

[Thanks to Joanna for hosting this event]

I stand in today for Toni who kindly suggested that I might speak on the UWC's emphasis of the universal mind.

The UWC's purpose is "**friendship and learning through the universal mind.**"

Google's AI explains: "The Universal Mind is a concept of a single, infinite, omnipresent consciousness underlying all reality, connecting every individual mind, and serving as the source of all existence, knowledge, and creative power. It's described as a divine intelligence, collective unconscious, or cosmic source found in many spiritual traditions, philosophies (like Plato, Hegel), and esoteric teachings, suggesting our individual minds are manifestations of this greater whole, providing access to universal wisdom and potential."

"**Each One, Teach One**" is a powerful African proverb and concept, originating during U.S. slavery, emphasizing that those who gain knowledge, especially literacy, have a duty to share it with others, fostering community empowerment and self-reliance by spreading education and skills beyond formal systems, often through mentorship. It's a call for shared responsibility to lift up communities through mutual teaching and learning."

We are gathered here today to thank our Past Presidents and Board Members, and to welcome our new members. Let's introduce ourselves and comment on what we hope for the new year.

[Introductions around the table]

[A toast]

"To universal wisdom and potential. Each one, Teach One; Each One, Reach One." Let's now reach out to each other!