

AUGUST 2023

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

## LEADING WITH LOVE INSTALLATION CEREMONY

We invite you to celebrate the beginning of the new term for our Steering Committee and attend our Installation Ceremony. This special service is a testament to the boundless potential of humanity and our faith's commitment to uplift every voice and build communities of care.

We're honored to have the ceremony led by Lead Chaplain Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, and we're equally excited to be joined by Rev. Sangye Hawke, Rev. Clyde Grubbs, and Dr. Janice Marie Johnson.

The ceremony will welcome and commission our Steering Committee for 2023-2024. We'll be introducing and celebrating the new members joining our committee, including Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel and Nico Van Ostrand.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Leading With Love:  
Installation  
Ceremony

DRUUMM Village  
Snapshots

We Count What  
Matters

Embracing the Flow

New Chaplains: Cathy  
Chang and  
Claudia Jimenez

"I Come From"  
Poems



# LEADING WITH LOVE

## STEERING CMTE INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Adrienne Maree Brown once said, "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge." This philosophy resonates deeply with us at DRUUMM. Likewise, as Martin Luther King Jr. beautifully put it, "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Let us come together to witness the commitment and service of our new leaders.



### ABOUT DRUUMM

DRUUMM's Steering Committee is our primary governance body, elected each year by dedicated members. This team sets our vision, approves our annual budget, and oversees our staff.

With a rapidly growing membership base spanning every district and region, DRUUMM constantly endeavors to make the UUA a space of anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism. Led by a passionate volunteer team and a handful of part-time

staff, we aim to foster environments for our youth, young adults, and families of color. We organize for healing, collective work, and empowerment of new leaders and members.

We are thrilled for you to be part of this momentous occasion. Join us as we embark on another year of service, growth, and community building. Together, we see a fuller picture of our shared human experience.

**RSVP**

[druumm.org/events](https://druumm.org/events)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2023**

Aug 22 - 30	We Count What Matters Orientations (4 sessions)
August 23 8 PM ET	Steering Committee Installation Ceremony
September 15-17	Gathering at UU Fellowship in Morristown, New Jersey
September 19 6 PM MT	Gathering in Denver with The Mountain Top
September 22	Gathering in New Orleans
October 25 8 PM ET	Elder Spiritual Odyssey with Taquiena Boston
November 4 1-4 PM ET	Fall Caucus: Multiracial & Families of Color

**2024**

March 13 - 15 2024	Multiracial & Families of Color Retreat. UBarU Camp and Retreat Center, Texas
April 20, 2024	Spring Caucus

**RSVP**

**[druumm.org/events](https://druumm.org/events)**





# RACIAL DEMOGRAPHIC DATA: WE COUNT WHAT MATTERS

For more than 25 years, DRUUMM has advocated for the transformation of BIPOC members within Unitarian Universalism.

This September, we're launching a racial demographic survey to gain a clearer understanding of our community and to enhance future demographic data collection strategies.

We're thrilled to share that we've already surpassed our initial goal with 22 volunteers for this pilot project, but we're always open to welcoming more participants.

## Why Get Involved?

- **Historical Impact:** Be a part of our BIPOC legacy.
- **Connect & Collaborate:** Bond and build with DRUUMM comrades.
- **Skills & Analysis:** Foster collective growth and tool innovation

Join Us! Choose an orientation slot that fits your schedule, or request a 1-on-1 session.

Here's to forging history!

## COMMITMENT SNAPSHOT

- **Orientation:**  
1 hour
- **Study & Planning:**  
Variable hours
- **Weekly  
Congregation  
Identification:**  
Several hours
- **Debrief:** 1 hour

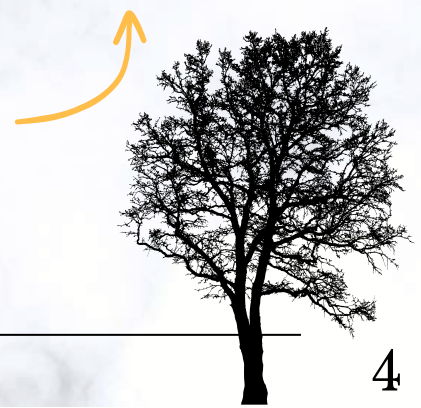
## ORIENTATION DATES

Aug 22: 6:00 PM ET

Aug 22: 8:00 PM ET

Aug 28: 7:00 PM ET

Aug 30: 8:00 PM ET



# EMBRACING THE FLOW: CENTRAL EAST RETREAT

September 15-17, 2023

21 Normandy Heights  
Rd, Morristown, NJ

(main program on Saturday,  
September 16th)

As we come together to mark the inception of the church year, we turn to the nature of water—symbolic of flow, transformation, and resilience. Amidst an era of transition and unpredictability, the flowing nature of water mirrors the perseverance and adaptability we seek in our lives. Introducing our theme, "Embracing the Flow," we delve into the heart of the practices and preparations that fuel and nourish Unitarian Universalist People of Color, enabling us to flourish.

Let's ponder upon the wellspring of our spiritual motivations, the wisdom imparted by our forebearers who braved adversities, and the shared experiences that bind us as a faith community. In this time, we aim to reflect on worship, connection, and faith, weaving together our individual narratives to celebrate the multifaceted tapestry of our journeys.

We're thrilled to host this gathering at the scenic backdrop of the historic Universalist Universalist Fellowship in Morristown, New Jersey.

Join DRUUMM and the broader BIPOC community for a day filled with reflection, recreation, and rejuvenation

**RSVP**

[druumm.org/events](https://druumm.org/events)



# EMBRACING THE FLOW: CENTRAL EAST RETREAT

Set against the serene shoreline, our family-friendly retreat boasts a medley of activities, from field games to multicultural worship sessions. It's not just a retreat—it's a sanctuary where BIPOC individuals can kindle friendships, seek mentorships, and strengthen ties within our dynamic community.

Concurrently, the UU Allies for Racial Equity will be orchestrating a program tailored for our White Allies. This concomitant initiative offers White Allies an avenue to partake in enriching conversations,

workshops, and activities that pivot around racial equity within the UU spectrum.

Our goal? To cultivate a setting where BIPOC voices are uplifted and genuine allyship thrives. Let us unite, hand in hand, to nurture a broad-based multiracial and intergenerational community.

Mark your calendars, gather your spirits, and let's come together to embrace the flow!

Register and learn more:

[druumm.org/events](https://druumm.org/events)



*Universalist Fellowship in Morristown, New Jersey.*



# REVS CLAUDIA JIMENEZ & CATHY CHANG JOIN CHAPLAIN TEAM

We are delighted to introduce two outstanding individuals to our DRUUMM Chaplain Team. Their vast experiences, commitment to service, and passion for pastoral care will undoubtedly enrich our community.

**Rev. Claudia Jimenez** is currently serving as the Minister of Faith Development at the UU Congregation of Asheville, NC since 2018, Rev. Claudia's dedication to pastoral care and Congregational Care ministry is evident.

Her diverse journey includes a stint as the Director of Religious Education in Vero Beach, a decade of international teaching, and roles on the Indian River County School Board.

With certifications as a Religious Educator and sexuality educator, Rev. Claudia is celebrated for her empathetic counseling approach.

Collaborating with a team of Pastoral Visitors, she offers solace and guidance through phone, email, or in-person interactions.



*Reverend Claudia Jimenez and Reverend Cathy Chang*

Beyond her ministerial duties, she cherishes her role as the mother of two wonderful adult daughters.

**Rev. Cathy Chang** is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and chaplain, Rev. Cathy serves as the Director of Spiritual Care at Ascension Health in Tennessee.

A graduate of Columbia University with a bachelor of arts degree, she furthered her education, obtaining a master's of divinity from Harvard Divinity School. She proudly holds a certification as a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Outside her professional realm, Rev. Cathy relishes quality time with her family, diving into a good book, and indulging in an array of games – be it card, board, or video.

# REV CLAUDIA JIMENEZ & REV CATHY CHANG JOIN CHAPLAIN TEAM

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to both Rev. Claudia Jimenez and Rev. Cathy Chang. We're confident that with their vast expertise and sincere commitment, they'll bring warmth, wisdom, and a sense of unity to our community.

To request pastoral care, please visit [druumm.org/chaplains](http://druumm.org/chaplains) or email [chaplain@druumm.org](mailto:chaplain@druumm.org).



## Our Chaplains



*Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti*

*Rev. John Crestwell*

*Rev. Marta I. Valentin*

*Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons*

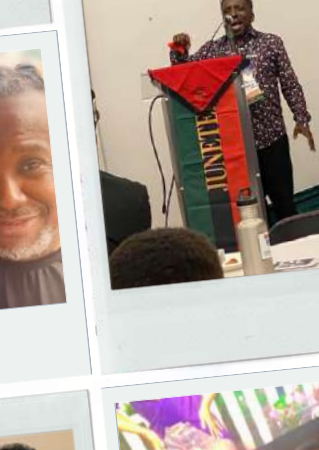
*Rev. Xolani Kacela*

*Rev. Claudia Jimenez*

*Rev. Cathy Chang*



# SNAPSHOTS FROM DRUUMM VILLAGE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



# MEMBERS CORNER

## "I COME FROM" POETRY SERIES

I come from the joy  
and labor of my  
parents,

from stolen people  
and people who  
dreamed to fly.

I come from the  
earth and water  
running through my  
veins.

-a DRUUMM  
member

I come from sturdy  
stock.

Runaway slaves.

Survivors.

We valued family  
above all else, and  
hard work.

-Melvin Starks

I come from the brown hands that at my faith,  
clapped my hands in delight.

Their brown hands are the bungee cords of my  
life.

-Lonnie Moseley



### DRUUMM STEERING COMMITTEE 2023-2024

*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](mailto:info@druumm.org).*

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

- GA Coordinator Verdis Robinson, Vermont
- Outreach Coordinator Nico Van Ostrand, 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



# BULLETIN BOARD



## Notations

- We have grown to 398 members.
- The DRUUMM Steering Committee will be hosting a hybrid meeting in New Orleans Sept 21-24. We'll be hosting a small reception for members on Friday, September 22nd.
- We have had renewed meetings with UU Allies for Racial Equity and looking forward to stronger cooperation in the coming year.
- A new DRUUMM Book Club has launched led by Sean Alphonse.



### The DRUUMM Beat 2023 Volume 7, Issue 1

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Editorial Board: Karin Lin

For inquiries, please email [editor@druumm.org](mailto: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.

Read online at [www.druumm.org](http://www.druumm.org)

**DIVERSE &  
REVOLUTIONARY  
UU MULTICULTURAL  
MINISTRIES**