



THE DRUUMM BEAT

DIVERSE & REVOLUTIONARY UU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

DRUUMM IN NOLA

The DRUUMM Steering Committee met in New Orleans and participated in the Sunday Worship side by side with local leaders. Stay tuned for updates on the meeting and vision for 2020!



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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

by **Brittnei Washington**

What does it mean to be black, female and queer in America or Plattsburgh?
Does it mean I will have to work harder to prove my worth?
Do I tell my son not to wear hooded garments because it's not safe?
Because he will be treated differently because he's a black face?

Being 6 now he's still on the cute trail.
When does it switch to perceiving him as a scary black male?
Will he be judged by a statistic and percentage for prison or college
When we are the ones as a society who lacks knowledge

We think it makes sense to lock up black males for petty crime
When we have the degrees to see that they just need the tools, attention and time
Or my daughter do I teach her she needs to pay attention or to look out?
Because the stereotype that says she's exotic in bed but not the right spouse.

If she speaks ebonics she will be too ghetto and not right
But if she speaks English correctly some will say she wants to be white
Will she become a statistic for a pregnancy in high school?
Will she dive deep beyond school history lies to see black girls rule?

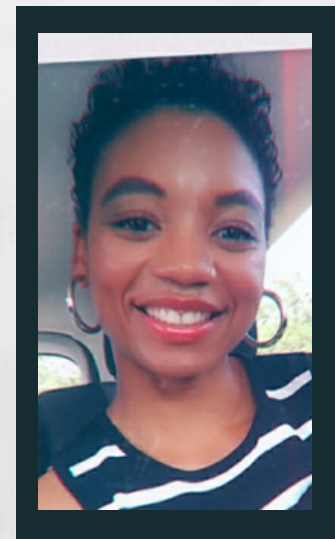
Will I get the same care and protection from Plattsburgh PD?
If the white supremacists choose to bring rage and discrimination to the next rally?
Am I the black person you choose to explain away your prejudice and not face it?
Because its too hard and shameful to recognize your ways as racist?

Will America still not hire me in some states because I have dread locks?
When my resume says its time to think out the box.
Must I stand in the shadows of conservative patriarchy?
When my skillset says I should be making more money.

Will a female's gap in employment be seen as lazy.
When what she did was take time off to raise a baby.
Will my hair or looks be seen as too much of a distraction?
When my culture and blood runs through every nation?

She's my life partner, not a friend with benefits on a given day,
How many more times do we answer the question whose kids are they?
They belong to us both but we are programmed to see norms
Because we forget that true family comes in many forms

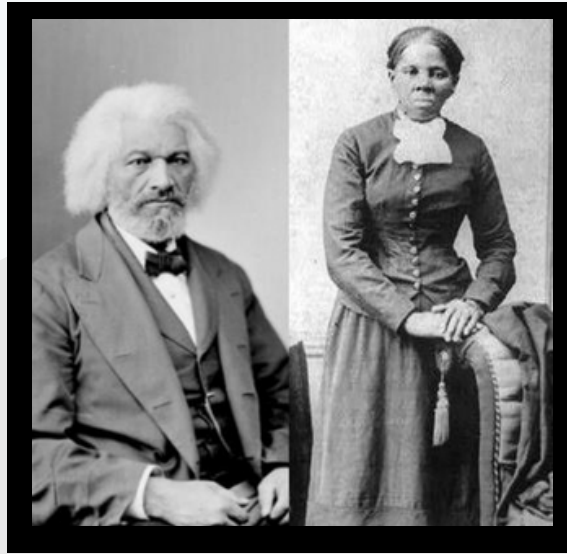
What does it mean to live in a society that says every person is free.
When fellow citizens and leaders reject and fear all that is me?
What does it mean?



Brittnei Washington is a New Jersey native, a seeker of truth and devoted student of life. She is often the rogue voice in the room full of people, willing to speak about the elephant in the room. She is a social justice activist and a thought leader. A mother, a friend to many and a business and financial advising support to her clients. She is currently a leader in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Plattsburgh located in Plattsburgh, New York.

Midnight Sky and Silent Stars

A Letter from Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman



When a book was being written about her life, Harriet Tubman asked Frederick Douglass for an endorsement. This is the letter he wrote.

Rochester, August 29, 1868

Dear Harriet:

I am glad to know that the story of your eventful life has been written by a kind lady, and that the same is soon to be published. You ask for what you do not need when you call upon me for a word of commendation. I need such words from you far more than you can need them from me, especially where your superior labors and devotion to the cause of the lately enslaved of our land are known as I know them.

The difference between us is very marked. Most that I have done and suffered in the service of our cause has been in public, and I have received much encouragement at every step of the way. You, on the other hand, have labored in a private way. I have wrought in the day – you in the night. I have had the applause of the crowd and the satisfaction that comes of being approved by the multitude, while the most that you have done has been witnessed by a few trembling, scarred, and foot-sore bondmen and women, whom you have led out of the house of bondage, and whose heartfelt, “God bless you,” has been your only reward. The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism.

Excepting John Brown – of sacred memory – I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have. Much that you have done would seem improbable to those who do not know you as I know you. It is to me a great pleasure and a great privilege to bear testimony for your character and your works, and to say to those to whom you may come, that I regard you in every way truthful and trustworthy.

Your friend, Frederick Douglass.

Ancient Diverse Wonders

Asia Pacific UU Conference in Dumaguete

by Tet Gallardo and Jency Condez

The First UU Asia Pacific Regional Conference was called together by the UU Church of the Philippines, bringing together 75 representatives for a week in Dumaguete City, Negros Island, The Philippines. With support from DRUUMM, Unitarian and Universalists from the three largest groups in the region based in Australia, India and the Philippines, gathered together for worship, cultural sharing and spiritual growth.

With the exception of the Indonesians who are Christian Unitarians, the other U*Us (Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists) in the region are in religiously diverse fellowships, such as a book club in Singapore, an events-based fellowship in HK, expats in Tokyo, and some individuals in Taiwan and in Rissho Kosei-Kai temples in Japan.



Rev. Tet Gallardo and Jency Condez from the Philippines are flanked by Indian delegates. All four major churches of the Unitarian Union of NE India were represented. Rev. Sowat Laloo, Unitarian Church of Jowai in Jaintia Hills (Mother Church), Rev. Darihun Khriam, Unitarian Church of Smit of Khasi Hills, Alldrina Nonglamin, Unitarian Nongtalang Church of Jaintia Hills border of Bangladesh, and Mrs Battinora Rani, Unitarian Church of Nongkrem at Khyrim State.

The Unitarians of Northeast India based in the Khasi Hills recently celebrated their 132nd anniversary. Members of Khasi and Jowai tribes rendering a folk song with dance about women at the center of society. A number of pilgrims from the US also attended the Conference. This was the first Fall Pilgrimage of its kind, organically organized by Filipinos. Two pilgrims from White Bear UU in Minneapolis and two pilgrims from UU San Francisco, all members of the LGBTIQQA community came, plus one pilgrim who is a retired American living in the Philippines.

Student ministers shared a folk dance number, the rondalla. They also performed a moving spoken word rendition of the life of the UUCP founder the Rev. Toribio S. Quimada. As the Conference was scheduled on the “Festival of Festivals” known as Buglasan, there were many opportunities to see Philippine handicrafts and produce.

A trip to Siapo Congregation showcasing Philippine farm life, a small sports hour at the beachfront, and a trip to swim with large turtles in the wild were other experiential highlights. A second Asia Pacific UU conference is envisioned for 2021.

The Jefferson Shooting

by Raziq Brown

Oct 14

The Jefferson shooting is killing me because like me, like the new black businesses that are moving into the area she saw Hillside-Morningside as more than a ghetto to over policed and under served.

Right now educated black millennials are trying to move back to black neighborhoods and make them homes again people like Atatiana are **INVALUABLE** to our neighborhood because while white hipsters from Fairmount who are our peers get drunk on the other side of the highway and call my neighborhood "ghetto" and "sketch".

We. Live. Here. Whenever I tell you about police knocking on my door, gun in hand, to give me registration ticket, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE SAME POLICE WHO SHOT MS. JEFFERSON. The FWPD in the Morningside-Hillside area SUCK.

They can't tell the difference between a suspect and a citizen and because we're black we might as well be the same. Last month I was afraid a friend of mine was kidnapped. I called the police to put out a missing person's report. When my friend was found the cops told me not to call them if my friends go missing unless I want "something bad to happen to them". I'm not making this shit up.

I want nothing but justice for Atatiana and her family but I hope this is a wake up call to Fort Worth. Morningside-Hillside is not just some ghetto where black people should be left to die from poverty, police, and disease. It has not been abandoned by black people who can't take care of their own communities. We are trying to lift our community up by its bootstraps. We can't do that if the city preys on us, harasses us, and neglects us. #Justice4Jefferson #GodBlessHillside #GodSaveMorningside



Raziq Brown is from Texas and recently launched a new podccast called "I'm From Texas". He is a former DRUUMM Youth & Young Adults of Color Steering Committee Member, and UUA Staff.

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Cali, Colombia

Why Cali, Colombia?

Cali, Colombia has a rich history, historic religious sites, a salsa dancing scene like no other, and it is a bustling city nestled among picturesque beauty. This trip will help attendees develop a deeper sense of community, theology and spiritual resilience. It will also provide a fertile environment for deep reflections on what it means individually and collectively to experience our faith globally.

What Will The Trip Be Like?

This experience is designed with community and spirituality at its center. We will engage in prayer at meals, spiritual excursions, daily meditation and reflection, Spanish language immersion, small group experiences, cultural activities, communal meals, worship and dancing. We will also emphasize joy in our time together.

How Can I Learn More?

Join us for an informational meeting to be held at on Thursday, November 7 at 7 pm in the Cedar Lane Library. A draft itinerary will be available then! If you can't make the meeting but are interested, please email Rev. Katie: kromanogriffin@cedarlane.org.



Email Cedar Lane's Associate Minister
Rev. Katie at kromanogriffin@cedarlane.org
with questions and to apply.

The Rev. Katie Romano Griffin and The Rev. Jorge E. Espinel are hard at work crafting a transformative spiritual pilgrimage for UUs in Cali, Colombia to happen Feb 23 - March 8, 2020. Consider joining them! Why?

Cali, Colombia has a rich history, historic religious sites, a salsa dancing scene like no other, and it is a bustling city nestled among picturesque beauty. This trip will help us explore and test how Unitarian Universalism applies outside of the U.S. in one of South America's most resilient cities and help us develop a deeper sense of community, theology and spiritual resilience.

A draft itinerary will be provided at that time. Join us to learn more about this spiritually enriching trip! You may also email Rev. Katie at kromanogriffin@cedarlane.org if you are interested!

DRUUMM Gatherings 2020

San Diego, Raleigh/Durham, Atlanta, Seattle

SAVE THE DATE!

We are excited to announce four upcoming gatherings in January 2020 for DRUUMM Members and people interested in Unitarian Universalist People of Color Ministry and Community. These are part of DRUUMM's Organizing Project that continues to work to build relationships and network with our local communities.

San Diego - January 12, 2020

Raleigh/Durham - January 18, 2020

Atlanta - January 19, 2020

Seattle - January 26, 2020

These gatherings are generally three hours and include a meal, worship and a program. We are grateful to be partnering with area congregations, UU Religious Professionals of Color and our DRUUMM Members in creating these events. Check out our Facebook and www.druumm.org for updated information. To learn more please contact The Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons at jsantoslyons@uuma.org.



DRUUMM Steering Committee meets at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland
October 2016

Volunteer leadership is perhaps one of the most challenging and most fulfilling aspects of humanity for me. To organize with folks, towards concrete goals, to change our world and ourselves, is never easy. The spirit calls me to live in a way that honors authenticity in all our relationships. When we experience an injustice to one, it is an injustice to all. DRUUMM has been a core to my spiritual and political work for nearly two decades. A ragtag group of Unitarian Universalist People of Color, started by primarily ministers and organizers to be a collective voice in the change process. It's a lot of hard heart work to support and lead, and a privilege to serve as President for one last year. We don't have staff, we have amazing talents, and we do the best we can with what we got. Good to be with our Steering Committee in Oakland and with our community in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thanks to all who have served, are serving and will serve! — Rev. Joseph in Oakland, CA.

NOTATIONS

- 23 leaders are participating in a three month Cohort for Conveners UU People of Color Groups facilitated by the DRUUMM Organizing Project. Special guests include Sana Saeed and Noel Burke of the DRUUMM Steering Committee, Dr. Mark Hicks of Meadville Lombard Theological School, and The Rev. Christina Shu of Neighborhood Church in Pasadena CA. A Spring 2020 cohort is planned pending funding.
- The UUA announced in partnership with DRUUMM and a range of other UU organizations a call for Conversations on Liberation.
- BLUU recently announced they have formed their own non-profit status, designated as a Black UU Church.
- Over 42 UU Religious Professionals of Color participated in a special Fall Centering Circle: Practices for Connection and Resilience led by Michael Crumpler, Rebeka Ndosu and Ayo Clemons.
- The UU People of Color Chronicles Timeline is being invited to be displayed at the UUA Headquarters in Boston MA in 2020.
- Registration for the UUA General Assembly in Providence RI is now open at uua.org/ga. Rates will increase on March 16 and again on May 1.

COLOR/FULL: A DRUUMM GLOBAL MAJORITIES PROJECT



CLYDE GRUBBS
BRAINTREE, MA

GOAL

To see people. To work with the water protectors. To serve indigenous values.

GIFT

Resilience. And I say I can tell a good story.

**DIVERSE & REVOLUTIONARY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES**

GIVING TUESDAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019



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