



# GNUUs

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## Welcome to the Month of Insight & Wisdom



Our culture tells us that wisdom is about accumulation. More knowledge. More experience. More books to read. More gurus to follow. More degrees to get...

But consider:

“Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.” - *Lin Yutang*

The math of wisdom is often the opposite of what we think. It’s more a game of subtraction than addition. Often, accumulation of knowledge doesn’t get us closer to wisdom; it’s just in the way. Wisdom can be about *unknowing* as much as knowing.

When reason and logic hog the spotlight, the wisdom of the body rarely enters the room. When “experts” sit in the center, the wisdom of those on the margins is lost. When we open beyond our conventional understanding of wisdom, we allow room for the sources of wisdom we’ve forgotten, including our own insight.

What are the untapped sources of wisdom you might turn to this month?

## Events This Month

- Aug 3....Yarns from the Heart+
- Aug 6.....Property Work Day\*
- Aug 6.....Sylvan Sanctuary+\*
- Aug 7....Food Bank Donations\*
- Aug 14.....Spiral Scouts+
- Aug 14.....Belief Exploration+
- Aug 16.....Board Meeting+
- Aug 17..Yarns from the Heart +
- Aug 20...Green Team Meeting+
- Aug 21.....Flint Movie\*
- Aug 24.....Book Group+

- Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal\*
- Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+
- Sundays.....Meditation\*+

\*onsite

+online

For details visit [uucg.org](http://uucg.org)

## Did you Gnow?

- Minus 40 degrees Celsius is exactly the same as minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- All polar bears are left handed (left pawed?)
- Australia is wider than the moon.





## Worship in August Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: *Wisdom*

Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

**August 7:** Online and/or In Person

### ***Wisdom of the Heart***

Join us in exploring wisdom through this quote by Kahlil Gibran: *Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh, and the greatness which does not bow before children.*

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

*Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader*

**August 14:** Online and/or In Person

### ***Wisdom from Fiction***

Reading or watching fiction often requires a certain suspension of disbelief, to believe things that aren't necessarily true for us, but are true within the story. When we accept that the impossible can be true, what insights or wisdom does that allow us to discover?

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

*Elna Brynstad (she/her), Service Leader*

**August 21:** Online and/or In Person

### ***We are the UUA***

Delegates from over 1,000 UU congregations gathered in Portland and on-line in June to explore deep questions about the core values, sources, and expressions of our shared faith. Our staff and delegates will extend that conversation with our congregation over the coming year, starting with this service.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

*Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader*

**August 28:** Online and/or In Person

### ***Wisdom is Calling... How Well Do We Hear It?***

The sources are many - the key is in the path we choose. We need not worry so much about which path is the right one. The work is its own reward.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

*Lydia Patrick (he/her), Service Leader*

### ***Looking Ahead***

September Theme: The Path of Belonging

## Save the Date

**Our annual Water Ceremony will be held on September 11, 2022.**

As part of our community-building efforts, the Lay Ministers are supporting this as an Interfaith Event. We will be inviting members of the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance to attend this worship service, either in person or online. We will be enjoying food, beverage, and conversation at UUCG after the service. We are hoping that many members will be able to attend in person to share our community's spiritual celebration of coming together with our wider community.

*Please mark your calendars now so that you don't miss one of our most important UU rituals of the year.*





## Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo (she/her)



Our theme for August is Insight and Wisdom. There are so many ways to approach this theme, and so much that can spark insights and wisdom in our lives.

What are the sources that inspire you in your search for truth and meaning?

During the last general session of the UUA General Assembly, members of the Article II Study Commission ([www.uua.org/a2sc](http://www.uua.org/a2sc)) shared their VERY preliminary, draft concept for the “sources” section of Article II of the UUA Bylaws and invited people to provide feedback. [[Watch the video of their presentation here, starting at 44:50.](#)] They shared their insights that some formats are conducive to growth and some prohibit growth. The current statement of our sources is in a list format. As ours is an ever-evolving and growing religion, they offered an example of a less specific, more open format for our sources of inspiration. As a religiously pluralistic faith, a singular list is limiting. Their initial DRAFT language offers a singular statement for our feedback ... it will undoubtedly change between now and the final proposal the Study Commission presents in their final draft for delegate consideration at the UUA General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA in June 2023. I offer it here for you to contemplate how this inspires your search for truth and meaning.

*“As Unitarian Universalists, we draw upon, and are inspired by the full depth and breadth of sacred understanding, as experienced by humanity. Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches our faith,*

*we are inspired to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.”*

This month, our worship services and our Covenant Group conversations will invite you to consider what sources and life experiences you engage with for insight and wisdom. My own spiritual journey is taking me deeper into Buddhist teachings, and I’m deeply inspired by the science and technology that has brought us images of thunderstorms on Jupiter and the plethora of galaxies in Galaxy Cluster SMACS J0723. We are seeing galaxies as they looked 300 to 400 million years after the Big Bang. I look at the image of the galaxy cluster with great awe at the vastness of ... everything. Buddhism teaches and trains me to be more mindful of this moment ... this now – who I’m with, what I’m doing, what I’m sensing. The Webb images inspire humility - this split second moment of time in which I breathe in and breathe out is so infinitesimal in the context of all that is, was, and ever will be. Somewhere between that vastness and this brief moment, I discover some profound truths about the meaning and purpose for my life – to be awake, to serve, and to be grateful, for a start.

Speaking of inspiration - please register for the UUCG Congregational Retreat at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center September 16-18. Here’s the link: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/uu-gwinnett>. If you would like to support another person or family to be able to participate in the retreat, you can send contributions to UUCG and indicate MDF-Retreat Scholarship in the memo line or Venmo/PayPal note. The fee for one adult is \$215 per person for double occupancy. If you need financial support to attend the retreat, please contact me at [revtaddeo@uucg.org](mailto:revtaddeo@uucg.org).

In our shared faith...

Reverend Jan



## From the Board

We welcome five new members to the Board of Trustees this year, which made this year's leadership retreat at The Mountain all the more important. The retreat helps us to get to know each other and begin to become a cohesive group that works well together through the year. It also serves as an opportunity for us to think deeply about the challenges that UUCG faces and to start setting our long-term direction.

One of the most important tools that the board has for discerning that direction is the set of open questions that are developed during and following the retreat. These are questions that we will bring to the congregation in hopes of gaining direction from them. After much discussion, we have settled on the following three open questions for this year, which will help determine programming and direction for the 2023-2024 program year.

- How will we address our aging facility, and our desire to grow, in order to ensure a sustainable future?
- What outreach would you be willing to get involved in to promote expansion in the community?
- What Social Justice and Equity issues require greater emphasis?

Over the next few months, we will work to collect answers to those questions from as many people at UUCG as possible. We look forward to hearing from you!

Of course, there is a significant issue these do not directly address--the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues to challenge us and UUCG's policies and procedures related to it will continue to evolve along with the changing situation. We would love to return to many of our pre-pandemic practices, such as monthly potlucks and offering nursery care during services. We are equally aware that case counts and hospitalizations due to Covid-19 are once again rising in our area. With Gwinnett County having returned to a "High" risk level and the CDC recommending that masks should be worn indoors, we hope that everyone will make prudent decisions to protect themselves and others. In this context, we are maintaining our current policies and will continue to keep a close watch on the situation.

Ed Miller (he/him)  
President, UUCG Board of Trustees

## Need a Name Tag?

We now have our supplier back on line and open for business. Please send your request to: [Katrina\\_Yurko@bellsouth.net](mailto:Katrina_Yurko@bellsouth.net)  
The name on the tag will appear as requested in the email.

The current cost is \$10.00, and you can pay by check. Please write Membership—Nametag on the memo line, and either:

- Drop your check in the Sunday plate during service,
- Or mail in a check to the church at 12 Bethesda Church Rd.

After you receive your new nametag, be sure to attach a pronoun ribbon found on the credenza in the entrance hall of the building!

Hello  
my name is

my pronouns are



## Water

I have been thinking a lot about water lately, in part because it's been abnormally hot this summer and I have a lot of plant pots to water. I have emptied half of my rain barrels already and we are just at the beginning of July! I do feel grateful to have rain when it comes.

We visited Salt Lake City this past month and they aren't kidding when they say it's a dry heat in Utah. The Great Salt Lake is drying up, partially as a result of the drought in the southwest but I was told that there has been a lot of development upstream at the same time.

The waters that would replenish the lake are being used elsewhere. I have also heard of the drought in Mexico, effecting people for weeks at a time. Commercial interests have been given preferential treatment when it comes to the water supply.

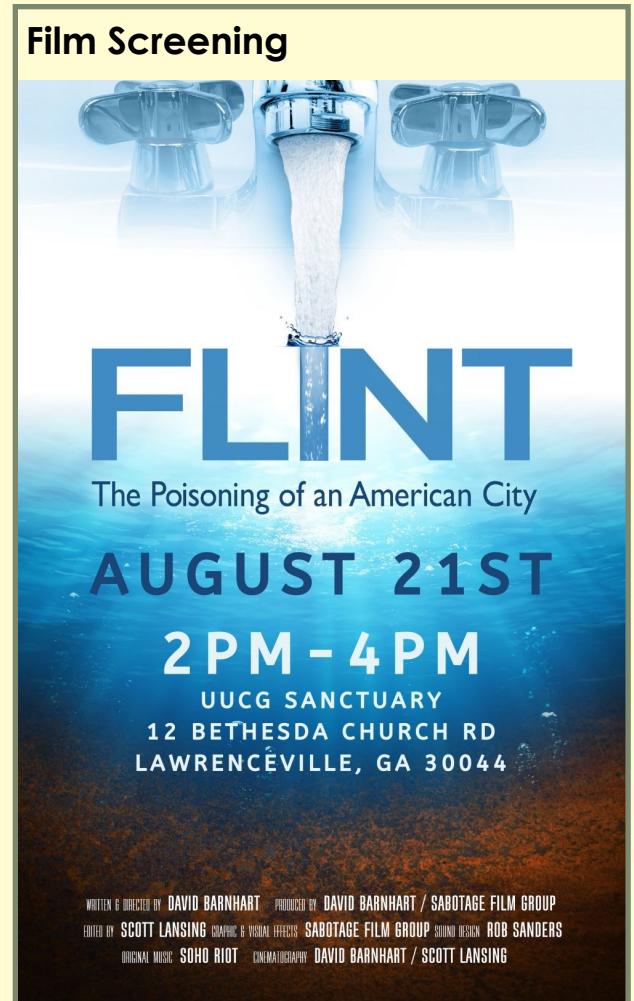
More locally, I was disappointed to learn of the Georgia Supreme Court decision not to hear the case that the Sierra Club brought against Georgia Power over the company's coal ash pond cleanup. Georgia Power intends to pass along some of the cost of clean-up to its customers, who paid for the coal-powered plants and ash ponds when they were built. And the company's request to be overseen by the Georgia State Dept of Environmental Protection was also approved, removing them from Federal EPA regulation.

<https://grist.org/energy/ive-quit-drinking-the-water-what-its-like-to-live-next-to-americas-largest-coal-plant/>

The link that I have included above goes to an extensive article about the water in a coal ash pond. Not all of Georgia Power's ponds have the kind of liners needed to keep the arsenic, lead, and mercury out of the ground water in counties in Georgia. Many Georgians rely on wells for their drinking water which have since become contaminated.

**It would be a good time to remember that we all live downstream.**

~ Karen Smith



## Changes Coming to Faith Development

To those of you who have filled out the [Faith Development Survey](#), I offer immense gratitude. (Survey is still open, if you have thoughts to share!)

Based on the feedback I've received, the schedule will be changing during the fall. We will offer Faith Development workshops for Adults during the hour *after* the Worship Service on select Sundays, and they will be more focused on specific explorations.

The current plan (subject to change) is to offer the following (1st, 3rd, and 4th Sunday programs are under the umbrella of Faith Development) at 12:30pm:

- ♦ **1st Sundays** – UU Writers: a workshop-style program that invites you to explore our monthly themes through writing.
- ♦ **2nd Sundays** – Belief Explorers: our beloved group that gathers monthly to discuss a variety of texts and theologies will continue to meet monthly. (online via Zoom)
- ♦ **3rd Sundays** – Creativity Matters: an opportunity to explore our monthly themes through the creation of art, journaling, and music.
- ♦ **4th Sundays** – After Hour: Deeper-dive discussion of the topics that have been offered during the month's Worship Services.

Please reach out to me with your thoughts on this plan, especially if you are interested in facilitating any of these programs. *A vibrant Faith Development program does not happen without the input and engagement of the congregation (that's YOU)!*

We plan to offer **on-site Religious Exploration for Children on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30pm**. We will be outdoors as much as possible, weather permitting. Spiral Scouts will continue to meet on 2nd Sundays. We are seeking a team of volunteers to lead RE. Please reach out to me if you are interested in engaging with our youngest UUs! **Look for more information coming mid-month about additional programs and resources for families, including online offerings.**

~ Christiana McQuain  
UUCG Coordinator of Family Ministries



## Congregational Retreat at The Mountain

### Rekindle the Fires of Love and Commitment

Submitted by Carol Pinto (she/her)

By now I hope you've all heard about our upcoming congregational retreat in September! At The Mountain, it's **Friday evening Sept. 16 through Sunday morning, Sept. 18.**

The Mountain is located near Highlands, NC, just above the Georgia state line. It's a beautiful camp and has a history of hosting UUs – a wonderful place to get to know each other better.

Our program is shaping up nicely and is shown here. We'll have fun for young and old, including a farm tour, gathering around the firepit, hikes, and arts and crafts. And great food!

Families can stay together and individuals can share a room or have their own room, although single rooms are limited.

**Sign up now before the rate goes up on Aug. 26.**

Retreat prices if registered before Aug. 26:

Includes programs, 2 nights, 5 meals (Friday dinner-Sunday b'fast)

Adult, double occupancy: \$210    Adult, single occupancy: \$310    Age 12-17: \$110

Age 4-11: \$ 80    Age 0-3: Free    Lunch on Sunday: \$ 5

If registering after 8/26, adult prices +\$15.

Contact Rev. Jan about scholarship funds to make it affordable, if needed.

Accessibility and Covid protocols are top concerns to make the retreat fun and comfortable for everyone.

DAY	TIME	OPTION 1 ALL AGES	OPTION 2 ADULTS/ TEENS	OPTION 3 ADULTS/ TEENS	OPTION 4 ADULTS/TEENS	AGES 5-11	TEENS
FRIDAY Sept 16	6:00 PM	Social Hour (bring cash for wine/beer). Initial ice breaker					
	7:00 PM	Dinner					
	8:00 PM	Bonfire, s'mores, get-to-know-you activity					
	9:30?	Star gazing, weather permitting					
SATURDAY Sept 17	7:15 AM	Sunrise Yoga or Meditation					
	8:00 AM	Breakfast					
	9:00-11:00 AM	Vision Board	Craft Workshop	Painting	Earth-centered religions	Recreation and Faith Development	Recreation and Faith Development
	12 NOON	Lunch					
	1:00 – 2:15 PM	Farm tour till 3:00	Cellphone Photography	Nature Altars	Faith Development: Parenting under 5s	Recreation and Faith Development	Recreation and Faith Development
	2:30 - 4:15 PM ALL AGES	Labyrinth Walk and Guided Meditation	Easy Hike (likely ends early)	Guacamole Making (starts at 3:30)	Moderate/Advanced Hike (Group Decides)	Recreation and Faith Development	Recreation and Faith Development
	5:00 PM	Social Hour/Free time (bring cash for wine/beer). Guac + chips!					
	6:00 PM	Dinner					
7:00 PM	Talent Show: Music, Talent, Games					Rec Hall w/supervision	
SUNDAY Sept 18	7:15 AM	Sunrise Yoga or Meditation					
	8:00 AM	Breakfast, then clean out of rooms					
	TBD	Service					
	12 NOON	Lunch is optional and \$5 additional					



## Message from the Lay Minister

**“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” - Anne Frank**

What does it mean when we say, “Connecting Beyond our Walls”? I think it means the ways we work to create the beloved community as an extension of living out our values in the world. As Unitarian Universalists, in general, we do not evangelize but prefer to live out our values in the wider world. We currently have activities in place to provide Charity in our community like our work with Corley elementary and the donations to the Lawrenceville Ministry Co-Op. Some of us continue to donate to El Refugio, the shelter and ministry for immigrants in detention, or have completed Education on immigrant rights (and the lack of rights), or provided Direct Service through visitation with Immigrants in detention. Living our values in the wider community also includes our work of Advocacy with the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance and Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition; these groups honor interconnectedness in the web of life. There is more including: Pride Events; Mystic South; Protests, etc. Living out our values means considering the principles we support and affirm as well as following these principles as we explore their ongoing meaning.

As we start this year the ongoing and new activities I want to support are as follows:

Corley Elementary School – Service and Charity  
El Refugio – Service, Charity, Education, Advocacy  
Pride & Mystic South – Outreach  
Human Library – Education and Relationship Building  
Little Free Library – Outreach and Service  
UU the Vote – Education and Advocacy  
LGBTQI Justice, Reproductive Justice – Education and Advocacy  
Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance – Relationship Building  
Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition – Relationship Building, Education, and Advocacy  
School Board and Election Board in Gwinnett County – Advocacy and Relationship Building

UUCG Outreach efforts are intended to offer opportunities for spiritual growth, and engagement, and to promote active hope in our lives and the lives of our community. This is a WE effort, I hope that one or more of the above efforts speak to you. Please let me know if there is an area of interest that coincides with your individual needs [bstahnke@comcast.net](mailto:bstahnke@comcast.net). As a religious community, each of us can do our part to create the world we want to live in. Let’s take care of ourselves and our community – let’s not wait.

~ Barbara Stahnke

## Food Bank Changes

Drop off for donations to the Lawrenceville Co-op food bank will now be from 10 am-1 pm to allow for people to drop off before the service.

Any donations are welcome. For current needs, you can [check here](#).

Period products are also a constant need.

We are also in search of volunteers to collect the donations and drop them off at the food bank for November and December. Please contact Lydia Patrick or [admin@uucg.org](mailto:admin@uucg.org) if you are interested in helping out.





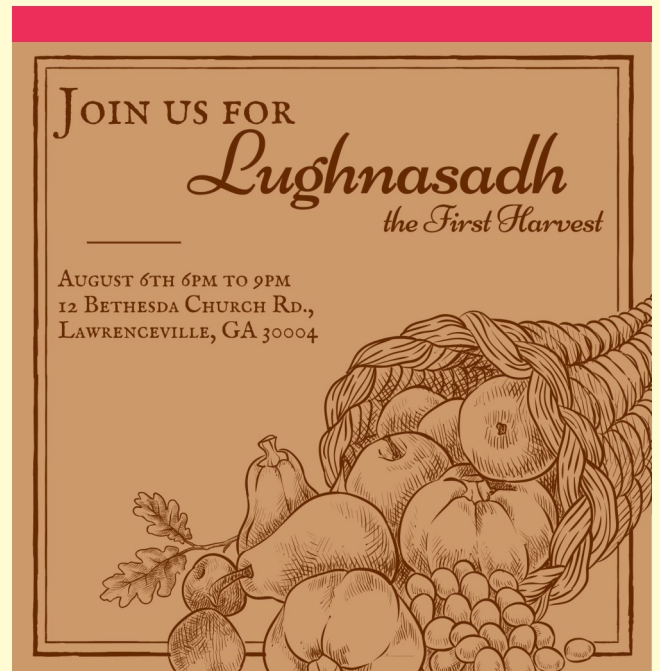
## Upcoming Events

GREEN TEAM  
PROPERTY WORK DAY!

AUGUST 6th  
9AM TO 4PM

### CALL TO ACTION!

- The mulch and lawn debris that has gathered around the building needs to be removed, bring a hoe and wheel barrel!
- Gardens need a deep watering.
- Trash pick up along the road.
- Holly bush along the road needs to be removed to see the sign.
- Inside work is available.



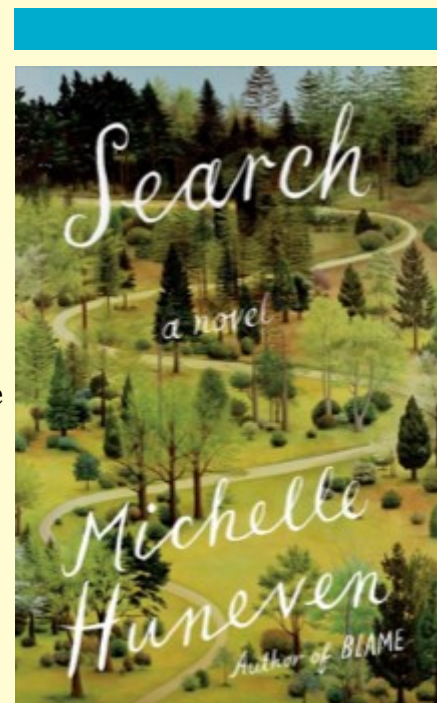
## Book Group Meeting Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00pm

Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/144736833>

### August Selection: *Search*, by Michelle Huneven

“Dana Potowski is a restaurant critic and food writer and a longtime member of a progressive Unitarian Universalist congregation in Southern California. Just as she's finishing the book tour for her latest bestseller, Dana is asked to join the church search committee for a new minister. Under pressure to find her next book idea, she agrees, and resolves to secretly pen a memoir, with recipes, about the experience. That memoir, *Search*, follows the travails of the committee and their candidates--and becomes its own media sensation.”

[\[See more\]](#)



This month's discussion will be led by Maryjane Stout (she/her). All who have read the book are invited to attend!

# Nurturing Connections



**Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at 7pm**  
Onsite



**Yarns From the Heart Aug 3 10am**  
Email [admin@uucg.org](mailto:admin@uucg.org) to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom link



**Property Work Day Aug 6 10am**  
Onsite



**Sylvan Sanctuary Ritual Aug 6 6pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 528-297-2479



**Food Bank Dropoff Aug 7 10am-1pm**  
Front Porch at UUCG



**Tarot Sundays every Sunday 5pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363



**Two Hands Sangha Meditation every Sunday 6 pm**  
Onsite



**Spiral Scouts Aug 14 12:30pm**  
For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required



**Belief Explorers Aug 14 12:30pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304



**Board Meeting Aug 16 7pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 956-757-31773



**Yarns From the Heart Aug 17 10am**  
Email [admin@uucg.org](mailto:admin@uucg.org) to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom link



**Green Team Meeting Aug 20 9:30am**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 926-178-30455



**Movie Screening: Flint Aug 21 2pm**  
Onsite



**Book Group Aug 24 7pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833










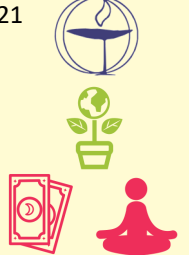



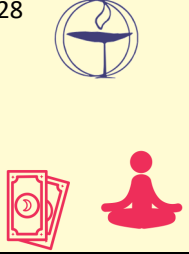


**Congregational Retreat Prices Increase Aug 26**  
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/uu-gwinnett>

Visit our [Calendar Online](#) for more information and links to our Zoom rooms.

For all of the Zoom events, go to <https://zoom.us/join>  
(or call 646-558-8656) and enter the Meeting ID

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	1	2	3 	4	5	6 
7 	8	9 	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16 	17 	18	19	20 
21 	22	23 	24 	25	26 	27
28 	29	30	31			