

# THE DRUUMM BEAT

JANUARY 2019



*A New Years Blessing by Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, President of DRUUMM.*

You have shown your everlasting presence  
In family, cherished and chosen,  
In community, nurturing and resilient,  
In the laughter, tears, grief, celebration, and  
The resistance of our beloved ummah.

Divine Love, Compassionate and Merciful Source of Creation  
You who are the sacred impulse for justice and liberation  
that flows through our being, through all being -

Guide us in this time of re-turning and renewal.  
Guide us in this time of letting go and carrying forward.  
Guide us as we strive to follow the path of love and liberation written on our hearts.  
Help us to remember the struggles of our ancestors who have left us with blessings and a charge-

To continue. To celebrate. To challenge. To create with You a world where all thrive.

Source of Love and Life,  
Grant us your abundant grace when we make mistakes.  
Help us to remember that we are created worthy and good  
To remember that we can still love and bless even if we have strayed to a path of harm or oppression.

To remember the lessons of our past and to transform them into the prophecies of our present and future.

Here at another opening in our lives, help us to remember that You are with us.

That in our struggles, in our triumphs,  
In what has passed and what is to come  
Your love, Your grace, Your strength, Your wisdom surrounds us.  
Your love, Your grace, Your strength, Your wisdom is within us.

Amen, Amin, Ashe, Blessed Be

Photo: BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's flaming chalice on Christmas Eve

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*The DRUUMM Beat is an all-volunteer project, edited by Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons under the direction of the DRUUMM Steering Committee. We welcome written and visual submissions. Email [editor@druumm.org](mailto:editor@druumm.org).*



## DRUUMM NOTATIONS

\*Rev. Daniel Gregoire shared the good news and photos of a special Kwanzaa service hosting in Springfield MA by ministerial interns Viola Abbitt and Margalie Belizaire, pictured alongside UUA Regional Lead Woullard Lett and Rev. Adam Dyer. Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, supported by the Unitarian Universalist Black Affairs Council investments in self-determination projects during the 1960s and 1970s. (Photo credit: Daniel Gregoire)

\*A new UU Ministers Association Chapter for People of Color is forming and electing leaders. The nominating committee is recruiting for a program planning council, student liaison and good officer positions. To serve you must be a member of the UUMA. For more information contact [uurevangela@gmail.com](mailto:uurevangela@gmail.com).

\*Check out the Church of the Larger Fellowship's weekly talk show called "The VUU", co-hosted by Rev. Meg Riley, Christine Rivera, Aisha Hauser and Rev. Michael Tino, accessible Thursdays 11am ET and via recording <https://www.questformeaning.org/vuu/>



# THE WELL: A GATHERING OF MULTI-RACIAL UU FAMILIES

Building on DRUUMM Multiracial and Families of Color retreats that started in the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Districts, a new program is being envisioned for July 20-27 at Ferry Beach retreat center in Saco Maine.

Save the date for the first of what we hope will be an annual gathering of multi-racial UU families on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. The Well is a faith formation retreat, intended to provide a rare multi-generational space for children, youth, and adults to explore our spiritual paths, the rites of passage that bear witness to our experiences, music, arts, and food that speak to our souls, and worship that inspires us all. Details about housing, transportation, meals, scholarships, and programming are forthcoming.

For now, mark your calendars and dream about being in such a community. Spread the word to those who would want to know about this event.

For more information contact the Coordinating Team: Lily Rappaport, Mark Hicks, Rev. Hope Johnson, Jannice Marie Johnson via email at [multiracialfamiliesatthewell@gmail.com](mailto:multiracialfamiliesatthewell@gmail.com).



## THE SANKOFA SPECIAL COLLECTION

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley served as minister of Third Unitarian Church in Chicago and hosted one of the earliest DRUUMM Youth and Young Adults of Color retreats in the late 1990s. She was supportive of the growing movement of young people of color organizing in the UUA and had reached out to organizers to invite folks to gather at her congregation. A number of young adults of color were at Meadville-Lombard Seminary nearby, or had recently graduated providing additional support.

Young people gathered from across North America, building on the first gathering in Atlanta GA the year before, and ultimately building momentum to meet the following year in St Petersburg FL. Dreams were shared and a new relationship between DRUUMM and the UUA emerged leading to culturally specific ministries within the Youth Office and Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries.



Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley, Founding Project Director of the Sankofa Special Collection


Rev. Bentley went on to serve in the UUA Ministry Department and on the faculty of Meadville-Lombard, mentoring many along the way. Working with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, she secured a long-term commitment from the seminary to create and host the Sankofa Special Collection in the mid-2000s.

These stories and more are archived along with biographies, worship resources and images that tell the stories of Unitarian Universalists of Color. “The purpose of the Sankofa Special Collection is reflected in its name. Sankofa means looking to the past in order to move forward into the future. Sankofa looks into the silences and absences created by white supremacy, to amplify what has been muted and to recover what has been obscured.”

Sankofa is a living collection and we are constantly on the lookout for new acquisitions that document the rich history of Unitarian Universalists of Color. There is a rich physical collection available for viewing on-campus in Chicago IL and there is a growing digital archive with over 8,000 images. Learn more at <https://www.meadville.edu/library-and-archives/special-collections/sankofa-special-collection/>. If you are interesting in donating materials to the Sankofa Special Collection, please email [library@meadville.edu](mailto:library@meadville.edu).

# INVOCATION WITH THE VERMONT STATE SENATE

*Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Minister of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier VT, gave the invocation for the beginning of the 2019 legislative session last week. Here are her words, shared with permission.*



The world we live in is constantly in motion, and we are continuously inundated with the voices and opinions of others.

To lead with integrity, we must also make space for stillness and for the quiet to hear our own voice and truth with clarity.

And so, I invite you into a moment of quiet now...and to join me in the spirit of prayer and reflection...

As you gather in this hallowed space,

this people's house and this chamber of deliberation and public decision-making, may you feel connected to the inner voice of integrity, conscience, and morality.

May that voice give rise to your courageous speech and action.

May these walls hold your thoughtful and impassioned deliberations,

but may they not be a barrier to the world, communities, and people beyond them.

May you know that you are not alone in your service,

but connected to ancestors, communities today, and future generations in need of your leadership.

And so, may the voices of those who are voiceless,

those with less privilege of position, class, ability, race, and gender,

those who have been pushed to the margins,

and those who have the most to lose from inaction,

find their way to the center of your discourse again and again.

May you know that "goodness is the only investment that never fails."\*

And so, may you choose to invest your time, resources, and goodwill into all that nurtures compassion, justice, equity, and peace.

May all that you do bring healing rather than harm to people and our precious planet.

May you travel this road of service together as colleagues

with an eye to the future and a respect for our past,

with mutual respect,

with open minds and hearts,

with listening ears, and

with the humility that admits we are wrong as much as we are right.

And, may Love, the ever-present, universal, insistent and persistent moving spirit of compassion and care,

always be both known within these walls and also shown beyond them.

So may it be.

Blessed be.

Amen.