



Susan Frederick-Gray elected UUA president

The Unitarian Universalist Association elected the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray as its ninth president on June 24. Frederick-Gray is the first woman elected to lead the UUA, which includes approximately 1,000 congregations with 200,000 adults and children in the United States.

Frederick-Gray was elected during the UUA’s General Assembly in New Orleans June 21–25. Her election comes on the heels of a controversial leadership realignment. She stated “I want to be clear, right up front. I am not the first female president of the UUA.”

As UUs cheered, she turned to applaud and then embrace the Rev. Sofia Betancourt, one of three co-presidents appointed by the Board of Trustees to complete the term of President Peter Morales, who resigned April 1. “But I am honored to follow her!”



Frederick-Gray
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“This is a defining moment, and the stakes are very high,” she told the assembly. “We have deep work to do within our association and our tradition, and critical work to do beyond the association.”

Throughout her campaign, Frederick-Gray championed the UUA as “a voice for love and justice.” She promoted a three-point vision of a “spiritually vital” movement “grounded in relationships” and “organized for impact.”

“We have much work to do,” she continued. “I believe we are up to it. I look forward to working with you on this transformative path ahead.”

Frederick-Gray has served as lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona, since 2008. She was installed as UUA president on Sunday afternoon, June 25.



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FUNDRAISER FOR BEESLEY ANIMAL CLINIC

UUFM will be collecting items for the Beesley Animal Clinic during the months of June and July. The Beesley Animal Clinic offers affordable spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs, works to increase responsible pet ownership by providing educational programs in our schools, and aids rescue groups and feral cat rescues. We will be collecting the following items for donation: clean used towels, large cotton balls, and sandwich- and gallon -sized zipper baggies. Please bring items to Sunday service and place them in the large donation box.



UU GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RESIST AND REJOICE

By Allie Becker

The UU General Assembly was held in New Orleans this year with the theme “Resist and Rejoice.” Many people had expressed concern over the current turmoil within the larger UU community prior to GA. A feeling of tension and discord seemed to be present. As a first-time GA attendee, I am so glad I got to attend this year’s event. There were many things that were exactly as I imagined they would be, but there were many surprises as well. And upon leaving GA, I felt a sense of solidarity within the community and a desire to lean in to discomfort and change.

One thing that surprised me about UUGA was the huge variety of programs and experiences available. There is absolutely no way to do it all! I was at the assembly about 13 hours a day and did not come close to experiencing all I would have liked to. I attended the opening ceremony, most of the General Assemblies, and workshops on three topics: racial justice, climate justice, and economic justice. I was so impressed with the caliber of the speakers. Both Robin DiAngelo and Chuck Collins were fantastic. Also, listening to the three interim presidents, the board of trustees, and the presidential candidates speak shed a lot of much needed light on the current state of our leadership. It was both heartbreaking and hopeful, resist and rejoice.

The thing I was most curious about going in was the current climate regarding racial justice in the larger UU world. As someone who agrees that changes need to be made in the leadership and practices of the UU, I had no idea what to expect. Here is my overall impression: After listening to many UUs of color speak about their experiences, and listening to the current leadership speak about their experiences, it is clear that, at least for those at the GA, UU ready for a change. The resignation of Rev. Peter Morales wasn’t something anybody wanted. The core values of the UU are not in danger, but we need to change how we practice those values. This is an opportunity to shift from focusing on individuals and start focusing on patterns. Religious education is a lifetime experience, and UUs are ready to lean in and do the work. All the racial justice forums I attended were standing room only, and everyone there was supportive of change, even if they felt uncomfortable. The breakout conversations were sometimes very difficult. The public witness event on Friday evening was a celebration of our collective willingness to lean in.

If anyone is considering attending a future GA, I would strongly encourage you to. There is truly something for everyone. And if you are interested in where UU is headed, a lot of work gets done at the GA. There are so many conversations to be had, decisions to make, and things to learn. Enter, rejoice, and come in!

MUSICAL MEDITATION SUNDAY—SINGING THE JOURNEY

Where words fail, music speaks.

— Hans Christian Anderson

By Shelly McCormack

A year and a half ago we had our first Musical Meditation service with UUFM musicians playing meditative classical selections. Last summer we followed with a “Singing the Protest” service around using music to drive change, with UUFM Singers sharing protest songs selected from civil rights and social justice movements beginning with the American Civil War and proceeding up to the present day.

In January, the “Mood Altering Music” service was filled with upbeat songs promoting a positive message—a nice break from both the gloom of winter and the political climate.

The next Musical Meditation service is August 6. “Singing the Journey” will include songs about journeys through time and space, songs about finding your way home, and songs about the joy in wandering without knowing exactly where you’ll end up.

We hope you’ll find something that speaks to your journey.

It seems like Musical Meditation Sundays might become a tradition at UUFM. If you have ideas for future music services, please share!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST JUSTICE MINISTRY OF TENNESSEE ONLINE AND READY FOR BUSINESS

By Frank Baugh

For the past few years I’ve been working as part of the Steering Committee for the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of Tennessee (UUJM-TN). The idea for the group was brought up at a meeting of Tennessee UUs interested in social justice work held in Nashville in 2013.

It’s been a slow process, but the members of the steering committee were determined to make this organization a reality. I’m pleased to announce that UUJM-TN is now officially alive and ready for members to join and make things happen. Here’s some information about what this group is all about:

The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of Tennessee (UUJM-TN) is a statewide social justice advocacy network of Unitarian Universalists. Our mission is to promote justice, equity, and compassion in the public arena by educating and encouraging collective action.

We work to educate, mobilize, and coordinate UUs on specific issues that may be issues considered by local governments, the Tennessee Legislature, or the Congress of the United States. Working in coalition with other state and national organizations, we as UUs model a reverence for the interdependent web of all existence which fosters justice, health, and equity in society. We encourage others to join us on this journey as we engage the people of Tennessee to expand individual liberties and to nurture an inclusive, life-affirming system of government. The UUJM-TN will address this vision by educating Unitarian Universalists on public policy issues in light of the moral, ethical, and religious principles and traditions of Unitarian Universalism and by encouraging UUs to work on issues that express their UU values. Our network will empower people to share information on issues, call for grassroots action on state legislation, and build participation through facilitating carpools and home hospitality events.

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UUJM-TN

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With tools like social media, we can communicate statewide among congregations and individuals and provide support for actions across the state and events in locations within and beyond our state.

UUJM-TN is now ready to be shaped by its members. The organization is in its infancy and you can have a big impact on it. Visit the web page at <http://www.uujm-tn.org> for information on how to join.

Frank Baugh is Chairperson of the UUFM Social Justice Committee and former Chair of the UUFM Board.

UUFM MEMBER SWIMS WITH THE SHARKS

By Allie Becker

On June 4th, our very own Blake Becker participated in the Sharkfest Swim in San Francisco bay. Blake swam from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park in Fisherman's Wharf, a total distance 1.5 miles. Blake had two goals for the swim: First, to finish. And if finished, his second goal was to finish in under an hour. Blake finished 19th out of a field of 44 in his age group with a time of 43 minutes 41 seconds. Way to go Blake!



Blake after finishing the swim

JULY SERVICES

July 2	Communion of Words: "Fourth of July"
July 9	Doug Traversa: "From Rationalism to Mysticism: 55 Years of Unitarian Universalism"
July 16	Rev. Denise Gyauch: "It is Good to be Together: Reflections on General Assembly and the State of Our Association"
July 23	Shelly McCormack: "Like a Good Neighbor"
July 30	Rabbi Rami Shapiro: "Naikan—The Japanese Path of Gratitude"

JULY UUFM EVENTS

July 11	Humanists 6:00 pm TBD
July 12	Men's Group 6:00 pm TBD
July 13	Board Meeting 6:40 pm Kimbro home
July 18	Women's Group 6:00 pm TBD

POEM

Crazy Horse Speaks (part 3)

by Sherman Alexie

3.

I wear the color of my skin
 like a brown paper bag
 wrapped around a bottle.
 Sleeping between
 the pages of dictionaries
 your language cuts
 tears holes in my tongue
 until I do not have strength
 to use the word "Love".
 What could it mean
 in this city where everyone is
 Afraid-of-Horses?



MUSIC FOR JULY

July 9	1017 Building a New Way 193 Our Faith is But a Single Gem
July 16	1058 Be Ours a Religion 318 We Would Be One
July 23	1013 For All That is Our Life 1021 Lean on Me
July 30	188 Come, Come, Whoever You Are

**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
MURFREESBORO**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Murfreesboro, Tennessee (UUFM) is a liberal religious society associated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). UUFM is a member of the Southern Region and the Mid-South District.

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