

THE DRUUMM BEAT

NOVEMBER 2018



YES I VOTED

by Natalie Nguyen

Yes. I voted.

I vote because why the fuck not.

I vote because I try to show up, in every way I can. This might be one of them.

I vote because other people can't.

I vote because many of my people can't or don't want to or are so traumatized and fed up that voting causes emotional pain.

I vote because women and African Americans fought for it.

I vote because felons can't.

I vote because undocumented folks can't.

I vote because I live in a smaller city, and there might be a ballot measure in there that I feel something about.

I vote because my partner is into it, and I want to share passions.

I vote because half of my family are immigrants.

I vote because my family was a casualty of war.

I vote because I'm a high school dropout but I'm fucking smart anyway and I've survived this long and I think I know a thing or two.

I vote because I could never do those jobs. But I want people who might listen to me to do them.

I vote because ABOLISH ICE.

ABOLISH PRISONS.

DECRIMINALIZE DRUGS AND SEX WORK AND MIGRATION AND BORDERS.

I vote because I feel guilty about not voting, as per the reasons above.

Natalie Nguyen is a long-time DRUUMM member, artist, cultural worker, and slackyoga extraordinaire.

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MURMURS

Dozens of DRUUMM members were in Detroit for Facing Race post-Elections.

The DRUUMM Global Majorities anticipates reconvening in the early Spring. The innovative creative collective features incredible new contributions to UU.

Finding Our Way Home, the annual gathering of UU Religious Professionals of Color, will meet March 13-16 in Miami FL.

Nominations for DRUUMM Steering Committee roles will be opening up in early 2019.



Renew your DRUUMM Membership today at druumm.org

UUA REINVESTS IN DRUUMM

After nearly a decade of disinvestment by the UUA in DRUUMM, the oldest and largest Unitarian-Universalist People of Color organization, DRUUMM President Rev. Ranwa Hammamy and UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray with support of the UUA Board of Trustees announced a renewal of the partnership that started in 1997.

DRUUMM had served as a primary accountability mechanism for the UUA's Journey Towards Wholeness commitment, and a vibrant and growing community for UU People of Color that provided mutual support and ongoing spiritual growth.

The renewal includes restoring ongoing funding for DRUUMM administrative operations, that had diminished under UUA President Rev. Bill Sinkford and was eventually zeroed out under Rev. Peter Morales. DRUUMM received around \$5000 several years ago, and this will increase to \$50,000 for 2018-2019.

DRUUMM leadership has been consistently meeting and coordinating with UUA and sister groups including Black Lives of UU in order to find a sustainable way forward as an all-volunteer led organization. Resources will be used to sharpen a more comprehensive long-term plan.



DRUUMM Congratulates Stephanie Chang, Senator-Elect for Detroit MI and member of First Church Detroit



THE GATHERING PLACE

DRUUMM

DRUUMM EXPANDS ONLINE GATHERINGS

The Gathering Place is DRUUMM's online community forum for Unitarian Universalists of Color to gather, connect, and grow in relationship to one another.

All topics of conversation are welcome within the space as they pertain to our experiences as UU's of Color. Here we hold each other's feelings, thoughts, and experiences tenderly.

While we can not guarantee complete safety here, we strive to live into the good news of our tradition as it proclaims that we are all of one creation and we are worthy of the love that formed us.

Signup on Facebook via the DRUUMM Page, or contact Tyler Coles at btcoles@gmail.com.

Beyond our Seven Principles, we strive to uphold the following values:

- 1) **The Sacred:** This is a sacred space. Here we make space for the movement of Spirit and the wisdom of our Ancestors.
- 2) **Healing:** We are more than our experiences of systemic oppression. Here we lift up that healing is possible for ourselves and for our community.
- 3) **Consciousness of Our Histories:** We recognize our place in the stream of history and as history makers we take seriously the narratives shared with us and the narratives we share with others.
- 4) **Intersectional Analysis:** In this space we commit to living beyond the being and doing of White Supremacy in all its forms (Ableism, Body Shaming, Capitalism and Classism, Heteronormativity, Homophobia, Racism, Sexism, and Transphobia).
- 5) **Accountability:** We are committed to transparency, and the relationships and covenants that we enter into with one another.
- 6) **Leadership:** We are all leaders and currently have the skills necessary for revolutionizing our faith and achieving collective liberation.
- 7) **Abundance:** We witness to the wisdom and truth that our world is created in plenty, and as such, we recognize the abundance that resides within and amongst us.



DRUUMM ANNUAL RETREAT, SAN ANTONIO TX



Thanks to the organizers and everyone who attended the DRUUMM Annual Retreat this year!