



## January 2015 UNiverse

# NWUUC NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

## The Great MLK Jr. Day of Service

*Two ways to build new friendships and strengthen community, January 19*

Martin Luther King, Jr., stands today, 50 years after he led the march on Selma, as a great example of selfless giving. Let's keep his spirit alive on MLK Day of Service, Monday, January 19.

This year your Social Justice team is asking you to join forces with fellow Unitarian Universalists at UUCA to make up food bags for the Toco Hills Community Alliance (aka Toco Hills Food Pantry). Family and youth volunteers are especially welcome!

We will meet at UUCA at 11:00 am to pack up bags and then deliver them to

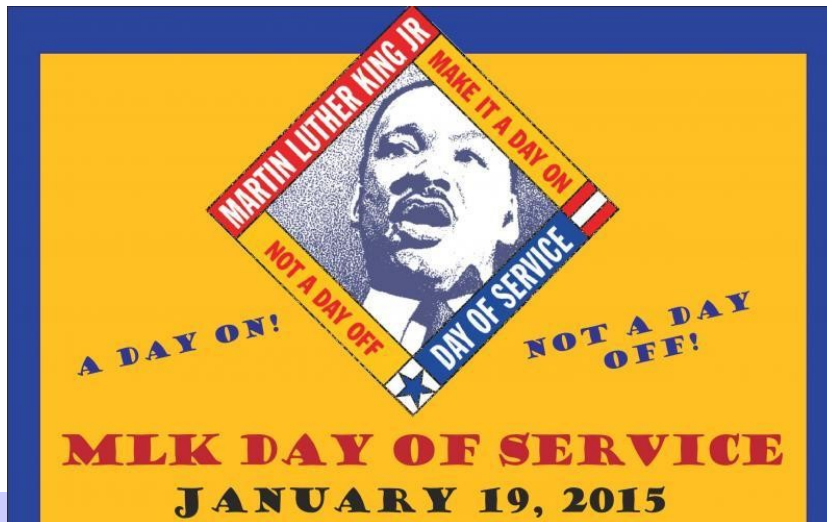
Toco Hills at 1:00 PM. If you are inspired, you can stay to help the staff at Toco Hills catch up on some of their back-logged projects.

Even if you cannot attend, please consider bringing supplies to put into the bags on Sunday, January 18. We will gratefully deliver them on Monday.

Supplies needed include oatmeal\*, Cheerios\*, shelf-stable milk\*, low sugar fruit cups, granola bars, hand soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Items marked with an asterisk are most needed.

Please contact [Marcia Kreycik](#) (404.855.1321), Social Justice Ministry

team leader, to let her know how many members of your family will attend. Thank you in advance for your service and generosity.



Plan to attend the WAWA (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance) Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project on Monday, January 19 from 10:00 am —2:00 pm. Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by helping WAWA restore and maintain its habitat inside its 26-acre urban forest.

Discover this hidden gem in historic Southwest Atlanta. Bring your friends and family to work in the woods or inside WAWA headquarters and learn about this vital non-profit's progress.

Wear warm clothes that you do not mind getting dirty and pack a light lunch and a refillable water bottle. Work gloves will be provided. Children are welcome but have to be supervised.

Come and help with these projects: Mulching trails, delineating/marketing trails, removing trash/debris, removing invasive species, and planting native plants. 1442 Richland Rd. SW, Atlanta 30310. WAWA: 404.752.5385 (Darryl Haddock). NWUUC contact: [Dave Zenner](#), Earth Ministry, 770.819.7556.

# Worship Services January 2015

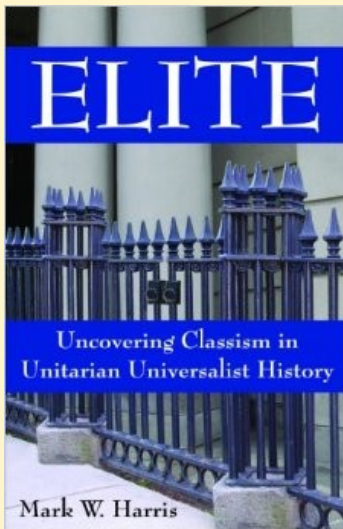
## Reflecting on Finding Your Voice

Service at 10:00 AM

*The Nursery is staffed and available during services and Fellowship.*

### January 4 *Are All Truly Welcome?*

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis  
Worship Associate – Letitia Sweitzer  
Music – The Northwest Band



Classism – which is prejudice or discrimination on the basis of social class – is considered by many to be at the heart of oppression in our country. In his book *Elite*, Rev. Mark Harris suggests that we must take an honest look at Unitarian Universalism’s own history of classism if UUs are to make progress in diversifying our faith and ending social injustices. Rev. Terry Davis explores classism and its pervasiveness in

Part 1 of her “First Sunday” sermon series on Harris’s book and on the topic of escalating inequality.

*Read along! Copies of Elite can be purchased at the Northwest Bellwether Bookstore.*

### January 11 *Speak With the Bravest Fire*

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis  
Worship Associate – Glenn Koller  
Music – Grace Meng Tian



Finding your voice and speaking out against injustice can be empowering —and frightening.

How do we know when we’ve uncovered a piece of “the truth?” What inspires us to speak up and take action? And, what do we do when others aren't convinced?

### January 18 *Don't Stop Dreaming: MLK Jr. Sunday*

Worship Leader –  
Rev. Terry Davis  
Music — The Northwest Choir

On this Sunday, we’ll celebrate the life and legacy of the civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner who called for an end to racism. We’ll also examine where we’ve made progress on ending racial injustice – and where our voices and actions are most urgently needed today.



*Join Rev. Terry Davis and your fellow Northwest members and friends for a “Day of Service” on Monday, January 19. See page 1 for details.*

### January 25 *A Place in the Choir*

Worship Leader – Tom Godfrey  
Worship Associates – Laura Montgomery  
Music — The Northwest Choir and Band

Come join the choir and the band in this spirited service as we celebrate our UU musical heritage. We will sing beloved hymns and favorite UU songs as we reflect on what our music means to us. On this day, everyone is in the choir!



# What Will It Be?



Dear Friends,

The holidays are over. A new year is here. What will it be for me? In other words, what needs my attention this year – and what will contribute to my continued emotional and spiritual growth?

In 2014, the year started with the death of my first dog and beloved companion Lucy. I found myself alternating between feelings of grief for her loss and gratitude for her life. I did a lot of reflecting on Lucy’s ability to remain in the present and enjoy life’s simple things. And, I tried to be a little more like her.

Ultimately, sharing my life so closely with another animal reminded me that this planet is *ours*, not mine . . . and the responsibility for its well-being is up to *me*, not “Them.” And, so I must continue to do what I can to support animal rights

and eco-justice in my communities and our world.

Last year also presented painful reminders that “isms” are persistent, blatant and insidious. Terrorism, racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism – these and other deep human failings unfortunately continue to be a part of the human experience. They remind me that my commitment to living a faithful life must also include a commitment to social justice. And, so I must stay involved in efforts like the



Georgia Moral Monday coalition, LGBT rights, women’s and girls’ advocacy, and other causes.

And, 2014 was my year to champion and support more change at Northwest. The congregation has nearly 200 adult members now – up from about 167 members when I arrived in the fall of 2012. We have more families with children, and our Children’s and Youth RE program is going strong. I am reminded that UUism offers a message of hope and inclusion that appeals to persons who have non-traditional families and beliefs. This is why I became a UU more than 20 years ago! And, so I want to continue to find ways to make room at the table for those who need and want our faith and life-saving message.

So, what will the priorities be for me in 2015? What will they be for you? Whatever you decide, may we stay open to change and be willing to live into our highest aspirations. May it be so.

Warmly,

Terry  
Rev. Terry Davis

## Firearms Lawfully Banned in UU Congregations

With the passage in 2014 by the Georgia legislature of HB 60, also known as the guns everywhere law, licensed owners can now carry guns in bars, parking facilities, government buildings, places of worship, school safety zones, school functions and on school-provided transportation.

The law provides for some restrictions and offers churches the option to forbid the carrying of guns in their places of worship. North Georgia UU congregations, including Northwest, are exerting this lawful right to ban fire-

arms in their buildings and on their property. Only on-duty law enforcement officers engaged in official business are exempt from this restriction.

The UU congregations of North Georgia are reaffirming their pledge to keep guns out of their churches. You are cordially invited to attend the next North Georgia UU Social Action (NGA UU SA) cluster meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at UUCA from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The reaffirmation is consistent with the Standing on the Side of Love

campaign. This campaign is a platform to elevate compassionate religious voices to influence public attitudes and public policy. UUs oppose the notion that more guns is the answer to the challenges facing society. On July 27, 2008, a gunman killed two people and wounded seven others inside the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, TN. The Standing on the Side of Love campaign was inspired by this incident.



# Sanctuary and Launching Pad

I don't know who first called the physical place and buildings at Northwest "our home in the woods," but it sure stuck! It evokes feelings of warmth, belonging and safety. It reminds us of how inexorably we are connected to the earth. A sense of peacefulness and calm is, for me, essential for renewal, and our woods are a beautiful setting which calls us to slow down and refuel. Once renewed, we are more able to go out into the world with an attitude of love and the energy to turn faith into action.

Some of the work we do ensures a sturdy and reliable launching pad. Many of the acts of stewardship made by members and friends to ensure we have a comfortable, safe and inviting space to come together are not seen. Just as the thousands of scientists, engineers, and test pilots



helped make the space program a success, most of them are unknown. We remember the astronauts, but for each of them there are hundreds of others making the spectacular launches, flights and landings, work.

A lovely benefit of doing work together, whether through acts of stewardship at Northwest or by supporting organizations outside our congregation, is strengthening our relation-

ships with one another. We aren't launching rockets, of course, but what we are doing might be more difficult. We are seeking no less than a more loving and just world. To do this we need our faith, values, each other and this place. I give thanks for each of you who bring your passion and commitment here.

May Northwest continue to be both a sanctuary and a launching pad, fueling us to

act with passion and conviction in every place.

Best,

Constance Dierickx  
Board President

## Make Your Voice Heard at the Capitol



In December, Catherine Smith introduced us to Planned Parenthood Southeast's advocacy program. *Women in the Halls* is a special project that seeks to bring more women (and men) to the state Capitol during the annual legislative session.

Often, lawmakers overlook women's concerns and the resulting public policies can be disastrous. *Women in the Halls* reminds lawmakers that they are accountable to Georgia women for the decisions they make.

Put our Unitarian Universalist principles into action by joining PPSE lobbying to protect women's rights during the 2015 legislative session. Lobbying is for those who are calm, collected, and determined. Unlike the protests involving posters and bullhorns, participants are trained as volunteer lobbyists, well-informed on issues, and prepared to make a case to legislators.

"Women in the Halls" meets each Wednesday from January 14 through mid-March. We gather at 9:00 am for brief training, overview of current legislation, and continental breakfast. We then head over to the Capitol and summon our representatives from the chambers and discuss the legislation with them.

Our involvement, our voice, and especially our personal visits make such a difference at the Capitol. Please contact Social Justice ministry team leader [Marcia Kreycik](mailto:Marcia.Kreycik@unitarian.org) (404.855.1321).

# Sound Ideas



The Children's Pageant was, as usual, great fun, and it gave our youngest members an opportunity to shine. The kids did a great job. Everyone remembered their lines, and the set was amazing as usual.

I was especially pleased with our use of the sound system. Larry Wallis and I showed up an hour before Saturday's dress rehearsal to string cables together, set up microphones, color code the soundboard, and test the system. Our prep work paid off. Despite multiple speaking roles, we were able to hear everyone's lines clearly on Sunday morning.

Between the actors, the band, and the pulpit we had 11 microphones in use. Looking back, I don't think we could have pulled this off a couple years ago. This is a testament to the volunteers that operate the sound system every Sunday: Wes Hickman, Larry Wallis, Brian Freeman, James Underwood, and Gregory Byrd. All of these sound techs started with varying levels of expertise. All have been dependable and willing to adjust when I have made changes to the sound system or the way we operate it.

Recent equipment upgrades have also helped us improve the sound on Sunday mornings. We upgraded the hearing assistance system last month, and I'm thrilled with the new wireless microphone we just purchased. It works so well that I'm hoping to add more of those over the next couple years. Ultimately, I envision a sound environment that employs mostly wireless microphones for ease of set-up and freedom of movement.

The most visible part of my ministry is the music, particularly the choir and the band. A less visible, but just as important, part of what I do at Northwest is to oversee the sound system. I'm pleased with the direction our music has taken since I became our Director of Music. I'm equally pleased with the way our sound system is shaping up, and I'm looking forward to making it better and better every year.

*Tom Godfrey*

Director of Music



## Book Groupies Unite to Discuss *Bitterly Divided*

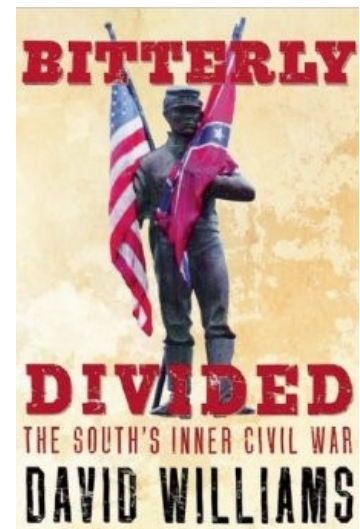
Join the Northwest Book Groupies January 13 for a lively discussion of *Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War* by Valdosta State history professor David Williams.

Recommended by several members of our congregation, this book examines some circumstances of the Civil War that contributed to the South's defeat, such as Southern non-slave holders being conscripted to fight the war in support of a slavery system that contributed to their own poverty,

the opposition of many Southerners to secession from the Union and rampant desertion. We will also pick some books to read for the first part of 2015, so come lend your voice!

Our own Bellwether Bookstore has copies of the book at 15% off! Stop in after the service to get yours and join us on January 13!

The NWUUC Book Groupies meet the second Tuesday of most months at 7:00 pm in the Community Room. All readers are welcome.





# Donate The Plate to Support MPP and UUSC Recovery Efforts in Haiti

Please give generously to this Donate the Plate and attend Northwest member Katy Lockhart's Second Hour presentation on January 11. Katy's recent experience in Haiti working through the UU College of Social Justice is inspiring!

Since Haiti's 2010 earthquake, UUSC and UUCSJ have partnered with the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) in the Central Plateau on pilot projects to support survivors, create sustainable rural livelihoods, and foster people's control over their own food. Beyond initial relief work, UUSC has made a long-term commitment in Haiti, redefining recovery to include social justice.

As part of these efforts, UUSC has championed two innovative MPP models: the eco-village and tire gardens. These models are bearing fruit — and vegetables, as the case may be — and UUSC is helping transform them from testing ground into template. Learn more at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) or go [here](#).



## Lunch with TED: Great Leadership with Simon Sinek



Join us for lunch and discussion of great leadership during MLK week on Wednesday, January 21. We meet in the Community Room from 11:45 am until 1:15 pm. Bring your lunch and your opinions. You can preview this month's talk [here](#) or at [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com).

Simon Sinek explores how leaders can inspire cooperation, trust and change. He has a simple but powerful model for inspirational leadership, all starting with a golden circle and the question "Why?" His examples include Apple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Wright brothers. He is the author of *Start With Why* and *Leaders Eat Last*.

Contact [Marcia Krecyk](#) (404.855.1321) with questions or to submit suggestions for future Lunch with TED topics.

# Pageant Success!



December is a time for fun, family and the children's holiday pageant! I first focused on the pageant early this year when MarKay Appel said she wanted to create a tree. Those of you who know MarKay know that when she says a 'tree,' she wants to stick a human inside of it. I sent her the story and her vision of the pageant came back to me in a script that starts: "The setting is an evergreen forest. The set includes a large hemlock tree with a

hollow at stage left, a hollow log in its foreground, slightly stage left." I laughed!

I forget during the year that the pageant gives us a chance to strengthen our community at Northwest. We all come together to make memories for and with our children. Costumes are made, props gathered, sets created, lines practiced at breakfast, lunch and dinner and through it all are wonderful connections between all those

involved. We all become a little closer as we communicate, and share time and space together. Our children see the work that adults put into the pageant and the adults see the work the kids put in. Through multiple practices with standing, rehearsing, and boring delays caused by technical difficulties, our kids were troupers and had a great time doing it.

One of the kids told Rev. Terry she wants to "do it again" (maybe we'll recycle pageants?), and I was asked where we would store the tree and had to break the news that it will likely be recycled into a different prop for next year. By Sunday after the pageant I was suggesting we might consider skipping a year, but the reality is I'm already wondering if MarKay wants to build a castle. :) Stay tuned!

*Elizabeth Hickman*  
Director of Religious Education

## Dining for Women January Dinner

[Dining for Women](#) is an international non-profit that celebrates the power of the individual to see an injustice and act to change it; to see need and act to fill it. Dining for Women's members are deeply involved in the programs we support and the problems we seek to address. The collective-giving model proves that small contributions, aggregated together, can make a huge difference.

The Collateral Repair Project (CRP) was founded to aid refugees fleeing the violence of the second Gulf War and has been providing assistance to victims of violent conflict since 2006. In addition to Iraqi refugees, they serve Jordanians living in extreme poverty and Syrians, who have arrived in Amman in huge numbers.

CRP seeks to restore dignity and community among these displaced populations and to ensure that their basic food and housing needs are met. It runs an Emergency Assistance Program and a Community Center, where they hold

activities that allow refugees to begin healing and rebuilding the once peaceful, non-sectarian communities they've lost.

The January potluck dinner will be hosted by Constance Dierickx on Sunday, January 18, 5:00-7:00 pm. RSVP by contacting [Mary Perloe](#) (404.217.8201).





## Healing and Transformation in Small Groups



In case you missed this workshop in November, you have a second chance. *Healing and Transformation in Small Groups*, Saturday, January 24, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Registration, coffee starting at 9:00 am at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, GA 30329. Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, Leader. Workshop fee \$35. e-mail [Ruth Subramanian](mailto:Ruth.Subramanian) for registration form.

## Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to the Hill Towns of Italy

Experience the enchanting hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria, view the awe-some landscapes, admire the incredible art, taste the wine, enjoy fresh pasta, and all the delights this area of Italy offers us. Spend three nights in Florence, and three each in the hill towns of Siena and Assisi, staying in charming accommodations. We'll explore Cortona, made famous by the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun," see the Renaissance architecture designed by a humanist Pope in Pienza, and meditate to Gregorian chanting at the 12th century Abby St. Antimo. The hill towns of San Gimignano, Montalcino, Montefalco, Bevagna, and Spoleto are also on our itinerary for this trip that runs from July 26 to August 4, 2015. We'll learn each town's stories from its art, food and inhabitants.

Because we are booking small monastery guest house accommodations, we need deposits (C\$500) **by February 1, 2015**. Please see the Itinerary and costs [here](http://nuuc.ca) (nuuc.ca) or email [Beverlz@me.com](mailto:Beverlz@me.com) for more information. Coordinated by Neighbourhood UU Congregation of Toronto.



## Congregational Meeting Update

At the mid-year State of the Congregation meeting on December 7 following the service, President Constance Dierickx gave an update, noting the following:

- We are currently thriving, welcoming nine new members just this morning.
- Our current membership is 189.
- The Sanctuary is full most Sundays, averaging around 100 with a high so far of 117.
- The last NW101 had "standing room only" because of the interest it generated.
- The RE program has doubled in the last 12 months and currently has 65 children enrolled.
- The new Children's Chapel has been instituted on a once a month basis.

- Melissa Niedermeyer has revamped and developed a youth program for our teens.

Finance Trustee Allen Rider noted that income and expenses are on track with approximately half of pledge income received to date. Building rentals have been higher than expected and we are in good shape.

President-Elect David Morgen spoke about Realm and invited members to participate in a January 18 Realm Cafe

session during Second Hour where several "ambassadors" will be set up to demonstrate and train members on how to use Realm.

Mary Perloe gave a detailed history of how the Covenant of Right Relations was created and why we should adopt it. The Board has been promoting and supporting it for the past two years. There was considerable discussion and some amendments to the Covenant were proposed but it was ultimately adopted with minor changes.

*Lil Woolf*  
Secretary of the Board





# Georgia Water Coalition Update

The Georgia Water Coalition (GWC) currently has 221 partners statewide, including Northwest's Earth Ministry. More than 80 people heard invited speaker Angela Rosser, West Virginia River Coalition, give a presentation on the chemical contamination of the Elk River (January 2014) causing 300,000 people in the Charleston area to lose potable water access.



But Georgia has its own problems and the GWC at this meeting focused mainly on legislative issues important to Georgia's waterways and environment. A failed effort in 2014 to extend a ban on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is being reconsidered. ASR, opposed by the Environmental Community, pumps surface water underground (into an aquifer) with the intent of recovering it later when water is scarce. Although superficially reasonable, in practice ASR has often worked out poorly, with the recovered water often being contaminated with arsenic, undesirable bacteria, or pathogens and sometimes much of the water was not recoverable. The GWC is working with like-minded legislators on a bill for the 2015 session that would make the ASR ban permanent and statewide.

Another GWC effort relates to the decision by EPD Director Jud Turner: Counties and cities need not comply with a court decision requiring 25 ft. buffers along the edge of all state waters – in particular along coastal marshlands. The GWC plan is to amend the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act so as to specifically require buffers along coastal marshlands and make it unambiguous where buffers should begin and end—together with limited exemptions.

Other items discussed:

- Florida's pending suit against Georgia in the Supreme Court to require a greater water release from the Flint and Chattahoochee into Florida.
- Some legislators still have their eye on piping Tennessee River water to Atlanta, though that is not likely to succeed.
- EPA's new rule, if passed, would mean Georgia's 40,000 miles of streams would be protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- The proposed Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline from Alabama to Florida, cutting across Southwest Georgia, has environmental problems.

## UNiverse

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([www.NWUUC.org](http://www.NWUUC.org)).

Northwest is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Newsletter submissions deadline: 15th of the previous month.**

Send to [nwuupublications@gmail.com](mailto:nwuupublications@gmail.com)

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## Thanks from the Bridge People



Due to the wonderful response of our congregation, the homeless who sleep under the bridge by Grady Hospital were all given whatever they said they needed. There are only about 10 sleeping there now and there were plenty of supplies to meet their needs.

The other 30-40 who used to sleep there now sleep outside Trinity Presbyterian Church across the street from the Capitol. Since the killing of two homeless men, they probably feel more secure at the church. There were not enough blankets and clothing for all who asked for them outside the church, so the drive will continue during the next few weeks. Many also asked for shoes and belts.

The homeless people are not always the same every night. Some nights some get into shelters, some don't and some won't go into a shelter, but there are always many who are sleeping outside and many are veterans.

They were all very appreciative of the generosity of Northwest UU Congregation and there were many thanks to be passed on to our congregation from the recipients. Please continue leaving items in the box by the coat rack and maybe Northwest can help at least two of the many homeless encampments in the city during the cold winter this year.

# Blanket & Coat Drive

## Songwriters in the Round at The Hungry Ear Coffee House™

Perfect for the new year! Four excellent singers/songwriters, perform in the round, each contributing their tuneful, creative genius for your pleasure on Jan. 3.



**Kate (of Kate & Corey)** is known for bluesy rock guitar riffs with catchy pop melodies and soaring bluegrass harmonies.

**Pat Walsh** is an Atlanta-based acoustic-oriented singer-songwriter. New CD *Woolgathering* is an overwhelmingly gentle affair with pop acoustic and Beatlesque flair.

**Rick Diamond** has written more than 175 tunes and continues to create more "when he comes in contact with a proper muse." *Hoferdoofer* —Rick Diamond

**Ron Hipp** is an acoustic guitarist/singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. His rich baritone voice, intricate fingerpicking, and mesmerizing songs make his shows a memorable experience.

The performance begins at 8:00 pm and doors open at 7:30. Please consider a donation of \$5. Canned goods for the CAC are also happily accepted.

# Who Are We?

## Our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources

As we celebrate and welcome our new members (see the following pages), we recommit ourselves to our values and moral teachings. Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles. We also share a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from many sources.



### Our Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalists hold the Principles as strong values and moral teachings. As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

- 1<sup>st</sup> Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- 6<sup>th</sup> Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- 7<sup>th</sup> Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### Our Six Sources

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz said, “Throughout history, we have moved to the rhythms of mystery and wonder, prophecy, wisdom, teachings from ancient and modern sources, and nature herself.” Worshipping in our congregations you may hear a reading or perspective shared from any one of these sources from which our living tradition is drawn:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



*From the UUA website*



# HELLO NEW MEMBERS

**Our Congregation continues to grow! Say “hello” to our newest members:**

## Nancy Boothe



Raised in Alabama, Nancy was taught early on by her mother the importance of helping others and doing the right thing. She has pursued a life-long journey of spiritual growth and advocacy work, recently retiring as the Executive Director of the Feminist Women's Health Center after 20 years of service.

Nancy shares her home with her three cats and is active in arts activities and a women-focused spirituality group. She looks forward to being part of the Northwest community and engaging in spiritual, social and justice activities.

## Gregory Byrd



Gregory grew up an “Army brat” and lived in many places. However, for 40 years, he’s called Atlanta or South Carolina home. He lives in Rex, Georgia – which is a long way from Northwest – but says he finds the drive well worth it.

Gregory is an electrical engineer by profession and his spiritual interests include yoga, meditation, and Hindu philosophy. He’s pictured with his cat, Caesar.

## Lori Guy

A native of Orange, New Jersey, Lori literally grew up in a Unitarian Universalist congregation: her parents worked for her local UU congregation and her family lived on the third floor of the church building! Lori works as a data analyst for a local consulting firm, but many of us know her as the wonderful vocalist who sings with The Northwest Band here on

Sundays and as part of the local jazz duo Godfrey & Guy. Lori has fond memories of growing up in a UU community, and came to Northwest to provide her children Daniel, Sophie and Zachary with this opportunity.



*Lori Guy and Mary Jo Guy*

## Mary Jo Guy

Mary Jo Guy was born and lived in Wisconsin until she was 19. She was raised as a Congregationalist and became a Unitarian Universalist in 1962, which was just one year after the merger.

Mary Jo likes being a part of a community and wants to do whatever she can to help Northwest and UUism. When she isn’t visiting her beloved second home in Ontario, Canada, Mary Jo sings in the Northwest Choir and co-leads the Zen Buddhist meditation group.

## Marc Von Mandel



Originally raised in Ocala, Florida. Marc grew up on a beautiful 10-acre thoroughbred horse farm. With his father, he raised and raced horses in Miami and Tampa. He moved to Atlanta in 2008 and graduated from Oglethorpe University in 2010. Marc now works at a small IT firm in

Marietta as its marketing manager.

Marc was raised Catholic and attended private Catholic school from kindergarten through high school. In college, he grew apart from the church and in 2013 found Northwest through Atlanta's LGBT publication, the GA Voice.

Marc values the rich community diversity here and the open "connectedness" of the congregation and hopes to live and learn more about the Seven Principles of UUism as they apply across all areas of life. He looks forward to being an active and contributing member of the congregation for many years.

*Interested in joining our congregation or just want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Look for our next Northwest 101 class this spring!*



## The Covenant of Right Relations



At the mid-year Congregational Meeting on December 7, the Covenant of Right Relations was adopted.

The final Covenant reads:

We covenant to:

- Speak our opinion and our feelings with care and compassion.
- Seek to understand others' opinions by listening actively and respectfully.
- Be kind.
- Be calm.
- Keep talking directly with the parties involved to resolve conflicts or concerns.
- Hold ourselves and others accountable for our words and acts.
- Forgive imperfection.
- Respect personal boundaries.

# SECOND HOUR PROGRAMS

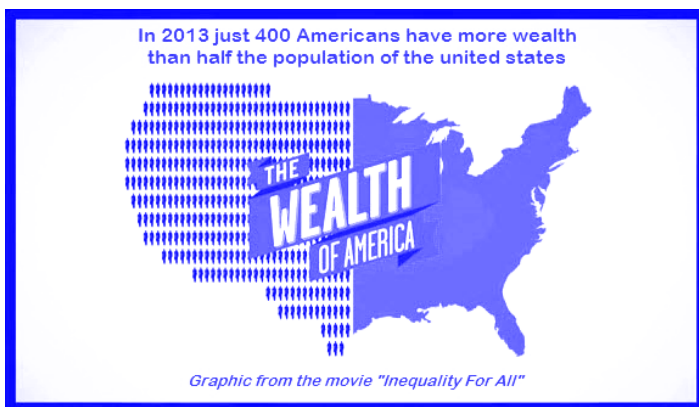
## January 4

### **Video Watch: *Inequality for All*** *Session Leader: Mani Subramanian*

In conjunction with the first of Rev. Davis' First Sunday sermon series on Escalating Inequality, the powerful, fact-based documentary *Inequality for All* will be screened during this extended Second Hour session.

The 90-minute film features Robert Reich—Secretary of Labor during the Clinton administration—as he demonstrates how economic, social, and political shifts beginning in the mid 1970s have had a devastating impact on the American economy. From his perspective as a seasoned economist, Reich explains how the massive consolidation of wealth by a precious few threatens the viability of the American workforce and the foundation of democracy itself.

At the conclusion of the video, a follow-up discussion led by Mani Subramanian will help us reflect on this problem and explore ways in which Northwest might take action to address this issue—one that was chosen as a Congregation Study/Action Issue (CSAI) at the UUA 2014 General Assembly.



### **Zen Buddhist Meditation**

*Session Leaders: Doyle Jones and Mary Jo Guy*

You're invited to explore spirituality through meditation with others of like minds. New and returning participants are welcome.

## January 11

### **A Journey to Haiti: What We Can Learn About Sustainability From the 'Poorest Country in the Western Hemisphere'** *Activity Leader: Katy Lockhart*

What can we as American citizens possibly learn from people that live in a country without a basic infrastructure? Quite a lot, as it turns out. Join Katy Lockhart as she details her UUCSJ Haiti service project experience in words and pictures.

Discussion topics will include an introduction to the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP)—UU's College of Social Justice partner in Haiti, and the Eco-villages building project for those displaced by the 2010 earthquake.



### **Hawk's Hoop CUUPS Discussion Group**

*Activity Leader: Stan Burch*

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified UUs, educating people about Paganism, promoting inter-faith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified UU religious professionals. Northwest's Hawk's Hoop CUUPS group will continue to explore Earth-based spirituality in a discussion of the book *Drawing Down the Moon* by Margot Adler.





# SECOND HOUR PROGRAMS

## January 11, *continued*

### Artist Reception for Lynne McDonald

Activity Leader: Helene Johnson



Vibrant paintings by Lynne McDonald, daughter of member Sharon Cameron, are on display in the Community Room this month. Lynne says of her work:

“Recently I've entered a new phase in my work; Fluid painting. I add different mediums to either inks or acrylic paints to create different viscosities and pour it onto the canvas. I handle the canvas from the sides or back, without using any tools or paintbrushes, which is completely different from how I worked in the past. I am exploring letting go of control and being completely in the moment when I paint. I help the flow of the different mediums and facilitate their reaction to each other, but I can't force it. As it dries it creates different textures so I can literally spend hours ‘watching paint dry.’ It's my therapy . . . My meditation.” Come meet the artist, browse her beautiful artwork and consider taking something home with you!



## January 18

### Creativity Lab: Jewelry Creativity

Activity Leaders: Sharon Beecher

Come to the Community Room for the first Creativity Lab of the new year! Join Sharon Beecher during Second Hour and learn some basic earring-making techniques. We will explore shape and color design. If you have some jewelry pliers (round-nose, chain-nose and cutters) bring them along, if not, we'll have loaners. Materials fee \$5 (or less) per pair. Come have fun and get your bling on!

### Realm Features and Tips

Session Leader: David Morgen

So what is this "Realm" we keep hearing about? Where do you find it and how do you use it? Join David Morgen and the "Realm Champions" to help you get signed up and oriented on this new platform for keeping track of our members and friends, communicating with each other electronically, reviewing and making pledge payments, and much more!

### Zen Buddhist Meditation

Session Leader: Doyle Jones and Mary Jo Guy



You're invited to explore spirituality through meditation with others of like minds. New and returning participants are welcome.

## January 25

### What is an Aspirational Budget?

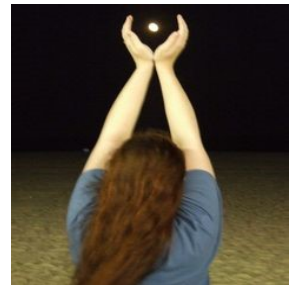
Activity Leaders: Brian and Pam Freeman

The Ministry Team Leaders and the Board have worked together for a vision of the coming year that will form the basis of the goals for the upcoming pledge campaign. During this session, the Stewardship Team will present the aspirational budget for the next congregational year, one that will best support the mission of Northwest.

### CUUPS Discussion Group

Activity Leader: Stan Burch

Hawk's Hoop CUUPS group will continue to explore Earth-based spirituality in a discussion of the book *Drawing Down the Moon* by Margot Adler.



### Women's Social Group

Session Leader: Sharon Reynolds

Would you like to feel more connected to other women at Northwest, to establish relationships and make friends? Do you enjoy lively and fun discussions on a variety of topics? If so, this group is for you!

# Northwest Endowment: Leave a Legacy

Do you want to leave a permanent footprint on NWUUC history? Please consider taking a look at your will (or other bequeathing document) and include the Northwest Endowment Fund (NWEF) as a beneficiary. If you don't have a will, maybe now's the time to think about it. The Endowment Committee is available to help you with the process. The Charitable gift and Estate Plan form is available on the What's Happening Table in the Lobby. Completing this enrolls you as a member of the Northwest Legacy Society (NWLS) and your name will go on the NWLS plaque to be hung in the lobby soon.

In the meantime, as several NWLS members have done, you may also make a \$1,000 contribution to help NWEF reach the \$100,000 goal, after which proceeds from NWEF equity may be distributed for scholarships, grants, training, etc. As of mid-December we were up to \$90,000 with just another \$10,000 to go.

We'd like to permanently remember everyone who has contributed to the growth of Northwest, even if you happen to move away. All deceased NWLS members will be memorialized on the Northwest Memorial Plaque. Just

talk to any Endowment Committee member: Mani Subramanian, Kristen Fowks, Roger Johnson, Karen Edmonds, or Marti Wilson.

**Just 10% Left to Go!**



## Birthdays

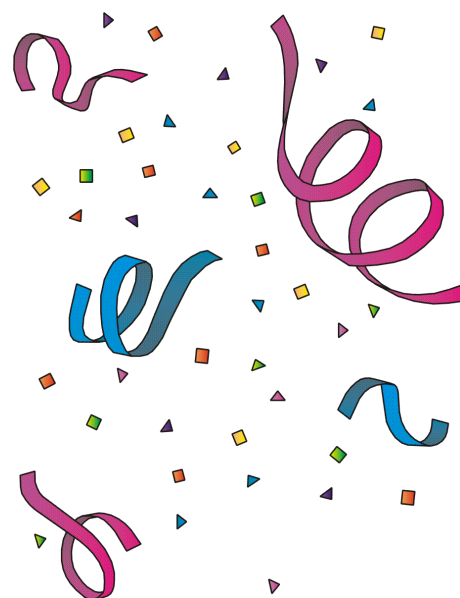
Stan Burch	1/01
Matthew Manely	1/03
Raegan North	1/04
Sophie Smith	1/04
Zachary Smith	1/04
Fay Mann	1/05
Sharon Beecher	1/06
Sydney Kahn	1/07
Marc von Mandel	1/09
Shirley Banks	1/10
Jared Freeman	1/11
John Marroquin	1/11
Mani Subramanian	1/11
Neal Steffin	1/12
Daniel Smith	1/13
Marian Langham	1/14
Jamie Williams	1/19
Marti Wilson	1/25
Suzy Alford	1/27
Clarence Rosa	1/27



## Joining Anniversaries

Peg Gary	1/03/2004
John Reeves	1/04/1987
Rebecca Reeves	1/04/1987
Glenn Koller	1/06/2013
Sandra Niven	1/06/2013
Nancy Tartikoff	1/09/1977
Peter Tartikoff	1/09/1977
Darrick Alford	1/13/2013
Suzy Alford	1/13/2013
Bill Peterson	1/13/2013
Gwen Kahn	1/22/2005

Steve Stern	1/24/1993
Sharon Cameron	1/27/2007
Ilene Goldman	1/27/2007
Bill Cox	1/28/2001
Marilyn Matlock	1/28/2007
Greg Pattison	1/28/2007



# Stewardship for the New Year

Stewardship Is...



## Love in Action

The beginning of a new year is the typical time to make resolutions to improve some aspects of our lives. Below are suggestions from the [spirited-solutions.com](http://spirited-solutions.com) blog from January 2002.

We frequently equate prosperity with material possessions, but what if we looked at our spiritual assets? As White Eagle says, "Your true self is a shining spirit." You can choose to be a blessing to everyone around you. The following are ways you can "capitalize" on your spiritual resources.

- Craft love messages. Make calls to your family and friends (even friends you haven't talked to in a while) and tell them how much they mean to you. Tuck love notes into pockets, purses, or lunches.



## Keep the Hope and Care We Count on Alive and Well

connect.  
grow.  
serve.  
Stewardship-A Way of Life.

Northwest depends on your generosity to keep our community vibrant and healthy, which makes it possible to keep our facility and campus in good shape, pay our staff generously, support our Donate the Plate program, and all the other ways that Northwest takes its ministry to those in need.

Let's keep Northwest's spirit of hope and care alive and well. We can make all this happen! Join the Stewardship Team on January 25 after the service to hear about our aspirational budget plans for the next fiscal year.



# The Principles Behind the Twelve Steps

Starting February 8

Millions of people around the world have been able to recover from alcoholism, drug addiction, compulsive overeating, co-dependency, and other addictive behaviors thanks to spiritual programs based on the Alcoholics Anonymous "twelve-step" program. However, the principles behind the twelve steps—including honesty, hope, faith, courage, integrity, willingness, love and service—offer anyone an opportunity for reflection and change.

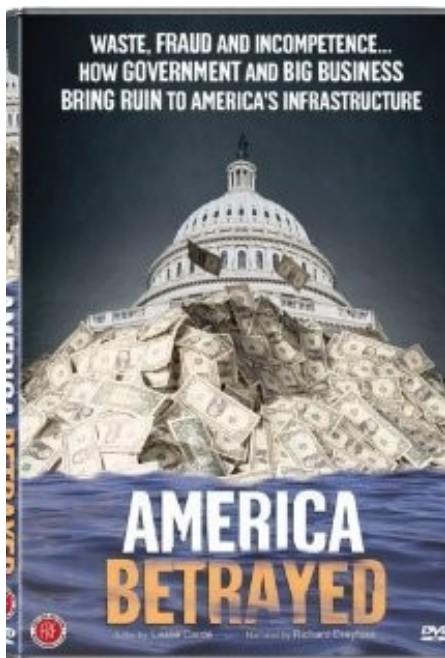
Using the small group ministry sharing format, exercises, and readings from various 12-step texts, Rev. Terry Davis will lead a four-month Second Hour



program on the principles behind the steps. This is not a 12-step meeting, but, rather, an opportunity to engage in a deeper discussion on basic principles that affect how we understand ourselves and our relationships with others. All persons are welcome.

For more information, contact Rev. Terry Davis at [minister@nwuuc.org](mailto:minister@nwuuc.org).

## America Betrayed, January 15, UUCA



Once a source of great pride, America's infrastructure has turned into a national embarrassment. Bridges, dams, levees and highways are crumbling or being washed away, creating danger for all of us. *America Betrayed* follows the money to the source of the problem—the highest echelons of the federal government. It exposes a story of waste, fraud and abuse, from the contractors told to "keep quiet" about their substandard structures in New Orleans to the whistleblowers who sacrificed their jobs to come forward with the truth about cooked books and cronyism within the Army Corps of Engineers.

Broadcast journalist and documentary filmmaker Leslie Cardé talks with

insiders who know how the game is played. She digs deep to get to the root of "disaster capitalism" to reveal how our government is endangering its people and squandering its resources.

A \$3.00 donation is suggested for this Third Thursday Cinema program, sponsored by the UUCA Peace Network, which includes refreshments and a moderated discussion.

The movie starts at 7:00 pm on Jan. 15. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta is located on the I-85 North access road between N. Druid Hills and Clairmont Roads, opposite the underpass. Enter top steps. Proceed down left hallway to last room on the left, Room 210.



### January 3

**Hungry Ear Coffee House**, 8:00 pm,  
Sanctuary

### January 4

**Worship Service**, 10:00 am  
**Activity Time**, 10:15 am  
**Children's RE**, 11:15 am, Chalice  
House  
**Second Hour**, 11:20 am

### January 7

**Choir Practice**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

### January 11

**Worship Service**, 10:00 am  
**Activity Time**, 10:15 am  
**Children's RE**, 11:15 am, CH  
**Second Hour**, 11:20 am

### January 13

**Book Groupies**, 7:00 pm, Community  
Room

### January 14

**Choir Practice**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

### January 15

**Deadline for February UNiverse**  
**FILM: *America Betrayed***, 7:00 pm,  
UUCA

### January 18

**Worship Service**, 10:00 am  
**Activity Time**, 10:15 am  
**Children's Chapel**, 11:20 am  
**Children's RE**, 11:35 am, CH  
**Second Hour**, 11:20 am  
**Dining for Women**, 5:00 pm

### January 19

**MLK Jr. Day of Service at WAWA**,  
10:00 am  
**MLK Jr. Day of Service at**  
**Toco Hills Community Alli-**  
**ance**, 11:00 am

### January 21

**Lunch with TED**, 11:45am-  
1:15 pm, Community Room  
**Choir Practice**, 7:30 pm,  
Sanctuary

### January 24

**No. GA UU SA Cluster Meeting**, 10:00  
am, UUCA

### January 25

**Worship Service**, 10:00 am  
**Activity Time**, 10:15 am  
**Children's RE**, 11:15 am, CH  
**Second Hour**, 11:20 am

### January 27

**Choir Practice**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

CH=Chalice House





1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327  
*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## January 2015 UNiverse Newsletter

### **Northwest UUC Mission Statement**

*Our congregation creates loving community, inspires joy and spiritual growth, and supports courageous action.*

### **Unitarian Universalist Principles**

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- ◆ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ◆ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ◆ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ◆ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ◆ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ◆ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ◆ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.