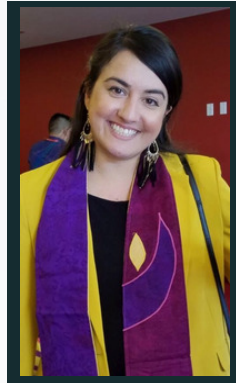


WELCOMING SANA SAEED DRUUMM PRESIDENT



The DRUUMM Steering Committee is excited to announce that Sana Saeed officially accepted the role of DRUUMM Steering Committee President (2019-2021) during this year's Annual Meeting in Spokane! She replaces Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, who after four years on the Executive Committee, has cycled off of DRUUMM leadership.

Sana's time on the DRUUMM Steering Committee began in 2017, when she was nominated as one of two Co-Vice Presidents. Following the unanticipated departure of one of DRUUMM's Co-Presidents later that year, she volunteered to take on additional tasks to support the leadership and sustainability of DRUUMM. Sana's leadership in the last two years has been an irreplaceable blend of grounded and prophetic. She has been instrumental in the development of more sustainable operations for DRUUMM's leadership and community, including guiding a grant proposal to the UFPF that resulted in a \$20,000 grant in 2018, and the ongoing conversations with the UUA towards re-establishing support for DRUUMM. She has also served as the supervisor of the "DRUUMM Organizing Project," an outreach program that has connected UUs of Color around the country to each other and to DRUUMM as an organization.

Sana's nomination and election into the DRUUMM Steering Committee Presidency is a natural continuation of her skilled and committed ministry within Unitarian Universalism. As a Multicultural Leadership School graduate and now Thrive Facilitator, she has been a force in supporting and strengthening UU POC community among youths, young adults, and adults. Already, she has demonstrated the thoughtfulness and care to support DRUUMM through the most recent instances of white supremacy culture and white fragility at this year's General Assembly.

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DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2019-2020

*President: Sana Saeed,
Philadelphia, PA*

*Vice President: Ayanna Kafi
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Rhiannon Smith, San Diego CA*



THE POWER OF WE: PHOTOS FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

General Assembly in Spokane saw a full range of DRUUMM programs, a sacred UU People of Color community room, and the gifts of our members in leadership from worship to workshops for the multiracial gathering of 2,800 UUs. The week was filled with new connections, spiritual fellowship, faith formation and theological grounding. We also faced challenges with racism, xenophobia and white supremacy, reminding us how important building trust and relationships are at the center of DRUUMM. Check out our GA Special Editions on our website, FB or twitter for more news. Photos courtesy of Amanda Thomas, Christina Rivera, Sarah ConroyDey and Joseph Santos-Lyons.



THE MOST RADICAL THING YOU CAN DO IS INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO ONE ANOTHER

For most of my life I've felt shy, especially in larger groups. I've learned to deal with my social anxiety through being selective in the places I go, staying grounded in my own energy level, and through getting to know people. This is one of the ways I became a community organizer.

I grew up in a place and time where people felt few and far away. I was on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon in a bedroom community, a suburb if you will that just a few years before I was born in the 1970 census was 98% rural. By the time I left for college it was less than 50% rural. It was in this place I began to learn the meaning of relationships and the skills it takes to build them.

I found myself saying yes to opportunities to be in community with intention, and felt with each experience my confidence build. In a world where division and othering is so powerful, including in my own life as a biracial Asian American of Chinese descent, an adoptee who wondered why I was given up for many years, and a liberal to progressive to radical residing in a conservative part of town (yes Oregon has some seriously reactionary right-wing communities), I found building and navigating authentic relationships to be paramount to being able to thrive. From time to time the magic that comes from building with people shifted me more and more into the ministry.



Rev. Joseph reconnecting with one of his Committee on Ministry members in Oregon

It has been my honor to take the reins of the DRUUMM Beat for the last year and produce monthly issues that I hope help people connect with one another. This is a volunteer effort, my contribution to DRUUMM each month on top of my financial support. I hope that it supports you the reader by introducing you to new people, ideas and movements. A proverb I live by, that came to me in my 20s and can be attributed to several folks, I share with you:

THE MOST RADICAL THING YOU CAN DO IS INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO ONE ANOTHER

NOTATIONS

- Aisha Hauser, Director of Lifelong Learning at Eastshore in Bellevue WA and co-creator of the UU White Supremacy Teach-In, is the new President-Elect of LREDA
- A pilot cohort for UU People of Color small group ministry facilitators/conveners will take place starting in September.
- There is a vision for a new Chicagoland UU People of Color network forming out of Beloved Conversation participants.
- GA 2020 is in Providence RI
- DRUUMM has new tshirts that debuted at GA in Spokane, interested in ordering one? Reach out to us!
- Per Rev. Marisol Caballero, the DRUUMM Global Majorities Project is currently on hiatus - check out some of the projects on our website
- With the UUA Elections at GA, there are now 3 DRUUMM members on the UUA Board of Trustees including former President Rev. Manish Mishra, and former SC and YAYA SC members Elandria Williams and Gregory Boyd.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thrive Youth, Minneapolis MN	Jul 17-21
The Well: Multicultural Families	Jul 24-27s
Tennessee Gathering	Aug 14
Chicago IL Gathering	Aug 19
Los Angeles Gathering	Aug 20
Thrive Young Adult, New Orleans LA	Aug 31-Sep 2

The Time You Sowed the Wind and Left Others To Reap the Whirlwind

By Rev. Theresa Soto

If racism were a problem that could be solved by the will of individuals, it would already be solved. We must be able to acknowledge both individual and communal responsibility at the very same time. We can do that.

Where we start the story matters. Eventually, we will arrive at discussion of the racist book that was distributed at UUA General Assembly 2019. But, in the same way that racism doesn't have an individual solution, it doesn't only have an individual perpetration.

The punchline is going to be that systemic failures of anti-racism positioned this kind of poisonous dissent as reasonable. It's dissent, after all.

(Here we pause to be explicit: the author of the racist book is definitely responsible for his actions. And there is more to the story.)
What more?

Before General Assembly, Unitarian Universalist ministers were considering changes to the UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association) Guidelines. These changes focused on accountability and harm, addressing ministerial misconduct.

And then, there was a response—an open letter signed by a variety of folks expressing reservations about the proposed changes. There are many reservations in the response that relate to how congregations fit in to a structure of accountability for ministers. There are many ways the response goes on to say that the exercise of the authority of the UUMA was too vigorous or misplaced.

The response led to questions such as:
If I am required to participate in accountability processes, can they be authentic?



If colleagues can hold me accountable, won't that chill my relationships with colleagues?

A note here: on the other side of significant conflict and harm, I can say that leveling up in clarity, attention and outcomes with the UUMA guidelines is not at all misplaced when it is a membership organization, such as it is.

1. From the response, a friendly amendment was drafted.

Please do notice that the name, "friendly" is about how the presentation of the material happens procedurally and not so much about the content itself.

It's worth stopping here to say that a friendly amendment can be used to disempower whatever is originally proposed. While this friendly amendment couldn't establish that completely, it was able to shift the focus to an extremely explicit affirmation of assent and dissent in the study process. There are a few things to notice about that:

We are Unitarian Universalists. Assenting and dissenting have always been part of our shared and beautiful heresy. The effect of lifting it up in this moment in this way was to make the ability to disagree as important as the work itself. Maybe sometimes that's true, but it still leads to asking why you have to disagree with anti-racism and anti-oppression work and structures of accountability. What's the actual disagreement there? The writers of the response did not take responsibility for the way that this emphasis and these priorities would undermine the work.

The Time You Sowed the Wind and Left Others To Reap the Whirlwind continued

2. The amendment was adjusted by its proponents in partnership with UUMA leadership and presented as a friendly amendment.

3. The business meeting was conducted under suspension of ordinary Roberts Rules and committee of the whole instead. Committee of the whole is meant to relax the the rules around discussion to allow for more free-flowing exchange. At that meeting it was combined with really strict rules about how the time would be used, meaning that the main effect it had was to eliminate conversation about how the friendly amendment had been incorporated and whether that was desirable.

Which brings us to the racist book. It is full of hate, including transphobia, ableism, and sexism.

Responses to the hate were clear, swift, and certain. DRUUMM (Unitarian Universalists of color), white ministers, and the newly formed People of Color and Indigenous Chapter of the UUMA all offered public statements denouncing the hate.

4. Then, I saw something that we need to discuss. Several folks who signed the response detracting from the original proposed changes signed the letter from white ministers denouncing the book.

Fezzik: You just shook your head. Doesn't that make you happy?

For context, at GA another White minister issued a public attack on our faith's Journey Towards Wholeness efforts towards anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism. This one, in the form of a self-published book.

The book drew a rebuke from DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), the people of color and indigenous chapter of the UU Ministers Association, several hundred white UU clergy, and the board presidents of LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association).

Westley: My brains, his steel, and your strength against sixty men, and you think a little head jiggle is supposed to make me happy?

I am glad they don't love the book and want to share it with all their friends. At the same time, the author of the racist book was set up by their assist. The set up was that explicit prioritization of dissent.

When confronted about the content, the author merely reasserted that it was a different perspective. When asked to recovenant, he declined.

These are the things that the response to the guidelines proposal normalized. The system holding the guidelines would rather err on the side of giving people license when it focuses on what's at stake being whether we have to do something rather than whether it's possible to abate harm and begin to act reliably in anti-racist ways.

If you signed that response, you sowed the wind. Now we, and especially your colleagues and kin who are people of color and Indigenous are reaping the whirlwind.

The UUMA is a membership organization. Having expectations and consequences for who can be a member and under what agreements is leading toward decency. Liberation looks like a different way of working all together. I am deeply disappointed and left with broken trust in colleagues who could have done more, could have done better, but when offered the chance, declined.

Rev. Theresa Soto is the new called minister of First UU Church of Oakland, CA, and a former Vice President of DRUUMM. Follow them on Medium
<https://medium.com/@titasoto>

You can read more at the following links:

A Response and a Calling:
<http://bit.ly/DRUUMMResponse>

Regarding the Gadfly Papers:
<http://bit.ly/UUMAPOCI>

<http://bit.ly/WhiteUUMinistersResponse>

During General Assembly I was overcome with emotion when we were invited to chant "El Pueblo Unido Jamas Sera Vencido!" Translated as "The people United shall never be defeated!" It is a popular chant that has become an international call to protest injustice and encourage unity. I wondered how many people knew the origins of that chant, that it was a song composed by Chilean musicians members of the group QUILAPAYUN. (Quilapayun is a word from our indigenous language - Mapudungun-which means "three bearded men")

Did you know that in 1971 Chileans formed the Popular Unity Party which resulted in the election of President Salvador Allende. That we celebrated by joining thousands in the streets, marching, singing, hugging each other, crying from the sheer amazement at the turning of our country towards social justice, towards lifting up the rights of workers, nationalizing the copper mines, steel industry, and launching an agrarian reform that protected indigenous communal lands and redistributed privately held land by foreigners.

We celebrated the victory of the Popular Unity by singing at the top of our lungs this beloved song that is more than the chant "El Pueblo Unido Jamas Sera Vencido" this song is so emblematic of our struggle against imperialism, marking a time when the people of the margins triumphed against foreign capital, taking back the major industries, asserting a new way of life, and revolutionizing a market economy to favor Chileans and give workers the opportunity to govern themselves, to take over the factories and mines and exercise autonomy and self determination.

This song encapsulates a dream come true for the people of Chile siding with the poor and working towards justice. From 1971 until September 11, 1973, this song protested the intervention of the United States of America, of Henry Kissinger orchestrating a military coup that resulted in the assassination of Presidente Allende, the bombing of the presidential palace, the detention, torture, disappearance and execution of thousands of Chileans, including my own family members and the persecution, arrest, torture, and exile of the members of Quilapayun.

El Pueblo Unido Jamás Será Vencido!



Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

This song is immortal. It continues to inspire us to rise up, to sing out, to keep dreaming, to shout our victories, to celebrate the triumphs of the people, and to believe that another world is possible. Below are the lyrics of the song. A song that is synonymous with la lucha, la victoria del pueblo, a song that bore witness to one of the few historical instances when the people, los de abajo, for a brief and glorious period of time took control of their destiny, giving workers, miners, students, farmers, poor people, women, children, artists, a glimpse of another world...

On September 11, 1973 a military dictatorship instituted a reign of terror and banned that song. Anyone caught singing it was immediately arrested. Singing it was part of our resistance. Singing it during victorious times was glorious. Singing it during the times of the dictatorship made us the activists we are today. Made/makes me the Minister I am today.

Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina is a former DRUUMM President and Settled Minister of the Starr King UU Church in Hayward CA. She is also on the faculty of Starr King Theological School.

El Pueblo Unido Jamas Sera Vencido!

El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido,
el pueblo unido jamás será vencido...
el pueblo unido jamás será vencido...
el pueblo unido jamás será vencido...
Arise and sing
we shall be victorious.
Banners of unity are marching forward
and you too will march by my side
and you will see your song
and your flag bloom.
The light of a red dawn
announces the life that will come.
Arise, fight on
the people will triumph.
The new life emerging
will be better.
We will conquer our own happiness
and thousands of voices
will be lifted
in a song of liberty
Decisively
our homeland will be victorious
And now the people rise up
with the voices of giants
shouting forward!
The people united shall never be defeated!
Our nation is forging unity
from north to south it will mobilize itself
from the salt marshes and the sweltering mines
to the southern forests
we will be united in the struggle and
working together
throughout the land
the future is being announced
Arise and sing
for the people will triumph
millions already are enforcing the truth
batallions of steel on fire
in their hands they carry justice and reason
Woman of fire and courage
you are already here side by side with the
workers
and now the people rise up in the struggle
with voices of giants
shouting Adelante!/Forward!
El Pueblo Unido Jamas sera vencido!
De pie, cantar
que vamos a triunfar.
Y tú vendrás
marchando junto a mí
Avanzan ya
banderas de unidad.

y así verás
tu canto y tu bandera florecer.
La luz
de un rojo amanecer
anuncia ya
la vida que vendrá.
De pie, luchar
el pueblo va a triunfar.
Será mejor
la vida que vendrá
a conquistar
nuestra felicidad
y en un clamor
mil voces de combate se alzarán,
dirán
canción de libertad,
con decisión
la patria vencerá.
Y ahora el pueblo
que se alza en la lucha
con voz de gigante
gritando: ¡adelante!
El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido,
el pueblo unido jamás será vencido...
La patria está
forjando la unidad.
De norte a sur
se movilizará
desde el salar
ardiente y mineral
al bosque austral
unidos en la lucha y el trabajo
irán,
la patria cubrirán.
Su paso ya
anuncia el porvenir.
De pie, cantar
el pueblo va a triunfar.
Millones ya,
imponen la verdad,
de acero son
ardiente batallón,
sus manos van
llevando la justicia y la razón.
Mujer,
con fuego y con valor,
ya estás aquí
junto al trabajador.
Y ahora el pueblo
que se alza en la lucha
con voz de gigante
gritando: ¡adelante!
El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido,
el pueblo unido jamás será vencido...

Welcome Sana Saeed DRUUMM President *continued from page 1*

As DRUUMM moves closer to building a more sustainable and community-accountable structure, we are thrilled to have Sana in the role of Steering Committee President. Over the course of the last two years, she has worked closely with Ranwa in leading the DRUUMM Steering Committee, and is ready to transform DRUUMM into an organization that no longer seeks to survive, but is demanding its right to thrive.

Please join us in welcoming and blessing Sana Saeed in her new role as President of the DRUUMM Steering Committee!



CHRISTINA RIVERA RECEIVES DRUUMM'S HIGHEST AWARD

“I believe Unitarian Universalism has the power to help transform our world but only as much as we are willing to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. This work is not easy, it does not come cheap and it does take commitment. Mutual accountability is crucial in this work and if you are not up for the hard conversations then I request that you move on from my page. We don't have time to bring everyone along, we can't wait for everyone to agree...we have a duty to achieve our mutual liberation. ¡Sí se puede!”

Christina Rivera is a Religious Educator, member of the LREDA Board and a former UUA Trustee. Follow her blog at <https://uuchristinarivera.wordpress.com/> and catch her on the VUU - The Church of the Larger Fellowship's weekly UU talk show.



**Christina Rivera
Mel Hoover Award
2019**

COLOR/FULL: A DRUUMM GLOBAL MAJORITIES PROJECT



**REV. SHARI HALLIDAY-QUAN
ROCHESTER, NY**

GOAL

To connect with UUs of color, honestly. To deepen connections with colleagues. To invite young people and people of color into spaces. They don't know there's a space for them.

GIFT

I am fired up about Unitarian Universalism. I am enthusiastic and welcoming. I tell the truth. And I like to feed people.



The DRUUMM Beat Issue 2, Volume 2

Editor Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons
Editorial Board: Rhiannon Smith, Tyler Coles
For inquiries please email editor@druumm.org

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