

MIDWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SUMMER ASSEMBLY (MUUSA)

presents



MUUSA-CON

A weekend of connecting and re-visioning

Collaborative Artwork from MUUSA 2022



JULY 1-3, 2023

DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church
Naperville, Illinois

WELCOME

Dear Campers,

If the past few years have taught us anything, it's that the only constant in life is change. As much as we sometimes want to hang on to the good things in our past, there comes a time when you have to let go and focus on building something new and better in the present and for the future. That's where MUUSA stands now.

To paraphrase Anthony Hopkins, MUUSA is not a place. Never was. MUUSA is wherever our community gathers during the summer to share stories, drink coffee, sing, play, talk, learn, and have fun.

This summer, that place is the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville, Illinois. MUUSA this summer won't be like it was in 2022 or 2015 or 2000 or even (as my kids insist on saying) "way back in the 1900's." It will be something new, transitional, a little bit experimental, but still lots of fun.

We hope that you'll join us, because you are what makes MUUSA.

MUUSAans, Assemble!

Bill Pokorny
M U U S A
P R E S I D E N T



Artist: Sarah Lensink

"I drew the labyrinth on the grounds of DuPage UU Church because I hope that those who visit from out of town can enjoy some nurturing moments, whether that be quiet or fun and chaotic on the grounds. Our labyrinth is nestled in our prairie. I hope we can connect over our weekend together and take comfort in our community because that's what really counts about MUUSA".

MUUSA-Con t-shirts will be available for purchase beginning May 1 at the MUUSA Merch Store:
www.bonfire.com/store/muusa/

We're trying something different for registration this year...

We want as many campers to attend MUUSA-Con as possible. So this year we are instituting a **sliding scale for registration rates**. See page 8 for suggested donations and then pay the amount that works for you. Feel like you can pay more than suggested? Great! Feel like you need to pay less than suggested? Fine! The important thing is that you come to MUUSA so we can continue to connect right now and also plan for the future.

Register at EventBrite: tinyurl.com/MUUSA-Con23

DETAILS

When the Planning Council (PC) began meeting in the fall of 2022 to plan for our time together at MUUSA 2023, we had no idea what a different gathering it would be. But over the course of a few months, it became clear that we would not be able to return to our MUUSA home at Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri. For more information on why that decision was made, please watch the recording of the February 5 Town Hall meeting:

Link: bit.ly/MUUSATownHallFeb5

Password: ii5\$AOI8

that's a zero!

As we were grappling with various decisions we discovered a catchphrase that helped guide us. If there had been a popsicle stick at our disposal, we would have decorated it to say:

MUUSA IS THE PEOPLE

We've loved the places we've called home over the years, but it's the CAMPERS who make MUUSA what it is. So in the spirit of "Cons" that are a mainstay in our denomination, we decided to gather our campers at a church for a weekend. DuPage UU Church (DUUC) in Naperville answered the call and we are now in the process of creating our MUUSA-Con.

PROGRAMMING

If you have been to a UU youth con or a regional conference, you will have a sense of how the weekend will work. We will sing, worship, socialize, learn, discuss, make art, hold an annual meeting...all of the same things we always do at MUUSA but in an abbreviated form. We are still working through an official schedule but you can see some of the possibilities on pages 3 - 5.

TIMING

Although we don't have the schedule solidified, we can offer some initial info which may help as you plan your arrival and departure:

- July 1
 - 2-5pm - Registration check-in at DUUC
 - 7:30pm - Opening Celebration & Dance
- July 3
 - 11:30am - Closing Celebration



VENUES

In addition to DUUC, we have reserved blocks of rooms at the nearby Marriott and Hyatt hotels where our campers can make their own reservations. MUUSANS can also camp at nearby parks or, possibly, find home hospitality with local UUs. Youth in middle and high school in Meyer and Burt programs will sleep overnight at DUUC. To learn more about all of your housing options, please see page 7.

LEARN MORE

The following pages contain preliminary information about programming and lodging. Look them over and then register your attendance at tinyurl.com/MUUSA-Con23. The sooner we know our numbers the sooner we can solidify the schedule.

We are hopeful about this new and exciting chapter in MUUSA history. We really hope you'll be part of it.

See you next week(end)!*

MUUSA Planning Council

Bill Pokorny, President
Duncan Metcalfe, Omsbuddy
Dorothy Ramsey, Secretary
John Sandman, Treasurer
Adrienne Cruise, Registrar
Julie Enersen, Adult Planning Chair
Deirdre Sheets, Interger. Coordinator
Cheryl Heinz, Worship Coord., Site Selection
Desiree Bongers, Workshop Coordinator
Jen Nahm, Logistics Coordinator
Meredith Enersen, Social Coordinator, YA Rep
Grant Lyon, YA Rep
Margaret Mitchell, Burt Coordinator
Ben Krueger, Logistics Coordinator
Trevor Smith, Meyer Coordinator
Tabitha Rasmussen, Cratty Coordinator

* We say "see you next week" instead of "see you next year" when camp ends.

GUEST SPEAKER

We are thrilled to welcome Rev. Misha Sanders as our Guest Speaker for MUUSA-Con!

Rev. Misha Sanders (she/her/hers) is feeling very blessed to be the Senior Minister at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation in beautiful Sandy Springs, Georgia. She is a fiery preacher of the good news of Unitarian Universalism, and believes that the whole world is built and rebuilt by the stories we tell ourselves and each other.



REV. MISHA SANDERS

INTERGENERATIONAL FUN

COLLABORATIVE ART ACTIVITY

Remember our beautiful all-camp popsicle art project from MUUSA 2022? Of COURSE you do. It's all over this brochure! This year we'll undertake a new art project which will forever remind us of this time when we had to get creative and try something new. And isn't that what art is all about?

STORY TIME WITH SCIENCE

You are never too young or too old to enjoy the wonder of a read-aloud. Extend your wonder with a hands-on science activity for all ages. This is a way for the youngest (and any other) campers to wind down before bed.

CONTRA DANCE PARTY

We will kick off our time together with an All-Camp Contra Dance featuring both lively and elegant music and a techno-contra finale with glow lights. All dances will be called with prior walkthroughs. No experience or partner is needed. Just come, because it's seriously fun! Spectators welcome as well.

SINGALONG

Join Guy Loftman in a song circle where we'll sing our favorites together. All instruments and your voices are welcome!

INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES

All ages are welcome. No skill necessary. Bring your good humor and willingness to try new things and enjoy some games.

D&D DROP-IN GAME

An open session Dungeons and Dragons game, players can join any game. Characters, Dice, Pencils, etc. provided or bring your own.

IMPROV JAM

An open improv jam with Tom Robertson for improvisers and improv-curious newcomers to try out improv games and exercises.

CONNECT WITH NATURE

This year, in lieu of the 5K Run/Walk, we'll have a nature outing, with a 5k distance marked (not a race), at the Danada Forest Preserve, which is just a 5-minute drive from DUUC and Naperville Marriott. Walk or run as far as you'd like.

How beautiful will that be??



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



ALSO KNOWN AS "CRATTY" *for those in elementary school*

The Cratty Children's Program looks forward to giving the kids a chance to participate in some fun activities and have some time to be with their camp friends. We look forward to seeing them this summer.

JR. HIGH PROGRAM

ALSO KNOWN AS "MEYER"

for those entering 7th - 9th grades

During MUUSA-Con our "Meyer" campers will stay together at the church with their hardworking counselors who create a safe place for sharing, learning their own boundaries, and building a fantastic community. Our young teens will participate in activities designed to support emotional and spiritual growth, and empower middle school youth. We are also sure to have plenty of fun! Food will be provided for all Meyerites involved in the program. For more information, contact Ben Krueger (benjkrueger@gmail.com) and Trevor Smith (trevorsmith7224@gmail.com).

SR. HIGH PROGRAM

ALSO KNOWN AS "BURT" *for those entering 10th - 12th grades*

In our Sr. High program, which we call "Burt," we create a community where we love and support everyone no matter what. Burt is a welcoming space where we become courageous and responsible, discover ourselves, make life-long friends, and have a ton of fun. Programming for "Burtoids" at MUUSA-

Con will include workshops, worship, games, arts and crafts, a talent show, music sharing, and other yearly traditions. The Adult Burt Counseling Staff will host special youth-only sleepover accommodations at the church. All meals will be provided. We look forward to seeing old and new youth "campers" at MUUSA-Con! For more information, contact Margaret Mitchell (coronamadonna@gmail.com)

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

AGES 18-35

The Young Adult program (YAs) offers attendees in the age range of 18-35 a unique and flexible sense of community. YAs have the full freedom to take part in any of the adult programming offered, but can also choose to take part in YA specific activities and spaces!

We hope to retain a great deal of our unique traditions and have a jolly good time as we transition to this weekend conference format! Questions, comments, suggestions and more can be sent to grantlyonhasanemail@gmail.com or meremaren@gmail.com.



ADULT PROGRAMMING

Subject to change due to availability of leaders and meeting rooms.

Final schedule will be sent to campers in early June.

AWESOME CHOIR

Pam Blevins Hinkle will once again make musical magic with our singers.

BEER CHOIR

Steve Krahne reports: "We drink beer (or any other libation of your choosing) and sing."

CLASS CONSCIOUS

An interactive experience with Suzanne Zilber to explore class and classism and consider how to make congregations more inclusive and democratic.

COFFEE HOUSE

Our traditional sharing of talent!

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Guy Loftman, grumpy old men and allies gather to talk. "We aim at nothing, and we rarely miss."

IMPROV JAM

An open improv jam with Tom Robertson for improvisers and improv-curious newcomers to try out improv games and exercises.

INTRO TO TAROT

Chris Whittaker provides an introduction to the major and minor arcana and tarot spreads

LAST RESORT STRING BAND

Bring your string instrument! Ken Sharp will organize players for lively Coffee House number!



As always, we will conduct the business of MUUSA and elect new leaders during our annual meeting. But this year, we will also receive an update about the selection of a new site for MUUSA and discuss the next steps.

LEARN KLINGON!

Join Natasha Waner and prepare for your next vacation on Qo'noS, the Klingon homeworld. Qapla'! (Success!)

MANIFESTING YOUR PERFECT RETIREMENT

Lee Dorwin Goss will lead a discussion focus on visualizing an intentional retirement community

MIXOLOGY

A popular offering from Steve Krahne. Learn how to fix different cocktails among friends.

SPEAKEASY

Socialize with friends and soon-to-be friends over low-budget snacks and hard/soft drinks.

SURPRISE ART

One of our favorite crafty campers, Stephanie Robertson, will lead us in a TBD art activity.

YOGA

All levels yoga session with professional yoga instructor Ruth Day.

PLUS...

The possibility of getting groups together to do some of the really fun Naperville activities listed on page 8.

VESPERS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial service for campers that have died in the last year.

PAGAN VESPERS

We will invite our ancestors and relatives to come and pray with us.

HOUSING OPTIONS



This housing information is offered as a resource for those not in Meyer, Burt or YA programming. Campers will arrange their own lodging.

HOTELS

We have reserved blocks of rooms at two Naperville hotels. Please use the links below to reserve your room by **Thursday, June 1, 2023**.

Chicago Marriott Naperville

.04 mi. from DUUC - some MUUSA sessions held here
\$149/night
1801 North Naper Boulevard
Naperville IL 60563
(630) 505-4900

Book at the Marriott with this link:

[https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?
id=1676058972543&key=GRP](https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1676058972543&key=GRP)

Best Western Naperville Inn

.04 mi from DUUC
\$139/night
1617 N Naperville Wheaton Rd
Naperville IL 60563
(630) 505-0200

Book at the Best Western with this link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.14164.html?groupId=1S9HQ8A4

HOME HOSPITALITY

There may be an option for staying in the home of a local UU. We make no guarantees, but indicate this preference on your registration form and we will try to connect you with a local host.

FOOD



As you can imagine, providing food for a large group with differing needs and tastes is a daunting task for our volunteer Planning Council. The current plan is for MUUSA to provide rolls and fruit in the morning and for campers to purchase their own meals for lunch and dinner from nearby restaurants and grocery stores. We're hoping that will give campers the food they want and need in addition to keeping registration costs down for everyone.

The exception: We will provide all meals for Meyer and Burt campers who are participating in MUUSA-Con programming at DuPage UU Church.

CAMPING

Forest Preserve District

DuPage resident - \$20/night
Non-resident - \$30/night

You can reserve one of more than 60 wooded and semiwooded sites at Blackwell's Family Campground, including sites for tents, trailers and motor homes. Each has electricity and a gravel parking pad, fire ring and picnic table, but none have sewage or water hookups.

Learn more:

<https://www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/outdoor-activities/camping/blackwell-family-campground-sites>

Camp Bullfrog

Cook County resident - \$37/night
Non-resident - \$47/night
Camp Bullfrog Lake offers year-round camping, group activities and water-based recreation such as kayak rentals and fishing. Camp steps from the water in the heart of the vast, hilly Palos Preserves and fill your days with hiking, mountain biking and birdwatching adventures.

Learn More::

https://fpdcc.com/places/locations/camp-bullfrog-lake/?utm_campaign=RVLife_Campgrounds&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=campgrounds.rvlife.com



REGISTRATION



MUUSA-CON SUGGESTED DONATIONS

These nominal fees help us break even on costs of programming, supplies and meeting spaces.

They do not include meals or lodging except for Meyer and Burt campers.

Please pay what works for you and your family.

	Adult age 36+	Young Adult age 18-35	Jr./Sr. High	Child age 5-entering 6th Gr.	Child age 4 & under
Register by April 30	\$130	\$80	\$50	\$0	\$0
Register by June 30	\$155	\$105	\$75	\$25	\$0

Register at EventBrite: tinyurl.com/MUUSA-Con23

NAPERVILLE

Centennial Beach

Centennial Beach is our community pool and it's a lot of fun on a hot day. It is part of Naperville Park District.

napervilleparks.org/centennialbeach

Naper Settlement

Daily events for groups. Great history of area.
napersettlement.org

The Morton Arboretum

Good for hikes garden tours; entire climb and play Children's Garden. Tram for ADA visitors.
mortonarb.org

Fox River/Naperville Riverwalk

for Kayaking, Paddleboarding, Fishing
napervillekayak.com

Fox River Tubing

<https://foxhollowtubing.com>

Cycling

Lots of great bike paths. Bring a bike or rent one!
millrace.com
pedegolectricbikes.com/dealers/naperville

Ax Lounge

Group ax throwing
axzonelounge.com

Cooper Hawks Winery

Wine tasting
chwinery.com

Naperville isn't just a great place for a conference, it's also a great place to visit. Below are some suggestions from MUUSA locals about other things to do before and/or after MUUSA-Con:

RiddleBox Escape Room

Team building game activity for friends, family or coworkers. Stories and scenarios vary by room.
riddleboxescape.com

WhirlyBall

WhirlyBall combines lacrosse, hockey, basketball and souped-up bumper cars in a game of skill and chance.
whirlyball.com/naperville

iFLY Indoor Skydiving

Experience the freedom and thrill of flying. These indoor skydiving facilities have state-of-the-art wind tunnels, and are open to all ages
iflyworld.com

Funtopia

Funtopia believes in the movement – in being active, both physically and mentally, while genuinely enjoying what you do and having fun.
naperville.funtopiaworld.com

Urban Air Adventure Park

urbanair.com/illinois-naperville

Bowlero Naperville

Bowling alley chain featuring billiards, arcade games
bowlero.com/location/bowlero-naperville

Also, lots of **rafting, tubing, canoeing and kayaking** locally. Google can tell you more!
bit.ly/NapervilleWaterFun