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In the Interim: Continuations Abound

It's oh so tempting to view a new year as a fount of new beginnings, clean slates and fresh starts. And, it's true that we have all begun our new 2012 calendars. However, UUCA is in the midst of transition and much of our attention is, understandably, called toward continuing business. The Board has scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 22nd. If that date is not already on your calendar – please do reserve it for UUCA; as I'm sure that you will want to participate in these conversations about shaping the future.

The agenda for this meeting includes a review of the Right Relations Covenant and Implementation Policy, an Introduction to the By-laws revisions that are in the works and a conversation about Next Steps in Ministry.

Right Relations: These materials are included in or attached to this newsletter. This Sunday, (January 8th) at 1pm (or maybe 1:15) there will be an opportunity to share your thoughts and ask questions about the Right Relations Covenant and Implementation Policy approved by the Board. Your comments are most welcome and will help the Board further refine these materials for congregational approval at the meeting on January 22nd. ALSO – do mark your calendars for the Right Relations Team Training scheduled for March 9th and 10th right here in Augusta at UUCA. Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend, at no charge.

Next Steps in Ministry: The Board and I have been working to flesh out an overview of the options available to UUCA over the next 6 to 18 months as well as some other possibilities. Watch the E-nnouncements on January 12th to get the overview and do plan to participate in the pre-meeting discussion on Sunday, January 15th at 1pm.

By-laws revisions: The work to-date will be included in the E-nnouncements on January 19th. The goal is to share the progress. Comments will be received at the congregational meeting on January 22nd. Any changes will be discussed again, prior to the Annual Meeting and voted at the Annual Meeting in June.

In the meantime I offer you these “Twelve Wishes for your New Year”. Though penned by the Rev. Heather Lynn Hanson, I send them your way with sincere good wishes for 2012.

Many blessings
Rev. Dacia

“Twelve Wishes for your New Year”

Twelve delightful surprises, well spaced throughout the year;
 Eleven clusters of quiet time when you want it most;
 Ten spectacular sunsets that stir your heart with gentle joy;
 Nine checkbooks balancing perfectly the first time;
 Eight enchanted evenings with special friends that feed your soul;
 Seven jolly jokes of which you remember both the story and the punch line;
 Six awkward opportunities to choose the holy path and thereby grow a little;
 Five golden songs; Four woodland walks; Three kind words; Two shining eyes; and
 A Love that sustains you and yours.
 Blessed Be!



UUCA Newsletter

Notes from the President

As much as I love Christmas, I'm always glad it's over and we can get back to work. There is so much happening over the next few months. I encourage you to read your newsletters, enouncements, bulletins, bulletin boards. Did you know the Board posts minutes on the bulletin board in the hall outside the sanctuary?

I'll start off with some great news. As you recall, Bruce Leeson, our President-Elect, decided to accept a job offer in Colorado-lucky duck. The Board, with input from the Nominating Committee, has appointed Margaret Tuck to be our new President-Elect. She has been a member of our church for a long time, was a past president, and has great organization experience and talent. Thank you, Margaret, for accepting this position. She will be attending Southland Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE) in February in Orlando.

Our church will also be making decisions about the future of our ministry- what are our options? Where do we go from Interim Ministry? There is a called congregation meeting for January 22 after the Sunday service. Please try to attend if at all possible. We need the participation of every member. You will be receiving information to read; you will have an opportunity to ask questions prior to the called meeting. Read the materials; ask questions; offer your input.

Keep your eye out for news about this year's budget/pledge drive. Our drive was so much fun last year. If you want to be a part of that fun again, let me know. Just like everyone else, the church has gone through some tough financial times. For several years, we had to dip into our savings to pay our way. So far this year, that has been avoided. While the drive comes once a year, stewardship is a year round endeavor. The Board thanks all of you for honoring your pledges on time, adding to the Sunday plate, and contributing to special funds such as the Minister's Discretionary fund. We are a generous people.

Work continues on bylaws and policies. Both require time, effort, and patience. You'll receive an update on the bylaws at the January congregation meeting. Thanks again to Lyn Dennison for heading that project.

A new year offers new opportunities for each of us to be a part of this beloved community. I'm excited. Are you?

Happy New Year!

Jan Parsons

Worship Services in January

Sunday, January 8th – 11am –GLBT activist Mark Adams will lead this service. For more information go to: <http://www.meetmarcadams.com/mma/AboutMarcAdams.html>

- 7pm- Full Moon Vespers

Thursday, January 12th – 6:45pm – Progressive Religious Coalition's Martin Luther King Community Service at Reid Memorial – 2261 Walton Way, Augusta. Dr. Raphael Warnock of Ebenezer Baptist Church is the speaker. For more information go to: <http://www.historicebenezer.org/PastorBio.html>

Sunday, January 15th – 11am – Martin Luther King Service – guest speaker **Dr. Leon Spencer**, 2007 recipient of the UUA's Distinguished Service Award. For more information go to: <http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/distinguishedservice/35101.shtml>

Sunday, January 22nd – 11am – Rev. Dacia preaching.

Sunday, January 29th – 11am - Chaplain (MAJ) Khallid Shabazz Ph.D., guest speaker, preaching, "Who are you and what is your obligation!"

Guest Speaker: Marc Adams

— January 8th at 11am—

Marc Adams is a widely respected authority on subjects ranging from fundamentalism, the religious right, gay civil rights as well as his ground breaking work with his own nonprofit, HeartStrong; a social justice organization providing hope and help to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students who are persecuted in religious educational institutions. Marc Adams' presentations cover an often dark side of life. He bridges the serious and dark discussion with humor and all-encompassing human compassion. People from all walks of life who have heard Marc Adams speak find themselves enlightened, uplifted and inspired.

Full Moon Vespers

— January 8th at 7pm —

This will be the first full moon of 2012. Let's get off to a good start. Bring your New Year's resolutions and we'll put our energy into lighting up our lives as we move into the bright half of the coming year.

Contact: Barbara Bowen, brynna29@gmail.com



Adult Faith Development Thrives at UU Church of Augusta

UUCA is blessed with a rich array of activities that contribute to our knowledge and faith development. The complete list is at the end of this article.

As we begin 2012 it is time to give some thought to what we might add to further enrich our experience as Unitarian Universalist adults. There are a number of possibilities and we hope that you will consider the possibilities AND THEN RESPOND to the attached survey to indicate which opportunities most appeal to you and which event or events you would plan to attend.

UUCA Adult Faith Development Survey - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BK8DBLH>

The Heart and Soul of Money: Steps Towards a New Economy

Based on a series of lectures by John Dominic Crossan and Joerg Rieger. The program would involve listening to and discussion of one of the five lectures at each meeting followed by at least one more conversation focused solely on steps toward a new economy.

For more information go to: <http://chqdaily.com/2011/08/07/rieger-crossan>

Andy Reese and _____ will facilitate.
Six meetings - minimum attendees - 8

The Propaganda Game

It's a New Year and it's an Election Year. As the campaign rhetoric gears up – maybe it's also a good time to fine tune our ability to listen and discern the nine variations of language inherent in virtually all advertising, especially political advertising, to manipulate the attention of the listener/viewer.

Rev. Dacia and _____ will facilitate.
Eight meetings - minimum attendees - 8

All Church Read - Beyond Tolerance

The idea of reading a common book is relatively new to the UUA although it has worked well in other settings, including whole towns, for a number of years. This church year, the UUA has recommended, Beyond Tolerance: How People Across America Are Building Bridges Between Faiths by Gustav Niebuhr. This could be a one-time conversation or by chapter(s) discussion. Elie Wiesel wrote, "Anyone involved or at least interested in dialogue among individuals, communities, and nations will benefit from its (Beyond Tolerance) wisdom and humanity."

_____ - and Rev. Dacia will facilitate.
One meeting or up to eight meetings - minimum attendees - 8

Resistance & Transformation: Unitarian Universalist Social Justice History

Developed by Rev. Colin Bossen and Rev. Julia Hamilton and grounded in the belief that even "failures" in our history can be instructive, this *Tapestry of Faith* program presents the ongoing struggle of our tradition to live up to its ever-evolving ideals of social transformation. Themes include abolition, peace-making, civil rights, free speech, utopianism, counter-culture, the women's movements of both 19th and 20th centuries, sexuality education, and LGBT equality.

Denice Traina & _____ facilitating.
The program is comprised of sixteen 90 minute sessions. We could run this program straight through or divide it into thirds and offer a Winter, Spring and Summer series depending on

your responses on the survey (*above*) which will help us make this decision.

Up to 16 meetings - minimum attendees - 8
For additional information go to: <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/resistance/index.shtml>

Building Your Own Theology

BYOT is a timeless classic of UU Adult Religious Education. Developed by the Rev. Richard S. Gilbert, it is based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian and invites participants to develop their own personal credos. It is a valuable experience and one which can be repeated with increasing depth over the course of one's life as a UU.

Facilitated by Rev. Dacia & _____,
10 sessions - minimum attendees - 8

Member's Forum

Occasional opportunity for a member or friend of UUCA to share a focus that is important to the presenter. Details - TBA

On-going Adult Faith Development (AFD) & Activities at UUCA

Buddhist Exploration - Thursdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary

UU Yoga - Tuesdays at 4pm in the Sanctuary

Full Moon Vespers - monthly-Sunday at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Time to Talk: Post-worship Conversation - following many worship services at 12:45 in the Sanctuary

12 Steps to a Compassionate Life - usually 1st Sundays at 9:30am in the Common Room. (January meeting will be on the 8th which is a 2nd Sunday)

Humanist/Freethought Group - 2nd Sunday at 5pm

LIMBO Crowd - activities for those 18 to 35 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 12:30 in the Common Room

Poetry as a Spiritual Practice—under discussion

Sierra Club - 3rd Tuesdays at 6pm in the Common Room

Portable Book Club - 3rd Wednesday at 6pm location varies

On-going Social Activities

UU Women's Luncheon Group

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Women's Group

Men's Group



Endowment News

Many thanks to **Bobbi Stenstrom** for her very generous donation to the UUCA Endowment fund. She has designated this gift as a memorial in honor of her late husband Bill Stenstrom, who was a long-time church member.

The Endowment Committee will meet on Sunday, **January 8th at 12:30pm**. There will be a discussion of how the endowment fund contribution to the church for 2011 should be used. Any interested church members, who are not on the committee, are free to sit-in and to make suggestions.

UUCA in the MLK Parade Saturday, January 14th

Join the Social Justice Council in the 2012 Martin Luther King Parade. This year's theme is "STOP THE KILLINGS, STOP THE VIOLENCE, NOW!" The Parade will start at 1pm at the Dyess Park Community Center, located at 902 James Brown Blvd. More info here <http://www.augustaga.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=3406>

We will meet at the church at **12:00 noon** to carpool downtown or meet at the Dyess Park Community Center building on the corner of James Brown Blvd and D'Antignac St.



Gifts of Honor Received

- Gift of Honor in celebration of the LIMBO Crowd for the Christmas decorating of the church.
- Gift in Honor of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.
- Gifts of Honor in celebration of Gayla Keesee for leading the Technology Toolbox Workshops.

A Gift of Honor is a monetary contribution made to the UU Church of Augusta to celebrate a special occasion, recognize an accomplishment, appreciate a kindness, honor service or in memory of a loved one. Gifts of Honor are suitable every occasion and can be made in any amount of \$10 or more.

This program organized by the Financial Affairs Committee. A check or cash-in-an-envelope should be clearly marked – Gift of Honor – and be sure to tell us who or what you are honoring. All Gifts of Honor will support the General Fund. Gifts of Honor may be placed in the offering on Sunday mornings or sent to or dropped off in the church office. Gifts of Honor will be announced in E-announcements and the Newsletter.

Frank Carl, Laura Linn and Rudy Nyhoff spent a day insulating the Hallway ceiling. They also added insulation under the offices.



We welcome stories, news and pictures sent in for our monthly Newsletter.

e-mail directly to the church office:
officeadmin@uuaugusta.org

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Church of Augusta*

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December Attendance

December 4th
125

December 11th
113

December 18th
159

December 25th
40