
Zuchowski

Sunday June 26th –

11 AM Worship – with Rev. Dacia Reid – showing the Sunday Morning
Worship from General Assembly
5:45 PM – “Missionaries of Hate”
7:00 PM – Vespers Service with Guest Speaker, Rev. Mark Kiyimba on his
work for GLBT Rights and AIDS orphans in Uganda.

GA Roundtable Wednesday, June 29th—7pm

Calling ALL GA attendees

Come share your GA highlights,
energy and great ideas.

And - the rest of us

Come catch the enthusiasm and hear
the great ideas that come back to us
from GA

See you then!

Share the Plate

- April -

UUA Japan Relief Fund
\$1,192

- May -

Mid South District—
Severe Storm Fund
\$659

Mark Your Calendar! Sunday, June 12th



Sunday Potluck
followed by
Annual Meeting

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@uaugusta.org

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