



July 2016 UNiverse

NWUUC NORTHWEST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

Worship Services for July 2016

Service at 10:00 am

The Nursery is staffed and available during services and Fellowship.

During the summer, Sunday worship services will be led by guest ministers or members of the Northwest Worship Associates team. Additional information about the coming week's service is published in the weekly NeUUs and on our website. Not getting the NeUUs? Contact Office Administrator Shirley Banks at office@nwuuc.org to sign up.

July 3 – Implications of Independence

Worship Leaders – Glenn Koller and Constance Dierickx
Music – Dustin Cottrell

Independence. Countries fight for it. Teenagers dream of it. On July 4, as a country we celebrate our declaration of independence. Independence seems to be something we humans covet and hold in high regard. But, do we really, and what are some of the spiritual, social, political, ethical, and practical consequences of achieving independence?



July 10 – Zen and the Seven Principles

Worship Leader – Zenkai Taiun Michael Elliston
Worship Associate – Hannah Cowart
Music – Dustin Cottrell

Join us as we explore the intersection of Zen Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism's seven principles. Zenkai Taiun Michael Elliston ("Sensei"), abbot and founder of the Atlanta Soto Zen Center, will offer us a unique worship experience this morning.

In his role as founder at the Atlanta Soto Zen Center, Sensei encourages its numerous members to lead a Zen life and to maintain a harmonious balance with the demands of family and livelihood. As abbot, he oversees the training of disciples and priests, as well as ministering to the needs of a growing group of members and newcomers.

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Worship Services for July 2016

Service at 10:00 am



July 17 – Be Still My Soul

Worship Leader – David Morgen
Worship Associate – Tony Barbagallo
Music – Dr. Grace Fowler

Summer is a time when nature is ablaze with activity, humans are on the go and there is a lot happening to entertain and distract us. Unlike winter, where we can easily find dark, quiet solitude to reflect in, it is a time of shouting, laughing and the noise of amusements, natural and man-made. Amidst this assault on the senses, how do we find the space to be centered and in touch with our spiritual selves? This service will focus on our efforts at maintaining our inner peace.

July 24 – Inspiration

Worship Leaders – Letitia Sweitzer and David Stewart
Music – Dr. Grace Fowler

Gathering together with fellow UUs from all over the country at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, Northwest attendees experience the inspiration of community through the wisdom of words, the rhythm of song, the learning of new skills and knowledge, and the warmth of individuals reaching out to one another. What experiences at GA inspired this year's attendees and how does that inspiration change their lives in a way that affects us all?

July 31 – I'm Saved . . . Right?

Worship Leaders – Jay Kiskel and Hannah Cowart
Music – Dr. Grace Fowler

Salvation may not be a priority consideration in the spiritual lives of today's Unitarian Universalists. However, at the birth of the American Universalist movement, the topic of salvation was cutting edge thinking. Come and learn of the birth of Universalism as seen through the eyes of Hosea Ballou, Universalism's greatest American preacher and theologian.



Rev. Terry Davis on Study Leave in July; Contact Care Corps for Pastoral Care

Rev. Terry Davis will be on leave this month, which includes some R&R as well as time for professional development and to develop ideas for worship at Northwest.

She will return to her office on August 2 and to the pulpit on August 14 with the annual Ingathering service (and potluck!)



Please contact a member of the Care Corps team for any pastoral care needs. If there is an emergency, they will contact Rev. Davis. Care Corps members are: Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis, Maria Drinkard, Linton Hopkins, Danny Sample and Lil Woolf. Their contact information can be found in Realm, or through the Northwest office.



Notes from the June 20 Board Meeting

The board's June 20 meeting involved "hellos" and "good-byes," as we wrapped up FY2016 loose ends and prepared for next year. Here are some of the high points:

Fond Farewells: Allen Rider, Constance Dierickx and Roland DeWitt have proudly completed their terms on the board. Please take a moment to express your gratitude for their service; trust us—they deserve it! Save a "high five" for David Morgen as well. This was David's final meeting as president, but he will continue serving on the board as the immediate past president.

Warm Welcomes: We are delighted to welcome three new board members for the upcoming year: Bill Cox, Dave Zenner and Michael Dierickx. This meeting included incoming and outgoing board members. The smooth transition will help us continue our momentum into FY17 under the leadership of our new president, Kristen Fowks.

Perry Johnson Award: The board unanimously agreed on the 2016 Perry Johnson Award recipient. This award honors a Northwest volunteer that has consistently gone above and beyond throughout the year. The recipient will be announced at our Ingathering service in August and will be featured in an upcoming article.

NWUUC Official Communication Methods: Speaking of articles, we

recognize that Northwest has a number of communication methods currently in use. These include our weekly newsletter, monthly newsletter, email blasts, order of service inserts, blogs, etc. Our hope is that the newly formed Communication Team, led by David Morgen, will help us to continue developing and expanding these methods.

FY16 Budget Review: Despite being about \$17,000 short of committed FY16 pledges, Northwest is on track to end the year with a modest surplus. This is largely thanks to the extremely conservative money management of staff, ministry team leaders and others over the past year.

Sexually Safer Congregation: We are proud to announce that Northwest has officially been designated as a Sexually Safer Congregation by the Religious Institute! This is quite an honor and shows our congregation's high level of commitment to maintaining a safe space for all.



Jane will be working with other volunteers and the Stewardship Committee closely over the coming months. Thank you, Jane!

Hungry Ear Update: We are excited that Northwest member, Jane Echols, has agreed to step up and help coordinate Hungry Ear.

Northwest Visioning, Next Steps: We continue to consider a capital campaign. The congregation agreed to this action item, recognizing the opportunities we have to create a more functional space for Northwest while maintaining our beloved location. We are reaching out to resources at UUA and will keep the congregation posted on developments.



The summer months provide an opportunity for us all to take a deep breath, relax and re-charge. Instead of our regularly scheduled July board meeting, we will meet on Saturday, July 30 for our annual board retreat. Our agenda for the retreat is developing nicely and includes many of the topics listed above. This all-day meeting will help us set the stage for FY17 with a collective vision allowing us to serve you to the best of our abilities.

Thank you for all you are doing to make Northwest great and, as always, feel free to share any concerns or ideas with any board member!

Hannah Cowart, Trustee-at-Large

Looking Behind, Looking Ahead

This was a good year for music at Northwest. We added Join-In Choir as an option for singers who aren't able to commit to regular rehearsals. Pairing the Join-In Choir with the Northwest Band created some terrific musical moments.



One of our youth joined the band, giving us two flute players. It has been a pleasure for me to hear her improve through the year, and I look forward to having her back again in the next program year.

On the very last choir Sunday before summer break, we tried singing in a big arc instead of our usual block formation, and I was blown away by the difference in the sound of the choir. We'll certainly be using the arc setup after our summer break.

This July, I'll be leading a workshop at the UU Musicians Network conference

in Madison, WI. My workshop will focus on starting and running a contemporary band for UU worship services.

Aside from the UUMN workshop, I'll stay busy teaching an ever-increasing roster of private music students, performing weekly as a soloist and with Lori Guy, and filling up my extra downtime with lots of guitar practice. During the regular program year, I don't always have the opportunity to practice as much as I'd like, so I luxuriate in the extra hours I get to spend on my instrument in the summer.

When I return to Northwest on August 10, I look forward to more of the same, but with some tweaks. We'll start the choir season off with a choir retreat on August 13 and will resume regular rehearsals on August 17. I write a lot of music for the band, but some of that burden will be lifted when Ed

Kilbourne begins writing some arrangements. I'm developing a sense for what kind of music works best for Join-In Choir. I'm already eyeing new music to purchase and I hope to offer a music service in the coming year.

There were some wonderful musical moments last year, and I'm looking forward to more. Have a great summer, and I'll see you again in August!

Tom Godfrey
Director of Music



“We Are Orlando” Vigil

A number of Northwest members and Rev. Terry Davis attended the “We are Orlando” vigil at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in downtown Atlanta on June 14.

More than 24 civil rights groups and a large crowd participated. One of the first speakers asked us to hug several people around us to give everyone support. There were lots of tears, hugs, and quiet respect for the reading of the Orlando victims' names.

It was an uplifting evening of love, inclusion, and community with faith leaders from Hispanic, gay and transgender, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, other faiths/no faith communities speaking—with a call to action at the end to love ourselves, love our neighbors, and make friends with people who are different from ourselves.

The event was very well orchestrated by Atlanta civil rights groups and made us proud to call Atlanta home!



Come Feel the Mountain Breeze!

Northwest All Congregational Retreat October 7-9

As the heat of July engulfs us, think cool off with thoughts of our Congregational Retreat to The Mountain, in Highlands, NC, October 7-9. There will be hikes, crafts, workshops for adults and kids, free time, delicious food and cool autumn days and nights. Our workshop theme this year is Peace Begins with Me—Intro To Compassionate Communication.

Plan to go home relaxed, with new congregational friends, and new communication skills that will bring peace into your life. A detailed schedule will be available in The Mountain notebook on the What's Happening table in the foyer.

Early Bird rates till August 7: \$170 per adult for two nights, youth 8-17 \$70, children 0-7 FREE. Add \$35 per night for a single room. After Aug. 7, adult prices rise \$10 per night.

Register at www.TheMountainRLC.org or call 828.526.5838. For more information contact Penny Raney, Rebecca Cabral, Mani or Ruth Subramanian.

SUUSI Hospitality Stayover: July 15 - 17; July 23 - 24

Are you attending SUUSI this year (July 17-23)? Take a break from your drive to Western Carolina University or recover from your SUUSI experience at The Mountain, just an hour away from SUUSI!

Enjoy local hiking, a 'meet and greet' with an optional update on The

Mountain's progress, programs and more. Space is limited, so register now!

Family Camp and 80's Mountain-Camp Reunion: July 24 - 31

Enjoy traditional MountainCamp activities as a family! Parents, children, grandparents are all welcome. Activities include workshops, crafts, hiking, campfires, music and singing, storytelling, and time for relaxation and reflection. Family Camp makes memories that last a lifetime.

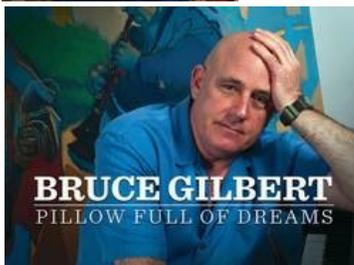
Also, calling all MountainCamp alumni from the 80's: Attend Family Camp this year and catch up with other 80's MountainCamp alumni!

Good Times, Old Friends and Great Music at the Hungry Ear,™ July 2

Three fellows who know a thing about composing, performing and sharing a song, join together for an evening of fun and great acoustic music, gracing center stage at Hungry Ear Coffee House on July 2.



Louis Robinson is a British singer/songwriter, performer, producer and teacher now based in Atlanta. He has performed at every major folk venue in England and Europe. In performance, Louis approaches quietly, and deftly moves into the consciousness of your heart, or your funny bone.



Bruce Gilbert's songs are filled with happily unexpected musical twists and range from poignant, elegant love (and lost love) songs to the cool sophistication of a hipster out on the town.

Bob Bakert will host the show. Bob has been a regular performer and producer of the Hungry Ear Coffee House for the past 4-1/2 years. Bob performs and writes music for acoustic, pop, R&B and light jazz and always entertains.

Doors open at 7:30; show starts at 8:00 pm. A donation of \$5 is requested and canned goods for the Community Assistance Center (in Sandy Springs) are always appreciated.



Ministry Team Annual Reports

Community Ministry

Community Ministry covers three primary areas: fellowship, membership, and communications.

Fellowship

- Anne Bennett continued to do an outstanding job as Fellowship Team facilitator by organizing and coordinating her volunteers who assist in the preparation, serving, and clean-up for almost all food events, particularly the Sunday morning social period following the service before Second Hour.
- Sunday refreshments were provided by facilitators, who take responsibility for one Sunday each month. Food costs above the amount collected each Sunday were donated by the facilitators. We encourage all to be generous with contributions for coffee and food on Sunday mornings.
- Sunday potlucks were held on Ingathering Sunday in August, Easter Sunday, and the Outgathering service on June 19. Anne coordinated refreshments for several memorial services (Stan Burch and Roger Johnson) and served cider and cookies for the Christmas Eve service.



Small Group Activities

- LUUnch BUUnch meets monthly. Led by Bob Thacker, it is an opportunity for a shared lunch and discussion.
- The Dunwoody and Kennesaw Parents with Children Chalice Groups continue to meet. A couple of groups disbanded due to members moving, health issues, etc.
- The Northwest Senior Network, started by Renee and Michael Burke, meets regularly on the fourth Sunday, has an email list of over 50, and encourages members to attend LUUnch BUUnch and the Hungry Ear, as well as invite others to events they are attending.
- Penny Raney continued to coordinate Book Groupies, the monthly book discussion group which features lively discussion of the chosen book.
- Dining for Women is organized by Mary Perloe and meets monthly in members' homes.

Membership

- Charlotte Alyea continued to do a great job as Membership Team facilitator, coordinating the greeters and

newcomer representatives who were available each Sunday to welcome newcomers. Larry Wallis continued his behind-the-scenes telephone calls and email messages to all newcomers who provide contact information. Kristina Banks, Randy Barto, Renee Burke, Verna Barrett, and Sandy Wiseman also assisted with nametag lamination.

- Two Northwest 101 orientation sessions were held. There were nine attendees in October and 17 in April. Eleven new members were welcomed on June 12.

Communications

- Weekly communications include the printed Sunday Order of Service (OOS) and UNiverse Update insert, and the electronically distributed NeUUs. The NeUUs is also posted to the website. Publication team members include Annette Boyle (contract employee), Lil Woolf, and Helen Borland (copy editors/proofers), with assistance from Sandy Davis, Charlotte Alyea and Ruth Subramanian as needed.
- Monthly communication to the congregation is achieved via the UNiverse, our monthly newsletter. It is emailed and also available on our website. Paper copies are available in the lobby and in the restrooms. In addition a few are mailed by request. The quality of the newsletter continues to be high.
- Paper copies of all communications are prepared by the Office Administrator, Shirley Banks, with assistance from volunteers Cathryn DuBow, Marian Lynch, Lil and Bill Woolf, David Stewart and Karen Edmonds.
- The nwuuc.org website is maintained by David Morgen (webmaster), assisted by Jay Kiskel and Annette Boyle.
- Our public Facebook page and private Facebook group are regularly updated by Lil Woolf. This private Facebook group is available by invitation to members and friends. It is used for exchange of ideas and for announcement of activities and events that are of general interest to members and friends. Use of this page is monitored for appropriate content, but is not limited to official Northwest communications.
- Communications will be a separate Ministry Team in FY2017.

Ruth Subramanian, Community MTL

Ministry Team Annual Reports, *continued*

Learning Ministry

The Learning Ministry had another successful year of challenging and engaging adult learning offerings on a variety of topics, including those on the environment, social justice, spirituality, meditation, individual creativity, pagan religions, gender relations, UU history, aging, sermon discussions, and many more.

At least two and sometimes three or four sessions were scheduled most Sundays, with attendance in each session ranging from less than four to over 30, particularly those that address injustice in its many forms.

Lack of available speakers/topics is not an issue; rather, the schedule is often too full, which limits the number of attendees in each session. Therefore,



next church year the schedule will be more closely monitored to keep the number of adult learning sessions at a more manageable level. Hopefully this will improve attendance in each session and decrease the frustrations speakers sometimes feel when much time and effort has been given to the presentation only to have a small number of attendees present due to competing offerings.

The Learning Ministry looks forward to another successful adult learning year in 2016-17.

Laura Hall, Learning MTL

Gardens and Spaces

The Gardens and Spaces Ministry Team had a productive year. Anne Bennett has continued her seemingly

tireless work maintaining and improving our gardens and grounds with some help from occasional volunteers.



In addition to the many small repairs and improvements handled on an ongoing basis, several larger projects have been completed by Northwest volunteers. They include creating an eight foot wide door opening between two RE classrooms, fitting accordion doors, renovating the copy room to be the music director's new office and the repair and repainting of the walls of the Chapel. Team members also spent two weekends at The Mountain renovating AJ's Garage using materials supplied by Roger Johnson.

John Hagler, Gardens and Spaces MTL

Social Justice

There's a lot going on in Social Justice at Northwest. Our members and friends have been engaging with groups across a range of topics in the Atlanta metro area that include the Moral Monday agenda to push for more equality in our government and society; wearing orange to show support for restraining gun violence; engaging with LGBTQ groups (in addition to Moral Monday) to fight against "religious freedom" laws that tolerate bigotry and exclusion; Community Assistance Center to support those in need close to our home in the woods.

If you are interested in any of these, consider joining the Social Justice Ministry Team and be sure to check our Realm web space frequently for announcements of events where Northwest wants to participate and be seen. And be sure to alert us to opportunities of which we may not be aware.

Tony Barbagallo, Social Justice MTL

Worship Associates

Paul Payne ably led the Worship Associates team over the summer of 2015 and assisted Rev. Terry Davis during the 2015-16 program year with scheduling lay-led services. He resigned his position in April of 2016 due to personal reasons. We thank him for his wonderful contributions.

Rev. Terry Davis



Welcome New Members!

Ketser Chau

I grew up in Augusta, GA, where I went to Catholic school from kindergarten through 8th grade and then distanced myself from organized religion. I went to high school in Aiken, SC, and college in Charleston. I moved to Atlanta in 2001.



Sonny Chau

I was born in Saigon, Vietnam, but was raised in Bradenton, FL and have no memory of Vietnam. I graduated high school in Bradenton, received a BA in Theatre from the University of Florida in Gainesville, then moved directly to Atlanta.

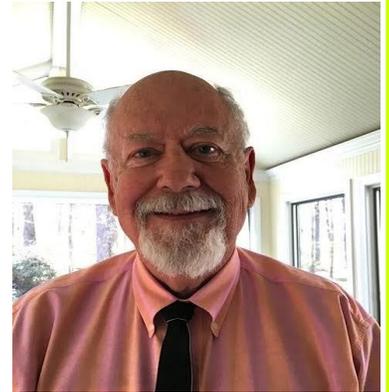
I have a Buddhist mother and Catholic father, many Mormon friends from high school, became agnostic in college, then atheist.

Ketser and I both hope to give and receive a sense of community, spiritual growth and a place to try to make a difference in the world. We also want a place for our son to discover his own spiritual or religious beliefs.

Michael Cain

I grew up in a small town in Michigan where I attended 12 years of Catholic school. After effecting my escape from both, I moved to Detroit, working as an accountant. In fifteen years, I was transferred to Memphis, San Francisco and then Atlanta. Once here, I changed careers and began a long stretch as a software developer. Finally, following the implosion of the dot com industry, I embraced my true passion as a writer. I have published four books and have a fifth awaiting final edits.

I have two sons. Aaron is a city planner for Durham County, NC, and lives with his wife and two children in Durham. Jason, an Army veteran of nine combat deployments, recently graduated from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



Just prior to returning to Atlanta, I spent eight years in Fayetteville, NC, working with combat vets at Ft. Bragg, helping them cope with the symptoms of PTSD. I conducted many interviews for the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. I hope to become a contributor to this community and perhaps discover new ways to grow.

Athena Nawar

I am an Atlanta native, married and had my three children here as well as training in my field at Emory Medical School. We moved to beautiful Savannah where I continued raising my children and working after my husband passed away (much too young!) I have returned to my hometown to be closer to old friends and family as my 'nest' is emptying.



I was raised in the Greek Orthodox Church, but primarily spent my adult years as an Episcopalian. In the past couple of years in Savannah, I found the UU Church of Savannah on Troup Square with its open, diverse and welcoming community and gladly became a member. I hope to contribute to the spirit of community and purpose here and to receive continued renewal and spiritual growth as a member of this community as well.

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Welcome New Members, *continued*

Kathy Miller

I was raised Catholic in Gary, IN. I hope to bring my positive attitude and enthusiasm to my new friends. I also want to share my love of nature and to stand up for social injustices.

What I hoped to get and am getting is spiritual enrichment, finding a group of like-minded, socially aware friends. I find serenity at the church.

My hobbies are knitting, biking, kayaking, swimming, drawing, painting and my three adorable dogs. I have a 33 year old daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Shohan who live in San Francisco.



Two Mindful Journeys in 2017, for UUs and Their Friends



Peru: Always wanted to experience Machu Picchu or go to the “navel of the earth?” Join us March 25-April 5, 2017. Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, Shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas and reflections while sitting on a mountain top.

Portugal/ Spain, Europe more your style? Come with us May 14-24, 2017, to travel from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we will enjoy soulful Fado music, a tile-making workshop, wine, port and culinary tastings, and a bit of a walk on the Camino. Imagine cruising down the Douro River tasting Port while reflecting on the scenic vineyard-covered hillsides.

Journeys led by UU minister, Wayne Walder, Toronto, Canada, www.nuuc.ca. To receive a detailed itinerary for either journey, please email Beverlz@me.com to learn more about Mindful Journeys go to <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/>



July Birthdays

Aruna Rao-McCann	07/01
Sean Appel	07/02
Kitty Meyers	07/02
Richard DuBow	07/04
Dominic Stewart	07/04
Dempsey Hickman	07/06
Sarah Beth Nelson	07/07
Brian Freeman	07/12
Beryl Grall-Petty	07/12
Pam Zenner	07/12
Nick Barbagallo	07/14
Phil Mask	07/15
Bianca Molinet	07/19
Micah North	07/20
Lil Woolf	07/21
Michael Steffin	07/23
Nicole Wentworth	07/25
Pam Freeman	07/27
Shelia Manely	07/27
Ilene Goldman	07/31



Share the Plate on Summer Break

Share the Plate is taking the months of July and August off.

We encourage everyone attending to be generous to our own Northwest Community and drop some love in the plate for Northwest over the summer when you are here.



Share-Our-Plate

UNiverse

UNiverse is published monthly by the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation
1025 Mount Vernon Highway, NW
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(www.NWUUC.org)

Northwest is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

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President, **Kristen Fowks**
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Finance Trustee, **Michael Dierickx**
Board Secretary, **Becki Gregory**
President Elect, **Dave Zenner**

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Hannah Cowart
Glenn Koller
Bill Cox

JULY CALENDAR

July 2

Hungry Ear Coffeehouse, 7:00 pm

July 20

LUUnch BUUnch, 11:45 am

July 3

Worship Service, 10:00 am

Activity Time, 10:15 am

July 24

Worship Service, 10:00 am

Activity Time, 10:15 am

July 4

Office Closed

July 31

Worship Service, 10:00 am

Activity Time, 10:15 am

July 10

Worship Service, 10:00 am

Activity Time, 10:15 am

July 12

Book Groupies, 7:00 pm, Art Gallery

July 17

Worship Service, 10:00 am

Activity Time, 10:15 am

Dining for Women, 5:00 pm



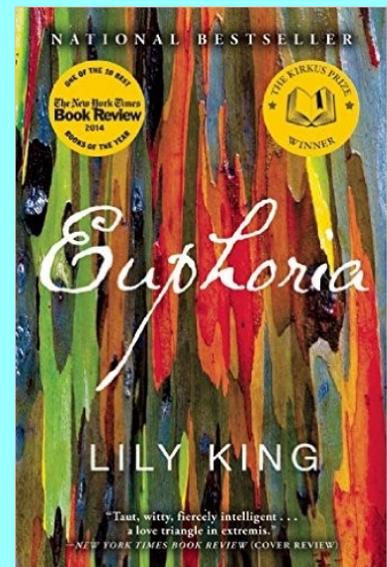
Book Groupies Discuss *Euphoria* by Lily King, July 12

The Northwest Book Groupies will meet Tuesday, July 12, at 7:00 pm in the Art Gallery to discuss *Euphoria* by Lily King. Loosely based on the intertwined lives the revolutionary anthropologists Margaret Mead, Reo Fortune and Gregory Bateson, *Euphoria* explores the attraction and competition between three fictional anthropologists as they study the peoples of Papua, New Guinea.

This is the best kind of historical novel—exotic, romantic, informative and entertaining. It's not only a New York Times bestseller, it won the 2014

Kirkus Prize and the New England Book Award for Fiction. Copies are available in our bookstore.

The Northwest Book Groupies meet the second Tuesday of most months. All readers are welcome.





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1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

July 2016 UNiverse Newsletter

Publications 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. 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.