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A Message from EA

Dear Friends of EqUUal Access,

Over the last decade a lot has been happening around disability issues – much progress along with new challenges in both our congregations and broader society. EqUUal Access has been involved in many areas, including advocacy, educations, resources and programming. And there are now many more people who are aware and involved in UU congregations than there were before.

Looking forward, we are now entering a peri-

od in which we want to do a review of where we are, what are the challenges and opportunities, and how can we best prepare for the future. For example, what are the best areas of focus? How can individuals and congregations most effectively become involved? What are the structures which can support both the best current actions and sustainability? How do we most effectively work with UUA staff and volunteers? How can the work be most broadly inclusive of both those with disabilities and

their allies?

This is also a time of much review across many aspects of UU life. As EqUUal Access looks to the future, it will also be important to listen, learn and adjust. We want to take full advantage of this period of deep discernment within and beyond our associations.

Over the coming months we will be identifying ways to gather input and begin to describe our future. We hope that you will be able to participate.

- Bill Young

EA at GA: An Overview

By Meredith Plummer

Here is EA's full schedule of events for GA. Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in room 2211...

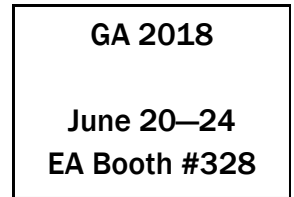
- ◆ EA Ingathering: Wednesday the 20th, 1:30–3:00 PM (Accessibility Orientation After)
- ◆ Do you love someone with an invisible disability? (Poster Presentation): Thursday the 21st, 12:15–1:30 PM, Exhibit Hall

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EA at GA: An Overview

(Continued from Pg. 1)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Demanding Justice and Equity in Emergency Response (Workshop): Thursday the 21st, 3:00–5:30 PM, Room 3501 CD ◆ Tentative Worship: Thursday the 21st, | <p>4:15–5:15 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ AIM Team Gathering (for local teams): Friday the 22nd, 4:15–5:15 PM ◆ Building Liberation: Partnership Between Trans* and Disabled UUs | <p>(Networking): Friday the 22nd, 7:00–8:30PM, Room #2103 C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EA Celebration: Saturday the 23rd, 3:15–4:15 PM ◆ Tentative Worship: Saturday the 23rd, 8:30–10:00 PM |
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Acronyms

- UU — Unitarian Universalist
- EA — EqUUal Access
- GA — General Assembly
- AIM — Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry
- MS — Microsoft

Sermon Contest Reminder

By Meredith Plummer

Submission deadline for EA’s annual sermon contest is May 6, 2018. Any sermon on a disability–related topic will be considered.

To be eligible, the sermon must be preached on or before April 29, 2018. The winner will be announced at GA in Kansas City, and will receive a \$500 award.

Both clergy and lay-preachers are encouraged to participate.

To enter, email your sermon and a separate cover page to info@EqUUalAccess.org with the subject line of “EqUUal Access Sermon Contest.” Your cover page should contain: your name, address, phone number,

email address, sermon title, congregation you preached to, and date the sermon was delivered. Your sermon should contain a title, and all identifying references (name, congregation’s name, etc.) should be absent. Submissions must be in MS Word or Plain Text (PDF not acceptable).

Honoring Folks you Know

By Meredith Plummer

Do you know a UU, alive or deceased, who has contributed greatly to the fight for disability rights nationally, regionally, or on the congrega-

tional level? Would you like to see this person honored?

If so, email us at info@EqUUalAccess.org. Title your email “EA

Honoree.” Then, tell us who you think EA needs to honor, and why. We’ll choose one person to honor during our awards ceremony at GA.

AIM at GA: A Celebration

By Barbara Meyers

While at GA, we look forward to giving official AIM recognition to representatives of The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, Minnesota, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, New York.

The Rochester AIM team reflects on the

changes they have observed since beginning their AIM journey in 2014, “Through workshops, worship services, social justice programs and projects our congregation has become more aware of the importance of inclusion and accessibility. Committees regularly consult with us when

they have a specific concern. Individual members of our church have sought us out for specific concerns or suggestions... with education and awareness our congregation has a deeper understand and appreciation of individual members and their needs.”



Spread the Good Word!

By Meredith Plummer

I am, what most people would describe as, an ‘introvert,’ But, when I get behind the EA booth, I seem to become someone completely different. I am forward, informative, and ready to connect with anyone. Whereas in most situations interacting with other people might drain me, these interactions sustain me, because I know I am shaping the future of disability rights in Unitarian Universalism. You, too, can have a real impact on

the future of disability in Unitarian Universalism. Here’s how...

- ◆ Follow this link to the booth’s sign up: <https://bit.ly/2Eqm67f>
- ◆ Sign up for a few dates and times. If you can only sign up for one date / time slot, we are happy to have you. But, imagine the impact you could make if you signed up for one time slot every day!

- ◆ Review the email from SignUp Genius that will be sent to you a week before your scheduled volunteer time. This email will contain a few simple instructions, as well as tips and tricks, for when you are at the EA booth.
- ◆ Show up at the EA booth at your scheduled time.

That’s it! It’s so simple, even my child could do it—and she did, at GA 2016 in Columbus, OH!



Meredith, and her daughter, Lily, at the 26th Anniversary March for the ADA in Cincinnati, OH.

SignUp

<https://bit.ly/2Eqm67f>

Penny For Your thoughts...

By Rev. Theresa Soto

I want to ask EA members, in advance of GA and making the poster, what do you wish people understood about invisible disabilities? Will you take my survey? <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YWYYQG7>

Pictures from Previous GAs



AIM Coordinating Committee Chair Barbara F. Meyers consults with Warren Brown at the EA booth.



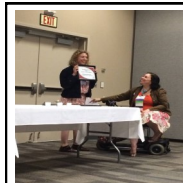
Members of the UUAA AIM Team during the EA Celebration



The Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry Team breaks for dinner



The EqUUal Access flag is carried in the Banner Parade.



Ms. Monterey Buchanan (left) and Dr. Kimberley Jackson (right), winners of EqUUal Access's 2016 and 2017 sermon contests (respectively).



EaUUal Access

Leadership Team

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EQUAL ACCESS  and  ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION MINISTRY AIM PROGRAM

Enabling the full engagement
of people with disabilities in
Unitarian Universalist commu-
nities and the broader society.

[Www.EqUUalAccess.Org](http://www.EqUUalAccess.Org)

