



April 2015 UNiverse

NWUUC NORTHWEST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

The statistics are shocking:

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before age 18;
- the median age of a child who is sexually abused is 9 years old;
- in 90% of sexual abuse cases, the child is familiar with the offender;
- and only 10% of sexually abused children will tell anyone.¹

The sexual abuse of children impacts us emotionally, but it also impacts our society financially. Child sexual abuse can be connected to drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, depression, homelessness, suicide, and even health problems later in life. The good news is that this epidemic is preventable and every adult can be part of the solution.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Across the country, communities and organizations will be participating in activities and programs to increase education and promote awareness. At Northwest, we will participate in this important conversation with activities and programs on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, featuring Rev. Debra W. Haffner, co-founder and president of the Religious Institute and a national

expert on sexually healthy clergy, congregations and religious denominations (see page 9 for details).

While a congregation-wide conversation about child sexual abuse prevention is new for Northwest, making our children's safety a priority is not. Northwest has always had a child



safety policy. Called "Honoring the Children," it lays out specific guidance on how we can create a faith community that puts our children's physical and emotional well-being at the center of everything we do. Conducting annual background checks on all of our RE volunteers and ensuring that there are two adults with children at all times are a few of the foundational elements of this policy.

As Northwest grows and changes, it makes sense for us to periodically review this policy to ensure that our priorities of child safety and sexual

abuse prevention are still being served. The Northwest Board of Trustees recently tasked a subcommittee with this objective. Headed by Director of Religious Education Elizabeth Hickman, the subcommittee is revisiting "Honoring the Children" not only to ensure the safety of our children, but also to provide clearer guidelines for the adults that teach them and interact with them.

Worth, dignity, compassion, encouragement, peace, justice and spiritual growth are all fundamental truths for us as Unitarian Universalists. As we share UU values and teachings with our children, we must first give them a safe faith home in which to nurture their spirituality. What could be more important than that? We are, after all, mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and the stewards of all children and – as such – we owe them their innocence and our protection.

¹<http://www.gpb.org/education/national-child-abuse-prevention-month>

Worship Services April 2015

Reflecting on Hope

Service at 10:00 AM

The Nursery is staffed and available during services and Fellowship.



April 5 — Easter and Flower Communion Service

Worship Leaders — Rev. Terry Davis and
Rev. Joan Armstrong-Davis

Music — The Northwest Choir, with special guest musicians Lucas Scalamogna (violin) and Lauren Hunt (cello and horn)

Spring flowers, Easter bonnets, a children's egg hunt and the retelling of stories of hope and love from our Judeo-Christian heritage . . . join us for this day of beauty, memory and community.

Violinist Lucas Scalamogna has won numerous international prizes since his first solo appearance with an orchestra at age 11. Scalamogna obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Texas and a Master's Degree from the University of Georgia, where he studies with Levon Ambartsumian.

Lauren Hunt is the most recent winner of the university division of the International Horn Competition of the Americas, and is currently principal horn of the South Carolina Philharmonic. Hunt holds degrees from the New England Conservatory and the Yale School of Music. She is a Presidential Fellow at the University of Georgia.

*The **Flower Communion** is a beautiful and moving annual tradition at Northwest and among Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. You bring a flower to the service to share and take a different flower home. And, please bring a dish to share for our **Easter Brunch**, to be held immediately afterwards. There is more information on both the Flower Communion and the Brunch on page 10.*

April 12 — Hope Is Fundamental

Worship Leaders — Letitia Sweitzer and Glenn Koller
Music — The Northwest Band

The multifaceted concept of hope is an essential factor in shaping and sustaining the physical, love, and spiritual aspects of our lives. Two short sermons will explore how hope is essential to all of us and how it helps shape our attitudes and reactions to life events.



Worship Services April 2015

Reflecting on Hope

Services at 10:00 AM

April 19 —Earth Day 2015 - Take Action, Take Courage

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis
Worship Associate – Dave Zenner, Earth Ministry Team
Leader
Music – The Northwest Choir

Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Edward Hale wrote, "Because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do." As more evidence mounts that climate change is causing irreparable harm to our earth and all of her inhabitants, what is the something we can do right now? Join us on this special Sunday as we explore this question and recommit to caring for our planet.

Stay after the service for our Second Hour program featuring special guest Rev. Kate Mosley, Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. GIPL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping faith communities to care for the earth through worship, education and other support. See page 12 for details.



April 26 — Healthy, Welcoming, and Safe

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis
Special Guest – Rev. Debra Haffner, President,
The Religious Institute
Music – Grace Meng Tian

Unitarian Universalism offers comprehensive sex education for our children and youth with its Our Whole Lives, or OWL, program. What about for the adults? What do we need to know to promote healthy sexuality in our congregations and safety for our children and other vulnerable members? Rev. Debra Haffner, president of The Religious Institute, a Unitarian Universalist minister, and national expert on creating sexually healthy congregations, will share her insights with us.

Rev. Haffner will also lead a three-hour workshop at Northwest entitled "Sexually Healthy Congregations" on Saturday, April 25. All are invited to attend. More on Rev. Haffner and the workshop can be found on page 9.

Coming in May:

May 3 — What Makes Us Happy?

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis
Worship Associate – Paul Payne
Music – The Northwest Choir

Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Most folks are as happy as they make their minds up to be." Is happiness all about our attitude? Or is it something more?



A Smile and a “Grazie”



Dear Friends,

Long before I had thoughts about becoming a minister . . . or, before that, a Catholic nun . . . I wanted to be a poet. I was probably about eight years old when I had the idea. At the time, I was churning out short, syrupy rhymes about flowers and dogs and

forests with great ease. Surely this was a sign that poetry writing was my destiny!

My third grade teacher Mrs. Moore taught my class to make our own books, which meant I now had a way to put my entire collection of poems together. Using blank sheets of paper and thread, cardboard, fabric and glue, I made a hardback journal. I filled its pages with poems and colored pencil illustrations. It was exciting to have a finished volume I could call my own.

But, now what? It didn't seem right to keep the book just for me. My poems needed to be shared with someone else, I thought. But who? For some reason, my Italian great grandfather came to mind. Never mind that he was in his 90s, couldn't see or hear very well, and had forgotten how to speak all but a few words of English. He seemed like the perfect person to give my book to.

On our next family visit to my dad's hometown in north-eastern Pennsylvania, we stopped to see Great Grandpa. He was sitting in his pink parlor with his youngest daughter, my Aunt Betty.

“Pa, Terry has something to give you,” my Aunt Betty shouted at the top of her voice. I timidly approached my great grandpa and handed him the book. My Aunt Betty turned to the dedication in the front. “Why, Pa, Terry has dedicated her book to you,” she said, “It reads ‘To my Italian great-grandfather, who likes to hear silly poems.’” Of course, I had no idea whether my great grandpa wanted to hear my silly poems . . . or read any poetry at

all. At the time, I knew very little about him.

My great grandpa simply smiled a toothless smile and said “Grazie.” I suddenly felt very noticed and vulnerable. At my aunt's coaxing, I read a few poems aloud, and eventually my parents and I left. It was one of the last times I saw him and it was the last time I saw my poetry collection.

American philosopher and psychologist William James wrote, “We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface, but connected in the deep.” Reflecting back on

that moment, I can see that in my own clumsy way, I was attempting to reach beyond our separation of age, gender, language and background. I was trying to make a deeper connection with him.

While my great grandfather may have received my only book of poetry, I got something better. With a smile and a “grazie,” my great grandfather was no longer a complete stranger. He was now my friend.

Warmly,

Terry

Rev. Terry Davis



Change Jar



I have a change jar on top of my fridge that is nearly full. I've been tossing change into the jar for at least a year. Soon I'll exchange my accumulated coins for paper money. Whenever

I start a new change jar, it seems impossible that the jar could ever fill up again as those coins clink in the bottom of the jar, but it fills up over time, and one day I am surprised to find that the change jar is nearly full again.

My guitar playing is a bit like the change jar. My playing improves gradually, almost imperceptibly. One day, I might be able to play a difficult bebop tune slightly faster. The next day, I'll be able to play a tricky spot in a solo just a little more smoothly. These gains don't seem like much when viewed from day to day, but when you step back, the improvement over time becomes more apparent. I'm playing at a level I couldn't have imagined ten years ago, when I barely knew a handful of chords. The only way I could

have reached my current skill level is through ten years of steady practice. When I practice, I often become frustrated because I spend a lot of time working on music that is just a little beyond my reach, but I keep at it, because the only way I'm going to reach the next level of development is to keep plugging away – to keep adding to the change jar. At some point, my change jar will be full, and I will have reached a new level.

When the change jar is nearly full, it often takes us by surprise, but it was being filled all along, almost imperceptibly. Here at Northwest, I feel that we are discovering that our change jar has filled up. It didn't happen overnight. We made changes here and there. Over the past few years we spruced up the interior and hired a new minister to help lead us into the future. We upgraded the sound system so that we all have a more comfortable worship experience. We added a contemporary band. The RE program is growing by leaps and bounds.

We've made countless changes, large and small, and Northwest is a more

attractive place to be than in years past. As a result, our numbers are growing. More often than not, the sanctuary is full on Sundays . . . sometimes uncomfortably so. While our



growth wasn't so noticeable at first, it certainly is now! As far as physical space is concerned, we are bursting at the seams.

What do we do, now that our change jar is full? I really don't know, but I hope we are all asking ourselves that question. I feel that Northwest is on the verge of a breakthrough. I don't know what form it will take, but I'm excited about the possibilities.

Tom Godfrey
Director of Music

Book Notes—*A Tale For The Time Being*

On April 14 at 7:00 pm the Northwest UU Book Groupies will meet in the Community Room of the main sanctuary building to discuss *A Tale For The Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki, short listed for the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

"A time being is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and everyone of us who is, or was, or ever will be." This is a novel of intricate layers and themes of



Buddhism, quantum physics, animal spirits and totems, bullying, effects of the Japanese tsunami, mental illness

and wartime moral choices. It has also been called a book that is "good for readers who enjoy spiritual thinking."

This book is available in our Bellwether Bookstore. Come join us at our discussion. We meet the second Tuesday of most months. All readers are welcome.

At Last, Daffodils



How fortunate we are that Northwest is on such beautiful property, lush and green. The return of greenery, flowers and nesting birds are especially apparent here at our home in the woods. Of course, the plants don't go away and come back, they take a different form; yet the leaves on trees really are new, the petals on the daffodils are new. The trees or bulbs from which they spring remain, giving up precious energy that produces the beautiful flowers, leaves and vines.

I'm reminded of the energy of Northwest. Sometimes the vitality of the congregation is evident in events where many gather; like daffodils bursting forth with an energy that seems sudden. It is joyful, energizing and inspires awe. At other times, energy dedicated to the life of the congregation is less visible, but still as vital to Northwest as the flower bulbs, unseen in the ground, are to the flowers that appear.



This is a season of renewal for us as we make our commitments to Northwest in the form of pledges. The financial support needed by Northwest allows us to have a beautiful place to gather and to welcome others. The less visible aspects of the life of the congregation, like the bulbs and roots of plants, are what support the whole so that the blooms may be sustained and recur for us and those who will come in the future.

Constance Dierickx
President, Board of Trustees

Lunch with TED: How to Buy Happiness, April 15

What do Tax Day (April 15) and April's TED Talk have in common? Just this: sharing our income with others can make us happier!

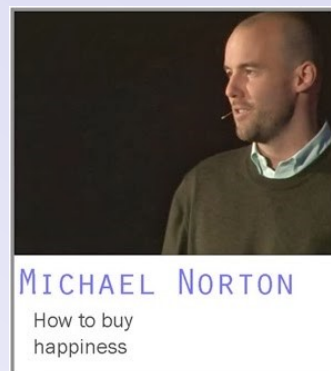


**Money can
you buy
Happiness
Afterall**

That may be a stretch but in this TED Talk, Michael Norton shares some fascinating research showing how money can, indeed buy happiness — when you don't spend it on yourself.

Listen for surprising data on the many ways pro-social spending can benefit you, your work, and (of course) other people. If you view the talk in advance, you may prepare to discuss times in your life when his findings apply and when there may be unique aspects in our lives that either confound or support his findings.

Bring your lunch and join us Wednesday, April 15, from 11:45 am till 1:15 pm for discussion and fellowship in the Community Room. You can [preview the talk](#) or just come and watch it with us.



Sharing Is One of the Cornerstones of Our Community . . .

When we are little we are taught to share crayons and toys; as we become school age we are taught to share bikes and kind words and as adults we are taught to share our resources and ourselves.

What does it mean to be in community in our congregation? We all share of ourselves; from our financial resources to our physical and mental abilities, in stewardship to our congregation. We share stories about who we are with each other in fellowship, in print and even in worship, and we share our beloved community with the world through our faith.

Our children are already sharing with each other here at Northwest. There is the expected sharing of material items in activity time and on the playground. They share emotional support for one another as they start all of



their RE classes with the ritual of Joys and Concerns. They share ideas about the world around them and the principles that make up our faith in some amazingly deep discussions in class, and the older ones share themselves with the younger ones by offering help when needed. Most importantly, they learn to share themselves by supporting and trusting each other as they each travel the path that is uniquely the UU child's. Their offers of friendship and understanding with one another are crucial in a faith not

often shared by many of their friends outside of this community.

Adults modeling community here have a deep impact on our children and youth. They teach our children that we all hold significance at Northwest and to each other, because we're all what makes Northwest such a fabulous faith home. We are all celebrated here for who we are and who we aspire to be.

Continue modeling to our children and youth and they will continue to share their many gifts and shine the way only UU children can.

Elizabeth Hickman
Director of Religious Education

Dining for Women Supports BabyMama Haiti



Dining for Women is an international nonprofit 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.

All women are invited to come and learn about Dining for Women. The collective-giving model is proving that small contributions, aggregated together, can make a huge difference.

On Sunday, April 19 from 5:00—7:00 pm, we will support [MamaBaby Haiti](#). The program will directly address the lack of comprehensive well-woman health care and education in Haiti with a focus on the detrimental effects of sexually transmitted infections, lack of cervical cancer screening, as well as inadequate access to family planning options, through education, screening, and treatment for women of childbearing age.

Please contact [Mary Perloe 404.217.8201](#) for more information and meeting location.



Dining for Women
Changing the World One Dinner at a Time

Donate The Plate to Prevent Child Abuse America on April 26

Please join us in Prevent Child Abuse America's efforts to protect Georgia's children when we Donate The Plate to this worthy organization on April 26. Anything you do to support kids and parents can help reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect. Please give generously. Go one step further and attend the workshop following the service to learn more about this critically important topic in the life of our community.

Prevent Child Abuse America has chapters in 48 states and is the only organization in the United States whose sole mission is "to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children." Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is directed by Julia Neighbors and is partially supported by a grant from the Governor's Office for Children and Families. For more information, go to <http://www.preventchildabusega.org/>.

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia provides statewide direction to promote healthy children and develop strong families through:

- **Prevention Network** – Building a statewide network of individuals, families, agencies, and communities dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in all its forms.
- **Public Awareness** – Increasing public awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention through training and education, information dissemination, and statewide events.
- **Prevention Programs** – Encouraging the development and implementation of innovative prevention programs using research-based models.
- **Research** – Conducting and disseminating academic and community-based research to guide the development of policies, programs and services which will enhance the health and well-being of Georgia's children and their families.
- **Advocacy Activities** – Informing public policy, programs, and practices that strengthen families and protect children by regularly imparting information regarding child abuse prevention research, initiatives, legislation, and campaigns.



Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Step Up To The Plate For CAC

Are you looking for a rewarding way to spend some of your free time? Consider joining our Social Justice team each month as we partner with the Community Assistance Center.

Where: 1130 Hightower Trail, Sandy Springs GA
When: Third Saturday of each month, 8:30-11:00 am
Who: Anyone age 13 and older is welcome!
What: Receive fresh food deliveries. Get food out of cars, weigh, mark, and shelve food.

Our goal is to have a core group of volunteers who can rotate into this monthly project so that we can

share the fun and build community. Contact Marcia Kreycik to be added to this exclusive list.

CAC is the primary agency serving individuals and families of Sandy Springs and Dunwoody who need help in preventing hunger and homelessness due to low income or an unexpected income loss. Since 1987, CAC has helped more than 22,000 families with food, clothing, and assistance for rent and utilities.



Rev. Debra Hafner Presents Program on Sexually Healthy Congregations, April 25

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Northwest is committed to examining this topic with candor and



learning about the best practices used in congregations throughout the U.S. to promote child safety and a welcoming community. On Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 AM – noon in the Northwest Sanctuary, please join the Northwest Board of Trustees, Rev.

Terry Davis and Director of Religious Education Elizabeth Hickman as we welcome Rev. Debra W. Haffner, co-founder and president of the Religious Institute, for a special three-hour program on this topic.

Entitled "Sexually Healthy Congregations," Rev. Haffner's discussion will include information about safety for everyone, especially children, youth, elders, and other vulnerable adults. Topics will cover professional misconduct and sexual harassment prevention, child sexual abuse prevention, and information concerning child sexual offenders. Rev. Haffner will also offer insights on ways congregations can implement responsible safety policies and programs.

While this program is free of charge, it is limited to 50 participants. You must RSVP by April 17 to attend (childcare is

provided). To make a reservation, please contact [Elizabeth Hickman](#).

In addition to her role with the Religious Institute, Rev. Haffner is a Unitarian Universalist minister and serves as the endorsed community minister with the Unitarian Church in Westport, CT. Rev. Haffner served the UUA as a member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and the UUMA's President's Sexual Ethics Task Force. She also authored the denomination's guidebook, *Balancing Acts: Keeping Children Safe and Ministering to Sex Offenders*. Rev. Haffner has a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a Master of Public Health degree from the Yale University School of Medicine.



Stewardship Musings

Thoughts on stewardship from Rev. John Wolf, retired UU Minister and former UUA Board of Trustees member:

"There is only one reason for joining a UU Church! That is to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because it points to what's noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to men and women of whatever race, creed, color, or national origin.

"You want to support a UU Church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it

because it is a place where children can come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some 'celestial peeping Tom,' where they can learn that religion is for joy, comfort, for gratitude and love.

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted freethinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it is more

concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwells upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle and how great is the hunger for what is good.

You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it can laugh...because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice..."

Brian Freeman
Stewardship Ministry Team Leader

April 5 — Easter and Flower Communion Service: Bring a Flower, Take a Flower

20th century Unitarian Minister Norbert Capek started a ceremony of flowers, which is celebrated this time of year by many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Capek, the founder of the modern Unitarian church in the Czech Republic, was an outspoken opponent of Nazism during World War II, which led to his imprisonment and death. His flower communion celebrates the uniqueness of each individual and the beauty of diverse community.

What to do: Bring one or more flowers with you to worship and add them to the large vase at the front of the Sanctuary before the service begins. During a special ceremony, you will be invited forward to take a different flower home with you.



EASTER FESTIVITIES, APRIL 5



ANNUAL EASTER POTLUCK

Stay after the Easter Egg Hunt for fellowship and our annual Easter Potluck. on Sunday, April 5. Please bring a food item to share (including an identifying label, as well as your name on the container). Please let Anne Bennett [770.392.1080](tel:770.392.1080) know if you're willing to assist with set up.

HOPPY EASTER!

Our traditional Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 11:00 am on April 5 for elementary age children and younger. We'll watch the children search for eggs and enjoy some fabulous picture taking opportunities (possibly with a special visitor?). All children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets (but bags will also be available!



Community Potluck Passover Seder, April 4



We have two opportunities to enjoy a Passover Seder this year.

Community Potluck Passover Seder

A community potluck Passover Seder, officiated by Dave Savage, a friend of Northwest, will be held Saturday, April 4, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm. The event will be hosted by City of Light Church, 1379 Tullie Road NE, Atlanta at North Druid Hills Road and I-85, behind McDonald's off N. Druid Hills Road. For directions, go to FirstMCC.com.

This Seder is for people of any cultural or spiritual background. This service will be participatory, short, and not in Hebrew! If you are exploring religious traditions or are just curious, this service is for you!

The core of a Seder is sharing the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt to freedom in a new land. While we will follow many of the traditional Seder rituals, the style of each Seder is different.

This is a non-kosher potluck event. In Passover tradition, there will be no bread or pastry items that contain yeast, and vegetarian options will be available. Bring a sign or tent card to identify your food contribution and ingredients. Call Dave for suggestions on what to make or buy. The cost is \$10 per person, \$5 for kids 6-12 years of age - plus your generous pot luck contribution.

If you have a child who would like to chant one of the four questions, in Hebrew, he or she gets in free! Make checks payable to Next Step Network. We also accept credit and debit cards. You can pay at the door. Preparations are 5:30 – 6:30 PM. This is a fun part! Every child gets a job to do and it's an opportunity to meet new people.

For more info, contact [Dave](mailto:dave@nextstepnetwork.com) at 404.323.8686.

UUCA Passover Seder

Come enjoy the festive family-style Seder meal and service complete with singing, worship and fellowship at the Unitarian Universality Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA).

The Seder starts at 6:00 pm on Saturday, April 4. Tickets are: adults \$7, children \$4, family maximum \$17. Bring a side dish to share and save \$1/person on your tickets.

Don't miss this annual event for all ages! Sponsored by L'Chaim (Jewish Celebrations & Awareness Group). Call or e-mail to make reservation with [Carole Galanty](mailto:carole@lchaim.org) (404.872.3373) or [Robin Kottman](mailto:robin@lchaim.org).

The UUCA is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, on the I-85 N access road between N. Druid Hills and Clairmont Roads opposite the underpass.

SECOND HOUR PROGRAMS

April 5

Easter Potluck

Please see page 10 for details. There will be no adult learning Activities this week.



April 12

Congregational Safety

Session Leaders: Beth Clinton, Maria Drinkard, Keith Kreycik

Would you know how to respond if a fire broke out while you were in one of Northwest's buildings or on the grounds? For instance, how would you quickly locate a fire extinguisher or call the fire department? What if severe weather arises and everyone needs to move to a secure location? How about locating a first aid kit to deal with minor medical issues or injuries? What is our policy with respect to weapons on the premises?

If your answers to some or all of these questions is "I don't have a clue," you're encouraged to attend this Second Hour presentation and discussion on safety issues. The more we all know, the better chance we'll have of responding to emergencies in a timely and effective manner. Safety is everyone's business!



CUUPS Discussion Group

Session 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.



April 19

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Presentation: Faithful Earth Care in a Time of Climate Chaos

Session Leader: Rev. Kate Mosley, GIPL

Stay after the Earth Day Sunday service for a special Second Hour presentation featuring Rev. Kate Mosley, Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. GIPL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping faith communities in caring for the earth through worship, education and other support. Rev. Mosley states that "While debates still circle locally and nationally about climate change, people of faith are coming together to galvanize the environmental movement, moving us beyond debates and towards faithful climate action."



SECOND HOUR PROGRAMS

April 19, Continued

During this session you'll hear how GIPL is leading this effort in Georgia and how it participates at the national and global level. You'll learn about the Paris Conference 2015 and what it has to do with Northwest. Come to be inspired to address climate change in our daily lives!



Hands-on Earth Day Activities for the Whole Family

Session Leaders: MarKay Appel and Elizabeth Hickman

MarKay and Elizabeth will lead a family-friendly Earth Day program to raise awareness of the survival threat to honey bees and how this issue impacts our agriculture and our own survival. The discussion will be followed by two hands-on activities: making pretend bees out of a recycled craft products, and planting bee-attracting flower seeds in "peat pots" made from our recycled Order of Service inserts.

April 26

Safe Congregations Sermon Discussion

Session Leader: Rev. Haffner

Join Rev. Haffner following her sermon on safe congregations for an additional discussion of this important issue. Please see page 9 for more information.

Presentation by Donate the Plate Recipient

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia will conduct a workshop during Second Hour. Please see page 8 for more information on this worthy organization.

Creativity Lab - Collage and Assemblage with Recycled and Found Materials

Session Leader: Pam Zenner



Ever see a collage and think "That's really cool!! I think I could do that!!!" Well, here's your chance to give it a try!

In preparation for this class, be on the lookout for materials that appeal to you including small objects like buttons, old keys, watch pieces, beads, scraps of lace, yarn or ribbon; interesting colors and textures of fabric; quotes from poems, books or magazines; photographs, stamps or found items from nature - like feathers or twigs . . .

Collage is something I've never done before. I think it looks like fun though. Please join me!!! Let's explore our creative side together. Materials needed (either bring your own or pay a small materials fee): miscellaneous collage materials, backing board for collage, scissors or Exacto knife.

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! Join us on the fourth Sunday of most months in the Founders Room.



Events at The Mountain

The Mountain staff has been busy this winter cooking up new adventures for the spring, summer and fall seasons:

- Easter weekend, April 3-5, will kick things off with **An Easter in The Oaks** weekend and **Traditional Volunteer Work Weekend** running concurrently.
- April 17-19 will be **LGBTQ Youth Conference**, a weekend of fun and education specifically for high school students who identify themselves as LGBTQ. Share politics, self expression, and issues through workshops and group discussions. All youth must come with an adult advisor. Contact [Megan Quattelbaum \(828\) 526-5838](mailto:Megan.Quattelbaum@mountaincenters.org) for the Easter or LGBTQ events.
- **Mountain Hiking Retreats** are also returning. Come enjoy 3-5 moderate day hikes with lodging and meals at The Mountain. Current dates are April 26 -May 1, May 17-May 22, June 1-June 3. See full schedule and register online at www.mountaincenters.org.
- Don't miss out on **Mountain Camp** for your kids this summer. Registration deposit is \$200 through April 30th but there is a late registration fee after April 30th and those spaces fill up fast. See www.mountaincenters.org for camp dates and registration. Dates are also available in the Mountain notebook on the What Happening table in the lobby.

Check The Mountain notebook on our What's Happening table in the lobby for more details on these and other activities.

April Music at The Hungry Ear Coffee House™

Bob Bakert Trio and Keltic Kudzu, April 4



The Bob Bakert trio includes Bob, who is a fabulous acoustic and jazz guitarist and the wonderful producer of the Hungry Ear Coffee House as well as Dustin Cottrell, who frequently performs in the Atlanta area as a pianist and guitarist in genres ranging from jazz to folk. Chris Rigenbach is a double bassist and electric bassist who rounds out the trio and also teaches jazz bass and directs jazz combos at Emory University.

Keltic Kudzu is a Celtic fusion band which performs both traditional and contemporary Irish and Scottish music with a Southern flavor, featuring beautiful harmonies, strong rhythm, and amazing guitar, fiddle and mandolin licks.

This month's coffee house will be on April 4 in the Northwest Sanctuary. The performance begins at 8:00 pm and doors open at 7:30. Please consider a donation of \$5. Canned goods for the Community Assistance Center (CAC) are also happily accepted.



Who Are We?

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles and 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."



Our Six Sources

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

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



spring cleanup

Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, April 11 from 9:00 am until noon to polish Northwest so it will shine after a long dark cold winter. We will have cleanup, gardening and repair projects for all age, skill and energy levels. Wear work clothes and bring your gloves and any tools you cannot work without.

Young kids are welcome to serve as LPs (Litter Police) and PCWs (Pine Cone Wranglers). Older kids can help their adult friends on more complex tasks. For more information, contact [Keith Kreycik](#), [Dave Zenner](#) or [Anne Bennett](#).



Birthdays

04/01 Luna Marroquin
 04/03 Violet Marroquin
 04/04 Peg Gary
 04/05 Michael Burke
 04/05 Melissa Niedermeyer
 04/06 Judi Carter
 04/06 David Niedermeyer
 04/06 Ruth Subramanian
 04/11 Heather Steffin
 04/11 Jesse Williams
 04/13 Priscilla Hopkins
 04/13 Eleanor Schniederjan
 04/13 David Self
 04/15 David Morgen
 04/16 Barbara Ericson
 04/17 Gene Zanella
 04/19 William Fowler
 04/26 Sophia DelRisco
 04/27 Woody Bates
 04/27 Susan Hollows



Joining Anniversaries

04/05/2009 Brock Stitts
 04/06/2014 Hannah Cowart
 04/10/2011 Stephanie Dietz
 04/10/2011 Bob Thacker
 04/15/2012 Maria Drinkard
 04/11/1997 Judi Carter
 04/12/1987 Jack Edmonds
 04/12/1987 Karen Edmonds

04/12/1992 June Mask
 04/12/1992 Phil Mask
 04/15/2012 Pam Zenner
 04/20/2014 Roland DeWitt
 04/21/2010 Joan Armstrong-Davis
 04/21/2007 David Morgen
 04/22/2007 Kaye McCall
 04/25/1982 Charlotte Alyea
 04/27/2014 Peter Gillis
 04/27/2014 Paul Payne
 04/27/2014 Amanda Walsh
 04/27/2014 Dan Walsh
 04/29/2012 Charles Boyd
 04/30/1995 Donna McComas
 04/30/1995 Richard McComas



SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

Give Food and Have Fun at CAC's Third Annual Food 'n Fun Festival!

The event features a community-wide Food Drive Challenge, Hunger Awareness Walk and Shopping Cart Decoration Contest & Parade. Awards will be given to teams who collect the most food and have the best decorated shopping carts. Kids will have fun with sports and fitness events and crafts and activities! Also featuring bouncy houses, fire engines, music, food and more. Check out details [here](#).

The festivities take place Saturday, May 2 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at North Springs High School, 7447 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs. The event is free. Please bring a can or more of food to help fill the CAC Food Pantry for summer.

Contact [Elizabeth Hickman](#) to assemble our Northwest team and get energized. Let's be GREEN and form some car-pools to go to this event.

Northwest 101, April 18



Thinking of becoming a member of Northwest? Or just want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general and the Northwest UU Congregation in particular? You're invited to join us on Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 am - noon in the Chalice House Chapel for **Northwest 101**, starting with a light breakfast.

The program will include presentations from Rev. Terry Davis, (Your Spiritual Journey), Mary Perloe (membership), Jay Kiskel (local UU history), and board president, Constance Dierickx (board structure). There will be ample time for questions and answers and an opportunity to meet other newcomers. Child care can be provided with two-week advance notice (by Saturday, April 4, please).

If you have questions or want to sign up, contact [Ruth Subramanian](#) (770/452-1921). Please RSVP by Sunday, April 12.

UNiverse

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Northwest is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

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Send to nwuupublications@gmail.com

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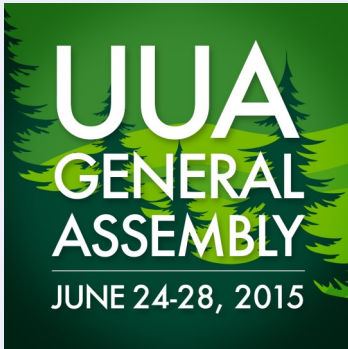
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Maria Drinkard
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Join us at General Assembly 2015 June 24-28, Portland, OR



Are you thinking about going to General Assembly (GA) this June? If you have never gone or even if you have, this meeting promises to be a rewarding experience.

For first timers and returning attendees it is thrilling to be in one building with 4,000 other UUs; to see

hundreds of congregational banners (as well as our own) being carried into the main hall at the kickoff Banner Parade. It is a joy to attend daily worship services provided by a variety of groups, including some very talented youth. For those who are not delegates, attending the plenary sessions is a way to witness our denomination practicing democracy and making policy. Northwest is eligible to send four voting delegates from the congregation (plus an additional vote for our minister) but everyone is eligible to attend all events and sessions.

It is also a time to attend lectures and by esteemed speakers, take in work-

shops, participate in a local service project or witness, sing, laugh, eat and at least a little bit, get some sleep. It's great for catching up with old friends and former ministers, and for meeting new ones.

Rev. Terry Davis will be receiving her final fellowship this year, a milestone event for becoming a full-fledged accredited UU minister. We look forward to seeing her receive this honor. Won't you join us?

For more information and to register go to uua.org/ga. Questions? Contact Lil Woolf (404-276-6189).

Shadows of Liberty at UUCA, April 16

On April 16 at UUCA, the film *Shadows of Liberty* will reveal the extraordinary truth behind the news media: censorship, cover-ups and corporate control.

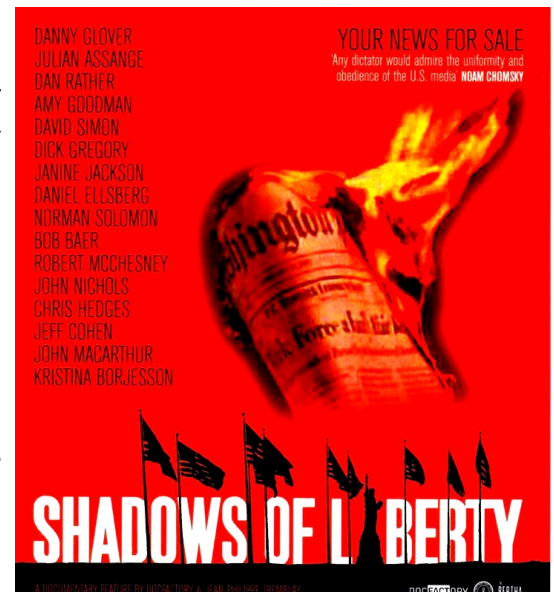
Filmmaker Jean-Philippe Tremblay takes an intrepid journey through the darker corridors of the American media landscape, where global conglomerates call the shots. For decades, their overwhelming influence has distorted news journalism and compromised its values.

In highly revealing stories, renowned journalists, activists and academics give insider accounts of a broken media system. Controversial news reports are suppressed, people are censored for speaking out, and lives are shattered as the arena for public expression is turned into a private profit zone.

Tracing the story of media manipulation through the years, *Shadows of Liberty* poses a crucial question: why have we let a handful of powerful corporations write the news?

A \$3.00 donation is suggested for this Third Thursday Cinema evening, sponsored by the UUCA Peace Network, Refreshments and a moderated discussion are included. For questions, please contact solvegren@msn.com.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, on the I-85 N 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.





April 4

UUCA Passover Seder, 6:00 pm
Community Passover Seder, 6:30 pm
Hungry Ear Coffee House, 8:00 pm, Sanctuary

April 5

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am
Easter Potluck, 11:30 am

April 8

Choir Practice, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

April 11

Spring Cleaning, 9:00 am

April 12

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Children's RE, 11:30 am, CH
Second Hour, 11:30 am

April 14

Book Groupies, 7:00 pm, Community Room

April 15

Lunch with TED, 11:45am-1:15 pm, Community Room
Choir Practice, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary
Deadline for April UNiverse

April 16

FILM: *Shadows of Liberty*, 7:00 pm, UUCA

April 18

Northwest 101, 9:00 am, CH

April 19

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Children's Chapel, 11:30 am
Second Hour, 11:30 am
Children's RE, 11:45 am, CH
Dining for Women, 5:00 pm

April 22

Choir Practice, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

April 25

Sexually Healthy Congregations, 9:00 am, CH

April 26

Worship Service, 10:00 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Children's RE, 11:30 am, CH
Second Hour, 11:30 am

April 29

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

April 2015 UNiverse Newsletter

Publications Now Available Online

If you have a print version of the UNiverse and want more information about any programs featured here or about others happening this month, please go to our website (nwuuc.org) and access the electronic version under the Publications tab. The weekly NeUUs is also under the same tab. You can use the live links in these electronic publications to easily contact event organizers and while you're there, you can read more about our congregation, its programs and services.

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.