

THE DRUUMM BEAT

DIVERSE & REVOLUTIONARY UU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

APRIL 2021

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- **COLOR/FULL:**
Mathew Taylor



Rev. Mitra Rahnema

DRUUMM WORSHIP WITH REV. MITRA RAHNEMA

DRUUMM is hosting a virtual worship with the Reverend Mitra Rahnema on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 8:30 PM Eastern. This is an opportunity for the wider world of Unitarian Universalism to connect with DRUUMM and be in beloved community together. Musician and seminarian Joshua Long, who performed as part of the DRUUMM Sunday Supper program, will be our guest artist.

The Worship is open to everyone, and DRUUMM is prioritizing space for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. We particularly encourage our DRUUMM members in multiracial families and White antiracist allies to join.





Joshua Long

The Rev. Mitra Rahnema is a biracial Iranian American lifelong Unitarian Universalist. She is currently offering her ministry primarily in the Midwest, and has previously served communities in Grosse Point, Michigan; Mission Viejo, California; Kansas City, Kansas, and Long Beach California. As a member of the UUMA Committee on Antiracism, Anti-Oppression, and Multiculturalism, she was the lead editor for the book *Centering: Navigating Race, Power, and Authenticity in Ministry* that collected essays by clergy and religious professionals of color published in 2017. She is a former Vice President of DRUUMM, helping shape the 2012 Justice GA in Phoenix confronting anti-immigrant laws in Arizona, and has dedicated her life toward building vibrant and engaged anti-oppressive communities.

Joshua is a songwriter, worship leader, producer, and music director. He is the Director of Music Ensembles at the Unitarian Universalist

Church of Annapolis and plays regularly around the Baltimore-DC metro area. In 2015, Josh released *All God's Children* as his first contemporary worship album. This led to Josh's performance at the annual Wildgoose Festival in 2016, 2018, and 2019, and his participation as a song leader in the 2020 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.

Save the Date
DRUUMM Worship Gathering
Wednesday, May 19 8:30PM (Eastern)

Rev. Mitra Rahnema
Guest Preacher

REMEMBERING TO RESIST ERASURE



Remembering is one way to resist erasure. Even if it feels otherwise, we have the power to see and we have the voice to speak, even if we struggle with the words. There ways we can show our love, and that's by our names. We name those we have lost in the Georgia, killed in racist violence, at Young's Asian Massage, at Gold Massage Spa, and at the Aromatherapy Spa: Xiaojie Tan, Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez, Daoyou Feng, Paul Andre Michels, Soon Chung Park, Hyun-Jung Grant, Yong Ae Yue, Suncha Kim.

Our DRUUMM Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus held a virtual vigil in the days after the terror, creating a community of care for BIPOC UU, led by several Asian descent ministers. Congregations acted in solidarity with Asian communities, making public statements, directing plate offerings to Asian organizations, and participating anew in political advocacy to address hate crimes, rampant gun violence, and police accountability. We hope you will stay connected as a DRUUMM member through our caucuses and online group chats.

Meet DRUUMM's Chaplain Team at
www.druumm.org

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

Here are some of the ways UU Congregations responded in the days after the Georgia killings. Many of these practices have been also developed and practiced in response to racist violence, police brutality, and anti-Blackness.

- Spoke at a vigil organized by local AAPI
- Invited an AAPI to speak at church
- Split the plate offering with a local AAPI nonprofit
- Hosted online vigil
- Posted a statement on their website
- Shared the DRUUMM and UUA statements
- Informed church shared tenants of their statements
- Post on Facebook
- Addressed in worship
- Lit a candle
- Said a prayer
- Read the names
- Addressed in racial justice committee



THE BAYAT BEAT



A new podcast featuring UUs Devin A.C. Dadah, his mother and UU minister the Rev. Summer Al-Bayati, and occasionally his grandmother, talk about the state of society, culture and the world in general from their unique perspectives.



Their family is Iraqi Arab, living in the Southwest USA. Recent episodes include:

- Orientalist Anti-Asian America
- Divide and Conquer
- Humility over Pride

Listen on itunes or wherever you get your podcasts. <https://thebayatbeat.podbean.com/>



DRUUMM VILLAGE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

You are invited to DRUUMM Village June 21-27, 2021

No matter if you have registered for the main UUA General Assembly or not, DRUUMM Village programming is open to all Unitarian Universalists of Color where you will have the opportunity to grow in faith and community.

From the Annual Meeting to Worships, Open Mic night to an Elders Circle, Drop-in space to BIPOC Caususing we are looking forward to the Village and all that it can be for those that attend.

We are still collecting videos of poetry, music, readings, cooking, yoga, mindfulness practices, what you'd like to share of yourself with the Community, we ask that the video be no more than 20 minutes long to be placed in the Vimeo Showcase for the Village.

Contribute to our Multigenerational Booklist and Spotify Playlist. If you'd like to help are familiar with Zoom, we have openings in the Vesper worship, Summer Solstice Service, open mic night, and caucuses. We appreciate the capacity and assistance.

To Register for the 2021 DRUUMM Village: <https://2021druummvillage.eventbrite.com>

Thank you,

Imari Kariotis, DRUUMM Assembly, Conference & Meetings Coordinator

druummacmc@gmail.com

LET US "BREATHE" TOGETHER: A BIPOC COMMON READ DISCUSSION GATHERING



Let Us "Breathe" Together:
A BIPOC Common Read
Discussion Gathering
Led by
Rayla D. Baldwin Matteson &
Rev. Michael J. Crumpler

BREATHE
A LETTER TO MY SONS
IMANI PERRY

Tuesdays in May @ 6pm ET / 3pm PT via Zoom

REGISTER HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/BreatheBIPOCCommonRead>

***** THIS IS A BLACK, INDIGENOUS, POC (BIPOC) ONLY EVENT**

For more information, contact multicultural@uua.org

The UUA's Multicultural Ministries and Lifespan Faith Engagement offices are partnering to create a BIPOC gathering space to discuss *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*, by Imani Perry, as part of the UU Common Read for 2020-21. The four-week program begins on May 4, 2021.

Participants who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color may register for the online group, which will meet for 90 minutes on all four Tuesdays in May at 6 pm (Eastern). Please register with intent to commit to the series of meetings.

The Common Read discussion materials for *Breathe* were written by Rayla B. Mattson, a Unitarian Universalist religious educator and writer who is Black and the mother of three, including her teenage son.

Discussion materials include two tracks: a set of guides to be used by any UU group for either one meeting or three, and a parallel set for exclusively BIPOC groups.

The first session of the upcoming BIPOC-only group will be co-facilitated by Mattson and Michael Crumpler, UUA Director of Multicultural Ministries. The subsequent meetings will follow the three-session discussion program for a BIPOC-only group.

May 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:00 PM Eastern.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://tinyurl.com/BreatheBIPOCCommonRead>



#UULENT #LOSS

JAKE HEAREN

Jake Hearen is an indigenous UU, Chaplain Candidate in the Army Reserves while studying Interfaith Engagement at Union Theological Seminary, and is sponsored by Tahoma UU as a candidate for fellowship in UU ministry.

My senior year of undergrad began with losing my mother to cancers—yes, plural—followed by other losses that year as well, both tangible and not. Creative writing has not only been a way to pass my free time but also a means to process difficulties that I am faced with. That year’s NaNoWriMo was called The Decadence of Loss and was about all of the positive as well as negative ways that an individual can deal with grief and loss. I am reminded of that work, not because I periodically work on it still, but because I received this photo in the mail from my spiritual teacher and aunt in Montana. It is of my grandmother holding my mom (age: 13 months) while receiving the awards for my grandfather. He voluntarily put his career as a commercial airline pilot on hold to fly helicopters in Viet Nam; he was killed while flying a MEDEVAC mission. I realize just how much my mom’s life, and really her family’s, has been marked by loss: anti-indigenous policies in North America and Scandinavia, death, the transience of military life, abductions, and more.

And yet, I never saw this tear down what was most central.

I grew up learning what she could teach me as far as spirituality. She taught me about matriarchal leadership and that all communication should be polyphonic. One of my most vivid memories involved a discussion about understanding human waste helps with understanding what is occurring within the body. I swear there was a point I considered becoming a gastroenterologist because of this, but forewent this career choice. It did inform some of my environmental policy work in that understanding what is gone and how can be informative of what remains.

May the loss you experience show you new places for your light to shine and better inform how you understand what remains.



Núnwe
Jake Hearen



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Laura M. Cheifetz
24.2K Tweets



Laura M. Cheifetz
@lmcheifetz

(she/her) Biracial Asian American minister from the Pacific Northwest, living in the south. Assistant Dean of Admissions at Vanderbilt Divinity. Views my own.

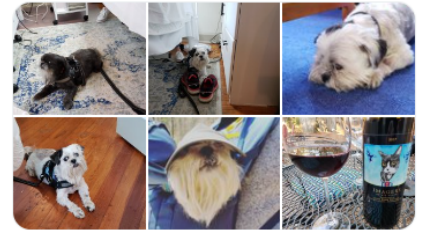
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Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz

Okay, here's my thread on how underdeveloped racial identity development sets racial justice work up for failure. 1/

12:00 PM · Mar 27, 2021

3 Retweets 25 Quote Tweets 44 Likes



- Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27
The thing is white supremacy is smart sometimes, and a lot of us fall for it. Here's what I mean.

I have heard of a lot of Asian Americans discount anti-Asian racism as not important, 2/
1 13
- Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27
and I have heard of Asian American and Black people saying that elderly Asian Americans deserve to be hate crimed because of how some Asian Americans have treated some Black people. Obviously not all people say this, but it's a narrative that is out there. 3/
1 10
- Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27
The thing about not knowing who you are, racially, or knowing where we (as a RACIAL group) have been, is it is easier to believe the lies white supremacy tells about us. We internalize the white gaze and attitudes about each other. 4/
1 1 15
- Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27
Divide and conquer is a white supremacy tactic and the longer we let this happen, the more successful white supremacy is. 5/
1 2 17

SETTING UP ASIAN AMERICANS

SETTING UP ASIAN AMERICANS



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

I used to tell a co-worker "the man is trying to keep us apart." Ways in which this succeeds is for no one to know Asian American history and contemporary contexts. Not Asian Americans, not Black Americans, no one. I think this is also true of any people of color group. 6/

1



14



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

The Black-white binary in the U.S. means that anyone who wants to do racial justice work has to know Black history and contemporary contexts. THIS IS A GOOD THING. Because it is American history. 7/

1



14



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

to confuse being the racial wedge with accessing whiteness, or, as some of us have been told, "Asians are just white people with slanty eyes" (not everyone experiences white supremacy based on skin color, but on citizenship, and see, there I go again), 12/

1



13



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

to believe our own histories are not American history, to think we are the first to do racial justice work after benefiting from generations of Asian American activists and movement leaders and therefore erasing our own presence and contributions, 13/

1



12



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

to believe the worst about ourselves – the consequence is we do not have a strong grounding to keep us active in racial justice work for the long term. Having an underdeveloped racial identity means you are floundering in a sea you do not understand. 14/

1



12



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

We must understand these waters for us to be in true solidarity with one another.

One of my mantras is "read a f*****g book." I am legitimately confused by people who have never read about 15/

1



12



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

or integrated learnings from Native American/Native Alaskan/Native Hawaiian, Hispanic/Latinx, Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Arab American histories and contemporary contexts. It's sloppy. It results in ahistorical analyses, 16/

1



13



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

inadequate understandings of how white supremacy operates in specific and distinct ways in order to maintain itself, and sets up racial justice work for failure. 17/

1



13



SETTING UP ASIAN AMERICANS



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

So while I really want Asian Americans to know about ourselves, in order to be effective in racial justice work, ultimately, I want us all to know about all of us. Honestly, we are so deeply connected. We are connected through waves of labor exploitation, 18/



1



14



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

land grabs and prevention of ownership, by curtailing citizenship access and full exercise of citizenship rights, etc.

Yes, obviously we need to root out anti-Blackness, because it's killing people. 19/



1



16



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

We need to root out anti-Asian racism and orientalist attitudes, because it's killing people. We need to root out anti-indigenous erasure and racism, because it's killing people. We need to root out anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia racism, because it's killing people. 20/



2



17



Laura M. Cheifetz @lmcheifetz · Mar 27

We need to root out antisemitism, because it's killing people. We need to root out anti-Hispanic/Latin@/x racism, because it's killing people. 21/



1



18



Laura M. Cheifetz
@lmcheifetz

Replying to @lmcheifetz

And in order to understand white supremacy in the United States, you're going to have to read about foreign policy. Because foreign policy is inextricably linked to what we might think of as internal racial justice work. But that's a whole other thread. So I'll stop here. 22/22

9:42 PM · Mar 27, 2021 · Twitter Web App

COLOR/FULL: ANCESTOR



MATHEW TAYLOR
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

GOAL

Network and meet folks. I'm actually in Seminary. Someday I'll be needing things from our faith tradition. I am here to connect, meet, and see what the rest of our denomination looks like.

GIFT

I am Black, gay, pagan, a seminarian, a writer. I don't see a lot of our voices highlighted. So I am here to say, "we need this."

NOTATIONS

- The UUMA established The Elandria Williams Scholarship Fund for UUMA Members to participate in PeoplesHub programs.
- The DRUUMM Native Caucus is growing, contact Rev. Danielle Di Bona to get connected danielle7248@gmail.com.
- Rev. Dr. Qiyamah Rahman is starting a new group called Sister Source centering Black women, girls, transgender, womenx, nonconforming and femme in Unitarian Universalism.
- Dr. Anthony Pinn will be giving the 2021 Minns Lectures on May 22, on the topic of "Judas and Making Justice Happen." It will be streaming online.
- This spring has offered the DRUUMM Steering Committee the opportunity to learn a lesson in saying goodbye. Three of our members have stepped back from their leadership roles and are rejoining the wider membership. While we're sad to no longer be serving alongside them, we find comfort in the fact that they've not gone far and are still part of our DRUUMM family. Please take a moment to leave a message of love, well wishes, or even share a memory of the leadership of Cassie Montenegro, Janell Hill, and Kaitlin Dey.



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