



THE DRUUMM BEAT

DIVERSE & REVOLUTIONARY UU MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY 2023

VOL 4 ISSUE 5

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IMAGINING OUR FUTURE

Beloveds,

On behalf of the DRUUMM Steering Committee, we are so pleased to share with you what has emerged from our first in-person gathering last fall in Atlanta. We had the privilege of imagining together the way forward for our community. We hope you find these statements a testament to shared dreams and consistent vision uniting us in purpose.

We came from different cities, classes, genders, races, ethnicities, abilities, histories, and strengths, which required us to listen and bend towards each other. It was not easy work, but we arrived at guideposts that we believe will make our next steps more concrete and attainable. For that, we are truly grateful.

Please read and spend time with these statements on pages 3 & 4. See where your own ideas are reflected or where there is tension, and share those thoughts with us. We need and want to hear all the voices of our community. These statements will also be shared through our regional gatherings, and we encourage you to share them with your local BIPOC groups.

There are several ways to reach us: info@druumm.org, via our DRUUMM Slack, and at a special forum with our Steering Committee on March 23rd. We'll also be engaging members at our upcoming in-person gatherings and our April 29th Spring Caucus. We look forward to engaging with you and our ideas in the coming months!

With love and faith,
Esperanza Garza-Danweber, President
Tomi Fatunde, 1st Vice President



OUR MAY 11 PREACHER

REV. KATIE ROMANO GRIFFIN

On Thursday May 11th, DRUUMM will host our annual Public Worship open to all via a large Zoom gathering. This live service will feature our guest preacher, the Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, minister of our All Souls congregation in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Rev. Katie Romano Griffin

Rev. Katie roots her ministry in relationships, and in the belief that each person is inherently good and worthy of love. She is a passionate activist who believes in centering the voices of historically marginalized communities in justice work and advocates for applying an intersectional lens as we work towards co-creating a just world for all.

Prior to being called to All Souls Indy where she serves as the first called BIPOC minister, Rev. Katie served Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in the DC Metro as an Associate Minister. Before entering professional ministry, she served as a lay campus minister at Florida Gulf Coast University, had a rich career as a nurse, and worked as the co-owner of a marketing and public relations company. She has a background in coaching and hypnosis, too.

Rev. Katie is a 2017 graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School. She serves as a Civil Air Patrol Chaplain with an emphasis on providing emergency/disaster ministry. She serves as a member of the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the UU Trauma Response Ministry and she has worked with the Sophia Lyon Fahs Educational Collaborative in developing a multi-faith, multicultural curriculum. She is a co-author of the book, *Class Action: The Struggle with Classism in Unitarian Universalism* and has been a contributor to the blog *Braver/Wiser*.

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL ROLE

DRUUMM is Unitarian Universalism's oldest and largest people-of-color collective. Building on the legacy of many who came before us, our ministry strives to be multicultural, intersectional, agitating, liberating, and transformative. In a world harmed by white supremacy culture, we work to generate and nurture faithful cultures of solidarity, advocacy, and care.

DRUUMM is proof that a diverse Unitarian Universalism exists. We are a front door for people new to the faith and a spiritual home that nourishes and retains people of color in our liberal religious tradition.

Organizationally, we offer year-round programs that include worship led by UUs of color, culturally specific caucuses, fellowship at General Assembly, faith formation, and leadership development. We also empower members to co-create programs that meet their needs. In partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Association, we journey toward an accountable, intersectional, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive faith.

We prioritize convening, collaborating, and covenanting as we build beloved community. We celebrate spirituality and practice love as lifelong learners. We are invested in cultivating authentic, mutual relationships that center people of color and communities directly affected by marginalization. We are sustained by this work's transforming power for ourselves and for the wider UU community.

STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTION

As a Unitarian Universalist people-of-color collective, we prioritize:

1. Cultivating beloved Unitarian Universalist communities that make space for liberatory worship and programming;
2. Holding ourselves and the larger community to covenant around multiculturalism, intersectionality, anti-racism, and anti-oppression;
3. Resourcing and organizing sustainable regional and identity-based networks of DRUUMM members;
4. Developing intentional opportunities for families, youth and young adults; and
5. Ensuring each person of color who enters Unitarian Universalism learns of DRUUMM.

SPONSOR DRUUMM'S PUBLIC WORSHIP

DRUUMM is seeking congregations and community groups to be visible co-sponsors for our annual Public Worship entitled *Shine On Beautiful & Resilient People* featuring Rev. Katie Romano Griffin and Amanda Thomas. This special event, open to all, will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 via a large Zoom gathering.

Each year we bring together over 250 members, family, friends, and allies to experience the spiritual leadership of DRUUMM leaders and religious professionals of color. The worship includes an offering that is dedicated to our faith formation and pastoral care programs with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Unitarian Universalism.

Co-sponsors are featured visually during our worship, in our memnto program guide, on our website and in our General Assembly feature newsletter. This is a visible way to support DRUUMM's mission and contribute to our ministry. Sponsors are also given permission to reshare the recorded worship.

SHINE ON BEAUTIFUL & RESILIENT PEOPLE

Thursday | May 11, 2023
8 PM Eastern
Virtual service via Zoom,
Open to All

You can view previous programs at youtube.com/@druumm. Sponsors who give over \$500 will be offered a DRUUMM Group Membership for up to 20 BIPOC persons in your congregation or community group.

To be a sponsor, send an email by April 30th with your pledge to info@druumm.org and Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, our community minister and the team will confirm back with you.

**TO SIGN UP AS A SPONSOR
SEND YOUR PLEDGE AMOUNT OR DATE
YOU PLAN TO SHARE THE PLATE TO
INFO@DRUUMM.ORG BY APRIL 30TH**

MONTEREY PARK & HALF MOON BAY

By Alex Jobe-Lee

Let me begin with...SAY
THEIR NAMES

My My Nhan

Xiu Juan Yu

Hong Ying Jian

Yu Lun Kao

Valentino Marcos

Alvero

Wen Tau Yu

Ming Wei Ma

Diana Man Ling Tom

Muoi Dai Ung

Chia Ling Yau

Li lan Li

Zi shen Liu

Qi zhong Cheng

Marciano Martinez

Jimenez

Ye tao Bing

So xiang Zhang

Jing zhi Lu

My heart is broken and I am grieving for these folks from the AAPI Community, MY community. Another mass shooting, and this time is not MY kinfolk. Yet, this is not the only recent mass shooting of AAPIs. How about the Georgia Spa murders 2 years ago? In addition, the Laguna Woods Church shooting last May?

The most recent victims could have easily been my sister, brother, uncle, auntie, jie jie, di di, yi ma, shu shu...What are the issues here?

One, the stigma against receiving mental health support in the AAPI community. There is a downside to the Model Minority myth, which says we Asians have perfect loving families, high achieving children and beautiful homes. Well, what if we don't have those perfect lives? What if we're feeling weak, enraged, anxious, marginalized, disrespected? Who do we turn to that speaks Chinese, Vietnamese, Hmong, Thai, or Hindi, and that is culturally competent?

MONTEREY PARK & HALF MOON BAY CONTINUED

There needs to be more mental health workers with these qualifications. I encourage young AAPI college students to pursue careers in the mental health field. You are desperately needed! Two, gun control. Neither of these angry men should have had guns! Where were the red flag follow ups? They both had wives and co workers that knew of their untapped anger.

What can we do? Speak out for more AAPI specific Mental Health support and comprehensive Gun Control!

In conclusion, I'm feeling grief, trauma and anger that will take time to process and work through. Many thanks to Rev. Yuri Yamamoto for holding a vigil for UU AAPI's. I'm grateful to be a part of a faith community that offers support in these traumatic times.

Alex Lee-Jobe (she/her) is an Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) UU, retired teacher and a founding member of the Davis Phoenix Coalition. She lives on Yocha Dehe Wintun land in so-called Northern California.

DRUUMM Village @ UU General Assembly

June 21-25, 2023
Pittsburgh, PA

Multiplatform
Multicultural Worship
Delegate Caucus
Mel Hoover Award
DRUUMM Business

Learn more about
programs and
volunteering

druumm.org/ga2023

GATHERINGS GO MULTIPLATFORM

We have learned so much through the pandemic era and are grateful for all the ways our DRUUMM community has adapted to new ways of connecting and cultivating relationships. We have heard how isolating these times have been, and how hard we have had to work to practice new forms of ministry.

DRUUMM was founded as a multiplatform organization, with telephone conference calls in the 90s evolving into social media in the 00s, video calls in the 10s and jamboards in the 20s. Virtual has been important for us considering how isolating the majority of UU BIPOC are in our congregations. And, we have heard how meaningful our in-person experiences are, and are committed to continue offering them with your help.

We are excited and cautious in bringing back a series of hybrid in-person & virtual events this Spring with local gatherings in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, a retreat in Texas, and preparing for our DRUUMM Village at General Assembly in Pittsburgh. These will be complemented by all-virtual programs including a special Jubilee World anti-racism training, our Spring Caucus, and Shine On Beautiful & Resilient People, our Public Worship.

Visit our website at www.druumm.org for our most current calendar of events, register and share with folks who may be interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18 | Los Angeles

March 26 | Chicago

Mar 31-Apr 2 | Austin

April 4 | SF Bay

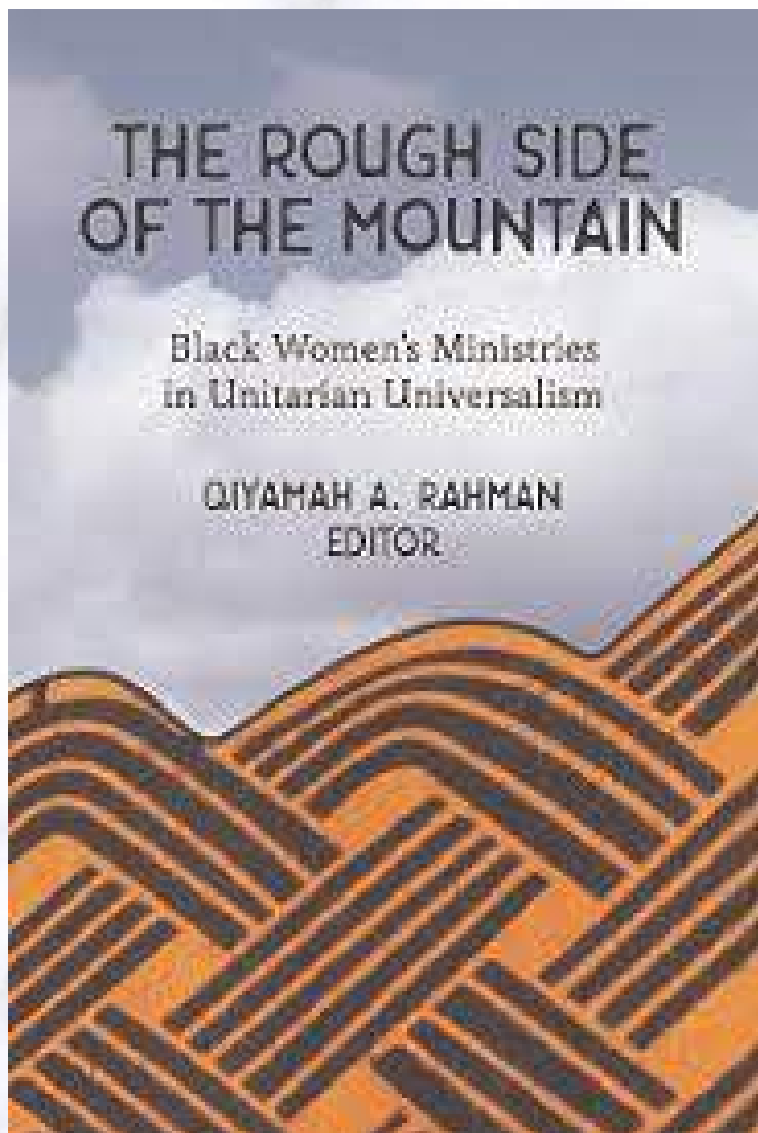
April 29 | Spring Caucus

May 11 | Public Worship

June 21-25 | General

Assembly

ROUGHSIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN



Longtime DRUUMM Member Rev. Dr. Qiyamah Rahman has a new book published by Skinner House entitled, "The Rough Side of the Mountain: Black Women's Ministries in Unitarian Universalism". Dr. Rahman collects and explores the unique journeys of Black Unitarian Universalist clergywomen, celebrating their wisdom, resilience, and contributions within and beyond Unitarian Universalism. This singular anthology lifts up the stories and wisdom of Black Unitarian Universalist clergywomen past and present, whose contributions to this faith are just beginning to be recognized.

Rev. Dr. Qiyamah A. Rahman is a Unitarian Universalist minister residing in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

Visit uuabookstore.org to order!

SC ELECTIONS

Are you interested in serving our growing UU People of Color Ministry?

DRUUMM is recruiting and interviewing members interested in serving on the Steering Committee. Current Secretary and Nominating Chair Michelle Matula-Venegas is working with a committee of dedicated members and religious professionals of color. Look for a member announcement via email.

KEY DATES

March | Nominating Interviews
April | Candidates Announced
May | Member Voting
June | Election Results

Learn more at:
druumm.org/nominations-2023

GATHERING OUR SELVES WITH RHONDA BROWN

Hi Everyone!

I'm Rhonda Brown, a member of the DRUUMM Advisory Committee and a curriculum designer for the Beloved Conversations program, at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

I want to extend a special invitation to you to participate in our upcoming Spring Beloved Conversations: Within program, called Gathering Our Selves, which has been designed by and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) participants. It's a program with a focus on BIPOC spiritual formation and with the goal of healing the impact of racism on our lives and spirits, while building community amongst BIPOC UUs.

In my life, this program has been a place where I can be authentic and where I can really engage with my spiritual self, in a welcoming environment. I have had the opportunity to be with other BIPOC UUs in community, focused not only on our pain but also on our joy. The joy of being together, being exactly who we are, in the full depth and beauty of our authentic selves!

This program is different- it's an experience that is really focused on understanding where we are now, in our lives and spiritual journeys, and how to navigate our current realities, while also building a life and a world that is more free, more whole, more liberated.

What is Gathering Our Selves?

Gathering Our Selves is a 12 week program, with three main parts:

- 6 bi-weekly, online Lessons, completed at your own pace, utilizing videos, music, and readings, accompanied by reflection prompts and suggested conversations with a Critical Friend, chosen by the participant;
- 6 bi-weekly small group conversations with a Learning Pod of 4-6 other BIPOC participants, scheduled and facilitated by the small group itself, with a suggested agenda tied to each Lesson; and
- 3 monthly, live Meaning Making Sessions on Zoom, facilitated by our Beloved Conversations Gathering Our Selves Team, with all other BIPOC participants.

Gathering Our Selves costs \$250 for the term, with full and partial scholarships easily accessible. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Please contact us at belovedconversations@meadville.edu before registering, to request a scholarship.

GATHERING OUR SELVES CONTINUED



The program is growing and committed to being emergent and responsive to the needs of our participants. As a member of the Design Team, I am dedicated to meeting members of our learning community where they are and staying attuned to what is needed in this particular moment.

If you have had an experience with Beloved Conversations in the past, I hope you will return and try it again, and be a part of building a UU BIPOC learning community that is connected, grounded, diverse, growing, and centered on the spiritual needs of UU BIPOC.

I am honored to work both with DRUUMM and Beloved Conversations and feel that these two communities share so much in common, in terms of vision, radical inclusion, and a commitment to a more faithful Unitarian Universalism.

I hope you will join me in Beloved Conversations, as our Spring Term registration for Gathering Our Selves is happening now through February 28th! *The program begins March 13* and runs through the end of May. Click here for more information and to register now! <https://www.meadville.edu/light/fahs-collaborative/beloved-conversations/within/within-how-to-register/>

I am happy to answer any questions you may have or spend some time talking about the beautiful UU BIPOC community we share. My email address is rmbrown5624@gmail.com and I'd love to hear from you.

In community and love,
Rhonda Brown



Rhonda Brown is a longtime UU based in the Seattle, WA area. She works with the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and is a member of DRUUMM's Organizing Project Advisory Committee.

EMBODIED EMBRACE

MARCH 26

The Mountain Top is a BIPOC UU Group led by Rev. Jen Simon based in Colorado. They will be hosting a special healing program this spring and invite DRUUMM members to consider attending. The program is virtual and free.

Embodied Embrace: A Healing Session

Addressing Intergenerational Trauma
Sunday, March 26, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mountain Time

To Register: Rev. Jen Simon at
jens@themountaintopuu.org

This program aligns with DRUUMM's member interests in addressing intergenerational trauma. The virtual session will include learning the Sankofa Solutions: Ten Steps Towards Healing, discussion of trauma on our well-being, and sound practices that release negative emotions from our bodies.

FACILITATORS

LaVerne Baker Hotep is a Program Coordinator for the Traumatic Stress Institute of Klingberg Family Centers. With over 30 years in social service and a special interest in historical and intergenerational trauma, she has co-lead training for various client serving agencies around the country. With members of Mediators Beyond Borders International, LaVerne has co-facilitated trauma response training in Liberia and South Sudan.

Carolyn Renée Morris, affectionately known as “Carolyn Renée” is an organizer, Certified InterPlay Leader, InterPlay BIPOC Liaison, and wellness practitioner and educator. In addition to her formal university education, Carolyn Renée is a gifted healer and teaching artist with more than two decades of experience serving at the intersections of social justice, art, and wellness. She has formal training in various healing modalities including but not limited to Playwriting, Storytelling, Qigong, Reiki, Herbology, Aromatherapy, Womb Wellness, and Iridology.



DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2022-2023

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.

- President **Esperanza Garza-Danweber**, Texas
- Acting 1st Vice President, **Tomi Fatunde**, Texas
- Acting 2nd Vice President **Rev. Sangye Hawke**, California
- Acting Secretary **Michelle Matula-Venegas**, Texas
- Treasurer **Kate Goka**, California
- Communications Coordinator **Karin Lin**, Massachusetts

- GA Coordinator **Verdis Robinson**, Vermont
 - Outreach Coordinator **Noel Burke**, Missouri
 - UUA Liaison **Rev. Michael J Crumpler**, New York
- ex-officio*
- Consulting Minister **Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons**, Oregon
 - Lead Chaplain **Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti**, Michigan

Notations

- DRUUMM is seeking photos for our website overhaul. If you have a photo you're willing to share of yourself, your family, your UU setting, nature, and beyond, we're gathering more current photos to visualize our community.
- We're interested in your reflections, poetry and artwork that expresses your sense of self and faith for future issues of the DRUUMM Beat. We welcome unsolicited contributions.
- Finding Our Way Home, the annual gathering of religious professionals of color will include an opportunity for folks to meet with DRUUMM Steering Committee members.
- Our Chaplain Team is seeking a new minister member who has experiences and relationships with our youth and young adults.
- We received strong interest in our Administrative Consultant position and are conducting final interviews to have someone on board this March through June 2023.
- We've re-activated our @DRUUMMJTW twitter account, follow us!

Blessings Rev. Jaqueline Brett



Rev. Jaqueline was installed as Lead Minister of our Eno River congregation in Durham, North Carolina this winter. Sending love and justice from our DRUUMM community.



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Editor Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons

Editorial Board: Karin Lin

For inquiries, please email editor@druumm.org

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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