



# THE DRUUMM BEAT

DIVERSE & REVOLUTIONARY UU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 25

## SUPPORT DRUUMM'S FAITHIFY: EXPANDING CARE

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### Expanding DRUUMM's Pastoral Care and Faith Formation



We invite DRUUMM members and supporters to help us raise \$2,500 to support our work with BIPOC UUs in 2022. Our annual Faithify will help us develop a lay pastoral care training that we anticipate launching by the end of 2022, and produce our Elder Spiritual Odyssey programs that connect stories of faith journeys of our elders with younger and future generations.

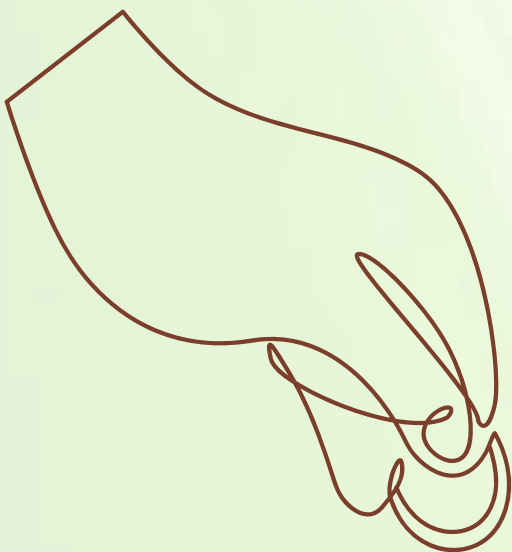
We live in a religious moment where our Unitarian Universalist Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) ministry is essential in helping members of our congregations and beyond thrive in our liberal

# SUPPORT DRUUMM'S FAITHIFY: EXPANDING CARE

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religious tradition. DRUUMM has grown to have over 400 members, and we are working intentionally to develop programs that meet the needs identified by our community. Our 2019 DRUUMM Survey heard from over 140 BIPOC UUs, nearly half of our current membership, who expressed a desire for spaces that center the experiences of BIPOC UU, including more worship and liturgical experiences, programs that cultivate faith formation, and

opportunities to grow culturally competent pastoral care and x justice practices. We are also conscious of the intense experiences our BIPOC communities have been through, at the forefront of racial justice organizing, grief and loss, and providing spiritual leadership in Unitarian Universalism. Your contribution will help us build a stronger community of care and more peer support resources.



**Donate at:**

**<https://faithify.org/projects/pastoral-care-and-faith-formation/>**

# Dancing in the shadows

**By roddy biggs**



## *Dancing In The Shadows*

By roddy biggs

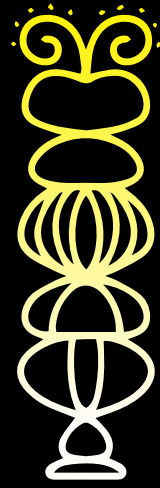
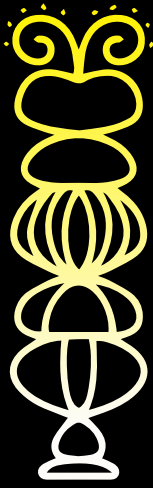
You will find me there; Dancing  
In The Shadows; You will find me  
there; where light meets the dark;  
You will find me there, dancing,  
dancing In the shadows;

Shadows of lives past lived,  
Shadows of pain held near; You  
will find me there; Dancing In  
The Shadows; Shadows of  
ancestors dear; yes, you will find  
me there; dancing, dancing,  
dancing in the shadows.

My name is roddy biggs (they/them). I am a first-year Masters of Divinity at student Meadville-Lombard and am honored to be joining the Drumm team as an MDIV community volunteer. As a queer and black, western European, mixed race, transracially adopted person living with mental health challenges, I have been on a journey towards spiritual trauma healing and transformative love for much of my life. For many of us, the work of spiritual trauma healing and transformative love is hard work, worthy work, but hard work.

So often, we need someone to permit us, to begin this work. Someone to tell us that it is not selfish to work but rather self-sustaining work; so as my dear mentor, our beloved ancestor Elandria Williams did for me in one of our first meetings many years ago did for me; I give each of you permission to begin this work; the work of spiritual trauma healing and transformative love as you like I journey towards spiritual well-being and would liberation.

May it Be so, Ashe



## **MATHEW P. TAYLOR**

### **#RESTINPOWER**

Dear DRUUMM Community,  
We are grieving again. Our beloved friend, Mathew P. Taylor, has died. This is a shock to everyone. They were recently hospitalized and discharged, and seemed to be recovering well. They were in our DRUUMM Steering Committee worship earlier this month in his role serving as our Vice President.  
Your DRUUMM chaplains are available to support you over the next few days and weeks and can be reached through the DRUUMM chaplain request at [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org) or email [chaplain@druumm.org](mailto:chaplain@druumm.org).

Please know that you are cared for and loved within this community. You do not have to mourn alone. Reach out. That's why we're here. There will be a public memorial in January 2022. In the meantime, remember that you are loved and you have a community of support at your fingertips.

Many blessings and much love to each of you.

Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Lead Chaplain  
DRUUMM Chaplain Team: Rev. Marta Valentin, Rev. John Crestwell, Rev. Christina Shu, Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Rev. Manish Mishra



*The people in the photos are Mateo, Athaliah, Rev. Christin, Rev. Ali, Rev. Jennifer, and Mathew*

My spiritual sibling and birthday twin has crossed over to become an ancestor. No matter how young you were we saw you as our elder and now you are our ancestor, Mathew. My God. Hear our cries.

- Rev. **Ali**:

What I hope—what I trust—is that your bright, loving spirit is hovering over this earth, witnessing our collective deep grief at your departure. You were not meant to join the ancestors so soon. Our faith was hungry for your gifts & your ministry. You were so beloved, and so you will remain.

- Rev **Erika**



*Photo of Mathew reading Tarot*

Vahé Simonyan and Mathew P Taylor share their tech expertise on our future streaming/hybrid/multi-platform worship services, thank you both for your time and enthusiasm! at Throop Unitarian Universalist Church.



Love and light brother, love and light. Mathew was someone who I loved and respected on so many levels. I am at a loss for words. So many of us are. I never actually told Mathew in a few interactions but they are one of the people who helped me answer my call to ministry  
**-Roddy Biggs**

# AAPI COFFEE HOUR 9/14/21 JAMBOARD, WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM THE LARGER UU COMMUNITY?

**Alexandra Lee-Jobe, APIC Steering Committee**

This article is a collection of ideas, comments, and feelings from our September 2021 API Coffee Hour. They are in answer to the question: "What Do You Need from the Larger UU Community?" It is my desire that every UU clergy person and non-API congregant would read these heartfelt comments, internalize them and weave them into their consciousness. There is pain in these comments, a feeling of invisibility, plus micro and macro aggressions. wonder how long we UU APIs can put up with these, before we leave this faith. Death by 1,000 papercuts is a slow and painful death. Y'all (wider UUA) must do better.

## NEEDS:

- My culture to be acknowledged
- Want Hindu holidays included in worship
- More music from BIPOC cultures
- BIPOC music presented by BIPOC ppl. to avoid misappropriation
- I want white folx to stop stereotyping me
- I want to be seen as a full fledged American

## MICROAGGRESSIONS:

- UU ministers: learn to pronounce Lao Tzu correctly, without having him sound like a rat in Mandarin
- I was welcomed repeatedly into the sanctuary (as a newcomer) for the 1st two years until I asked fellow church members to stop. I had been a member for a year.
- Don't misuse words like Hara Kiri (mispronounced & mistaken for another word) as a light hearted commentary. It means suicide, and it's not funny.

## SUGGESTIONS:

- Common read covering (accurate) API history in the U.S.
- I want white people in my congregation to be open to hearing the horrible parts of U.S. history.
- More contemporary AAPI's talked about in worship and especially in R.E.
- More inclusion of BIPOC folx, culture, & faith in RE curriculum. I asked for years, when I was on the committee.
- I want our clergy, religious professionals, music professionals, and volunteers of color to be treasured and supported. Far too often, it isn't happening.
- Updated collection of stories of API UU (religious professionals in one volume, lay individuals in another)-published by Beacon Press.

# ELDER SPIRITUAL ODYSSEY WITH DR. LEON SPENCER



We are honored to be hosting Dr. Leon Spencer, a long-time DRUUMM member and anti-racist activist from South Carolina who has been a teacher, mentor, and friend throughout our organization's history. He will be sharing his spiritual journey in a special members-only gathering and there will be space for community affirmations and appreciations This will be recorded, and reshared with the broader community at a later date.

Co-author of "The Arc of the Universe if Long", Unitarian Universalists, Anti-racism, and the journey from Calgary.

**DRUUMM member-only session with Dr. Leon Spencer**

January 5, 2022 7:00 PM Eastern

Members and BIPOC Friends can register at [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org) or contact Dawn Robinson directly at [dawn.druumm@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.druumm@gmail.com)

Dr. Spencer served on the UUA Board of Trustees, and previously was a member of the Black Concerns Working Group that helped lead the creation of the Journey Towards Wholeness resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1997 shifting our focus to addressing systemic and cultural racism within Unitarian Universalism.





# TEXAS GATHERING

## JAN 21-23, 2022

As part of our faith journey as Unitarian Universalists, we are regularly challenged by the ways race and racism affect our lives and our spirituality. Within our congregations, we are creating space to build a community of care among UU People of Color, opportunities to explore deeper questions around race, culture and our religious values. We will meet for fellowship, worship, creative art, and action from Friday January 21 through Sunday January 23, 2022. This gathering is co-hosted in partnership with the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio and DRUUMM.

We invite UU People of Color in Texas and beyond to gather for Friday dinner and a day of worship and other programs on Saturday including breakfast and lunch. Our goal is to nurture new relationships between UU People of Color in the area, discuss some of the historical development of UU People of Color and anti-racism efforts, and learn more about what the community needs and interests are among those who attend. We will

**Date:** January 21 - 23, 2022

**Location:** First UU San Antonio  
7150 I-10  
San Antonio, TX  
78213  
United States

**Registration:** [druumm.org/news](https://druumm.org/news)

share a new working timeline chronicling the major milestones and development of UU People of Color ministries as a background to address local opportunities and challenges.

Ayanna Kafi, DRUUMM President, will be preaching the Sunday Service.

Please register by January 18th, 2022 so we can arrange appropriate logistics. The event is open to UU People of Color and People of Color interested in Unitarian Universalism. This is an in-person event, and currently will not have a virtual option due to the cost and logistics. The Sunday service will be livestreamed at a later date.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## December

- December 18** African Descent Caucus
- December 19** Remembrance for Mathew P. Taylor
- December 21** DRUUMM Peer Network (local BIPOC organizers)

## January

- January 5** Dr. Leon Spencer Spiritual Odyssey Recording Session
- January 10** Steering Committee Meeting
- January 11** Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus Coffee Hour
- January 12** Pacific Cluster
- January 15** SF Bay Gathering (in-person)
- January 18** DRUUMM Peer Network
- January 21-23** Texas Gathering (in-person)
- January 23** DC-Maryland-Virginia Gathering (in-person)

Events are virtual unless otherwise noted. See our events calendar and registration information at [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org) or contact [dawn.druumm@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.druumm@gmail.com).

### DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2020-2021

*The DRUUMM Steering Committee is made up of members elected to three year terms at our annual meeting. For more information you can reach them at [info@druumm.org](mailto:info@druumm.org).*

- President **Ayanna Kafi Stringer**, Georgia
- Vice President **Mathew Taylor**, California
- Vice President **Dandilion Prinsloo**, Georgia
- Secretary **Sangye Hawke**, California
- Treasurer **Eric Huang**, Texas
- Communications Coordinator **Nicole Pressley**, Georgia
- GA Coordinator **Imari S. Nuyen-Kariotis**, California
- Outreach Co-Coordinator **Noel Burke**, Missouri
- Outreach Co-Coordinator **Paul Niyonziyiye**, Maine
- UUA Liaison **Michael J Crumpler**, New York

# SAVE THE DATE

## Spring Racial/Cultural Caucusing, April 30th, 2022

Connect and build community as part of a half day virtual retreat, meeting in racial/culturally specific caucuses for African Descent, Asian/Pacific Islander, Indigenous/Native, Latinx, Middle Eastern/Arab members. Look for registration information in January 2022 and be sure to update your membership record at [wildapricot.druumm.org](http://wildapricot.druumm.org).



## 2022 DRUUMM Worship + Fundraiser May 4th, 2022

Guest Preacher: Rev. Byron  
"Tyler" Coles

We are honored to have Rev. Coles deliver the message for our annual public worship service and fundraiser for our community ministry. This event is open to all. We will be inviting congregations and UU organizations to visibly co-sponsor and make a pledge to contribute financially to DRUUMM. More details forthcoming in December 2021.

## NOTATIONS

- This fall each of our historic cultural caucuses gathered with 15-25 members attending.
- 26 participants completed our Diversity of Tactics & Care workshop on trauma-informed organizing with Gabes Torres.
- We welcomed Rev. Marta Valentin into our DRUUMM Chaplain Team.
- Patrice Gonzalez of Kansas City and Chris Macon of Durham have joined our Organizing Project Advisory Committee.
- Lia Nagase will be helping facilitate our DRUUMM Peer Network for several months starting in February.
- Sangye Hawke our DRUUMM Secretary is convening our Nominating Committee to identify new members for our Steering Committee by May 2022.



### The DRUUMM Beat Issue 25, Volume 2

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The DRUUMM Beat is published under the direction of the DRUUMM Steering Committee and the Communications Portfolio. Join in the conversation with DRUUMM on Twitter and follow us on Facebook for the latest news.

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