

April 2023

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Revival Weekend at UUMAN

We typically don't associate the words "Unitarian Universalist" and "Revival" with one another, let alone have them in the same sentence yet this is precisely what will take place in word and in deed on our campus this month. On the weekend of April 28-30, we will have a Unitarian Universalist Revival at UUMAN.

Many old-fashioned revivals, like those of the 18th and 19th centuries in the U.S., involved lengthy, hours-long sermons and speeches given by preachers, preachers and more preachers. I can guarantee you that that is not going to happen! 😊

At UUMAN's UU revival, we want YOU to participate; we want to hear your ideas about what feeds you spiritually and emotionally. We want to hear about how this congregation feeds you personally; and, after years of isolation in a pandemic, we want this weekend to revive and renew your spirit as a Unitarian Universalist, as a member of UUMAN!

Although the precise details of the event are still being worked out, we plan to kick off the revival on Friday evening with an outdoor fire around the firepit. This will likely involve food, the sharing of stories, games and fellowship.

On Saturday we will focus on spiritual growth in the form of group learning, workshops and sharing circles.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend will be our Elder-Honoring Ceremony that will be held during the worship service on Sunday, April 30. We understand that many might be sensitive about being called a potential "Elder" (age 65 and over), participation is entirely voluntary and all can self-select as to being an Elder (i.e. one need not participate or be recognized as an Elder).

Yet, there are many at UUMAN who have done much for the congregation since its founding; essentially making and shaping the congregation into what it is today. We would like to honor that service and commitment, and honor the example those Elders have set for the generations that follow in their footsteps.

Non-Elders (under age 65) can invite Elders to participate and Elders may ask non-Elders to join them.

If you have any specific questions or additional ideas for the weekend, please contact Donna Melcher who is coordinating UUMAN's Revival.

We will no doubt be looking for volunteers to assist with various activities during the week. Please make every effort to say "Yes!" and be a part of the planning of this event. Thank you!!!

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave

## UUMAN Care Circle

Friends,

A few years ago I, and my daughter Presley, came down with Covid just prior to the vaccinations being available. My husband Todd was working full time from home, taking over household duties, "homeschooling" and was overwhelmed with caring for the two of us who could not leave our rooms.

It was a terrible experience, however; as they say, out of bad often comes good. What saved us was knowing that we had a whole community that was surrounding us with prayers, delivering food, care packages & LOVE!

Our family's memory of Covid was not how sick we both were but rather how kind and generous our UUMAN friends and specifically our UUMAN Care Circle were.

My children will never forget that our UUMAN friends dropped off meals, baskets, and cards and called, emailed, and texted us to check on all of us.

They had been with us on the giving side of things but never before the receiving end. They were astounded and still talk about it.

Todd & I were grateful and humbled to receive such care but the biggest gift of this experience truly was our children witnessing what it means to be a part of a larger community.

Most of us never expect to sincerely need a "Care Circle" but WOW what an awesome group to have in addition to UUMAN friends at large!

If you haven't had the opportunity to engage with the UUMAN Care Circle I encourage you to do so.

Not sure which group you belong to? Email: [carecircles@uuman.org](mailto:carecircles@uuman.org)

Sending Joy, Peace & Gratitude to the many folks who lead and participate in our UUMAN Care Circles!

Kelly, Todd, Dillon & Presley Callen

UUMAN Neon Green Care Circle Members

## An Alert from Earth Ministry The Food We Eat

This is a continuation of our second hour class on Food and 'Big Ag'. In the 2023 Shoppers Guide to Pesticides in produce, researchers analyzed testing data on 46,500 samples of 46 fruits and vegetables conducted by the US Department of Agriculture.



Strawberries and spinach continue to hold the top two spots on The Dirty Dozen list followed closely by kale, collard, and mustard greens.

The list includes peaches, pears, nectarines, apples, grapes, bell and hot peppers, cherries, with blueberries and green beans filling the 11th and 12th position. A total of 210 pesticides were found on these 12 foods.

Pesticides are toxic by design. These foods, however, are full of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants needed to battle chronic disease. Make sure you rinse all produce, eat local products, in season, and buy organic foods when you can.

~ Gus Hadorn

# Jumping into Spring Revival

## Events

~by Donna Melcher

### UUMAN's Revival Weekend Activities

**Friday April 28** (Arrive at 6:00 p.m.) **Sacred Fire Lighting** (see article in this newsletter), Vegetarian Potluck and Social Fire (with Smores, Popsicles and Special Music), Beltane fun/Storytelling. Bring your furry friends (on leash, please) and your camp chair to the fire. If you would like to bring an object of personal significance to place on the altar, please feel free. **Bring your flashlight for getting around.**

**Saturday April 29** (Arrive at 10:00 a.m.) Coffee and Conversation ([Sign up to bring Goodies](#)). Sessions start at 11:00. Click the links below to see a description and signup for a session so that we know what supplies to provide and what space is needed. Some of these events still need hosts, so if you see something you like, call Donna Melcher. Childcare from 11:00 – 3:30.

#### All Day, starting at 10:00:

- Walking the Labyrinth (Tip [Sheet for Walking the Labyrinth](#)),
- Playing corn hole
- Just sitting 'round talking
- Coming to the Sacred Fire
- Coming to the Beltane Altar
- Sprucing up our gardens

#### Morning (11:00)

Sign up Events:

- [Embodied Womyn](#)
- [Corn Hole Tourney](#)
- [Family Friendly Volleyball](#)
- [Summer Garden Planting](#)
- [Handprint Pole and Rock Painting for Kids \(of All Ages\)](#)
- [Hammock Camping](#)

**Lunch (12:30ish)** – Bring your lunch. Drinks provided.

**1:15 – Dedication of Play space Location** – Meet in front of Discovery Hall (Rev. Kim will lead us)

#### Afternoon (2:00ish)

Sign up Events:

- [Hike UUMAN Grounds and Label Trees](#)
- [Bridge Fun with Johnna](#)
- [Saging at UUMAN](#)

- [Game Tables for all Ages](#)
- [Wiffle ball](#)
- [Fire Starting 101](#)

**Dinner (Start at 5:00ish)** Pizza \$5 per person. Drinks provided.

**Talent Show (Start at 6ish)** - an open-mic style evening! We will also announce the results of UUMAN's photo contest!!!

**Fire Finale** – come to the Labyrinth and witness a fire dance by Jennifer Phillippi; You will never be the same (Bring your flashlights)

**Sunday April 30** – (10:00) A flame from the Sacred Fire will light our chalice at the worship service and the Sacred Fire will be extinguished.



**Yes UUMAN does!!! Saturday, April 29th 6:00** is UUMAN's **Annual Talent Show**. This year, it will be a **part of the Spring Revival event** and will have a casual open-mic atmosphere. **Signup your act that day on the notepad on the sanctuary podium and you're in!** This year only, it is a free event! There is no other signup required. Let's have fun and share our talents!

# Jumping into Spring Revival

## Events

~by Donna Melcher

### UUMAN's Revival Weekend Activities



#### Sacred Fire and Social Fire

**This April 28th, Friday at 6:00**, Bruce Langston will light a Sacred Fire to start our Spring Revival weekend. Later that night, Miguel Flores will light a Social Fire to gather 'round. What is the difference between these two fires?

Our Sacred Fire will be placed behind Discovery Hall (did you know there was a fire pit back there?). There will be a short opening ceremony for this fire. Our fire starting will be as natural as possible and the foundational logs will be stacked to the cardinal directions. Cedar, Sage and Tobacco will be used at this fire. This fire will stay lit continuously throughout our weekend (yes, through the night) to encourage our spiritual flames and participation in the weekend. This fire holds a reverential tone and prayer may be happening here. It is the fire for whispers and gentle voices. Only spiritual nourishment will be taken at this fire. You may bring a paper with 'things that you want to let go of' and burn it in this fire.

TO SIGNUP TO BE A FIRE KEEPER (in 2-hour shifts) please [click here](#). You will be taught how to tend the fire if you do not know. Age 16+ please. You may tend the fire with a young one if an adult accompanies them. In many cultures there are protocols to follow for a sacred fire, like which way you walk around the fire or who may tend it. We are not beholden to any of these traditions, so UUMAN will be discovering its own ways on this land.

Our Social Fire will be behind Fellowship Hall in the flat area. It will be lit in the metal fire pit we have enjoyed on many occasions. It may be lit with drinks in hand and much hilarity and fun! Accelerants may be used. Furry friends are fine here as are young ones. We tell stories, sing songs, play music, eat hot dogs or smores or whatever and laugh heartily at this fire. You may burn food in this fire or paper plates that are not recyclable due to food on them. This fire will be extinguished before we leave on Friday night. Come join the fun!

## Wisdom Collection

You may have heard that the culmination of our Spring Revival will be at the Sunday Service on Sunday April 30, where we will be Celebrating our Elders. We hope everyone gathers for this event! We are also collecting words of wisdom from anyone at UUMAN 65 or older. It can be earth-shaking truths, witty realizations or as simple as something you think is handy to know and you would like to share with UUMAN. The only request is that it comes from you and your own wisdom. Please send your information to Donna Melcher [melcherdonna@gmail.com](mailto:melcherdonna@gmail.com) by April 20th. We may find that some wonderful soul would like to bring these together in a book for our library.



## UUMAN Play Space

Play, Play, Play! Play here, play there, play everywhere! We are excited to announce that our long-awaited play space has found a home and **we are dedicating this area (in front of Discovery Hall) as part of the Spring Revival on Saturday April 29th after lunch. Little Kids, Big Projects** has the ball and Josie and John Burkhardt are running with it. Let's recognize this step together and give some love to the space where our children will play.

~ Donna Melcher



## U UWomenspirit—Coming May 17-21

U UWomenspirit can be a life-changing event and this Spring, it has an indigenous Mayan theme. Many indigenous elders say it is time for ancient wisdom to be shared with the world. For the Mayans, this means sharing about the New Era that is ready to be birthed. It is a new Great Cycle that is a balance of Divine female and male energies. At the Spring Event, we will follow the sacred Mayan calendar days, and we will walk together on what the Maya call the Sacred Road, The Sac Be. Our vision is that by honoring the wisdom of the indigenous cultures of this planet, coming together in Mayan Sacred time, we can better be in right relationship with Mother Earth, the Divine, ourselves, and each other. Registration is open and you can find more information [here](#).

~ Donna Melcher



## UUMAN Chili Cookoff Returned!

After a three-year Covid hiatus, the UUMAN Chili Cookoff rose from the ashes on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Despite the challenges of having to share space in our temporary sanctuary in Fellowship Hall, the event was a hit. A sizable crowd had fun and ate well.

There were four categories of competition, with the following winners:

Category	Winners
Chili	Mark and Laurie Wheeler, Lexie Tangney (hubby Hayden pictured in the Chili Pepper crown)
Vegetarian Chili	Bob Popp
Cornbread	Laura Keck
Soup	Dirk Bender



As in years' past, this event was helmed by Jane Soule, who labeled tasting cups, knitted prizes, and generally made sure everything was in place. She even purchased extra spoons, as ours seem to mysteriously disappear from the kitchen every year. Jane was ably assisted by Donna Guile. Rosie Popp, Lynn Hannan, and Linda Etheridge were instrumental with the setup and cleanup, along with others.

Congrats to our winners. But the big winner was UUMAN. It's still a heartwarming sight to see our UUMAN family gathered together around tables, breaking bread, chatting and laughing. Let's do it again next year!

~ Mike Chambers

## UUMAN awarded \$3,500 grant by Georgia Interfaith Power & Light

Representatives from your Earth Ministry attended GIPL's **Green Team Summit** this February. We carpoled with folks from Emerson UU and met Jon Reese, UUCA's Climate Action Team leader. It was a great opportunity to connect with people from many different faiths and be inspired.

GIPL offers grants for green initiatives, and one is for energy efficiency improvements. Thanks to the hard work of Mike Liebergesell, UUMAN was awarded \$3500 to improve our buildings' insulation. This grant will help the church reduce its energy costs and lower its carbon footprint.

The church's commitment to environmentalism is rooted in its UU principles, which emphasize the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the interconnectedness of all things. UUMAN believes that environmentalism is not only important for the health of the planet but also for the well-being of its members and the wider community.

Going forward, the Earth Ministry is excited to host the Earth Day Service on April 16. We will have special workshops to attend and a vegetarian potluck to share. We look forward to seeing you Sunday!

We're proud to say that UUMAN serves as an example of how faith communities can work together to address climate change and create a more sustainable future for all.

~ John Burkhardt  
UUMAN Earth Ministry Leader

# Religious Exploration News

## The Month of March...

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

From the youth service to UUMAN's first Career Fair, March was packed full of wonderful events. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words...

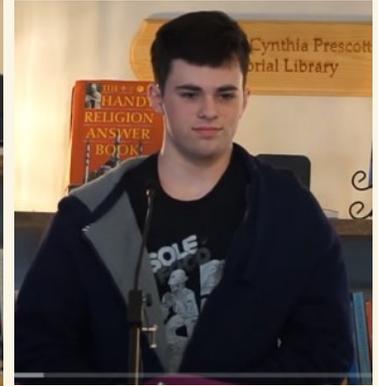
### The Youth Service



The Jr & Senior class put together an amazing service. The Topic: "What is Gen Z" With the help of their dedicated RE instructors, Elizabeth Rohan and Dave Pragel



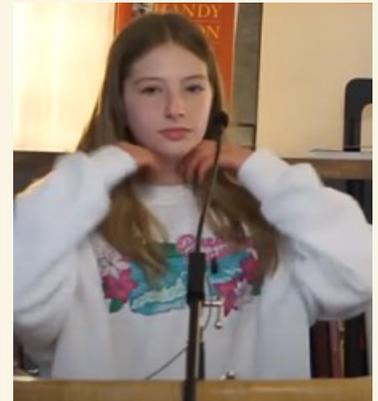
Gillian Poteralski



Joel Shanahan



Olivia Patanian



Presley Callen



Jacob Patanian



Troy Van der Beek



Sasha Greyenbuhl



Emmy Poteralski

# Religious Exploration News

## The Month of March...

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

### UUMAN's First Career Fair

On March 26, UUMAN hosted its very first career fair! Our youth members had the opportunity to meet and chat with over a dozen volunteers from various career backgrounds about their professional journeys. Our volunteers represented careers in business, entrepreneurship, the medical field, business professionals, and the US military.

There was lots of conversation and excitement on the portico after service as many of the adults in our congregation networked and made professional connections, and the youth lined up to interview our volunteers.

Dave Prigel's booth showcasing his Drone Photography business was a favorite among youth and adult attendants alike. I myself took advantage of the occasion to learn about product management from Martin Poteralski and to chat about interesting trends in the world of cryptocurrency with Sam Friedman. Sharing my own career story with curious youth and their parents was so enjoyable, and I look forward to doing it again!

If you didn't have a chance to attend this year or would like to share your incredible career journey with our congregation, rest assured. We're hoping the career fair becomes an annual event here at UUMAN!  
-Miguel Flores



Health Care Heroes (John and Chris Alren, Lexie Brown, Jennifer Ratcliffe)



STEM (Laura Keck & Elizabeth Rohan) featuring Sasha Greyenbuhl making her rounds!



Career Coach (Claudie Rossi), and her interested visitors (Reed & Vivian Waggoner, Melody Andrews)



Owner and Chief Pilot (Dave Prigel) & Product Manager (Martin Poteralski)

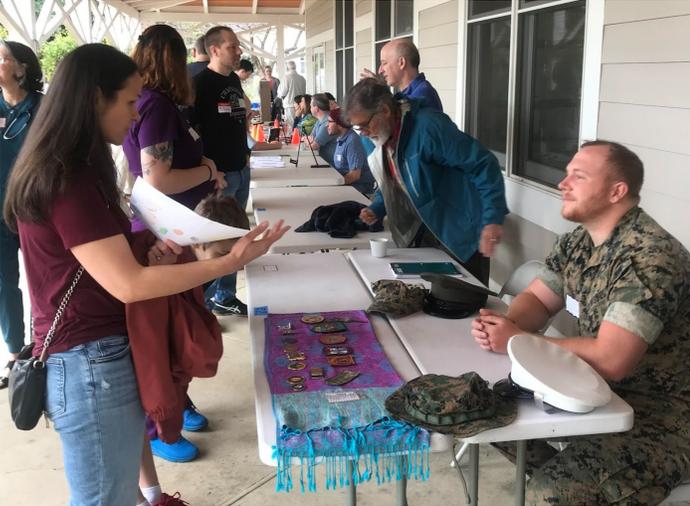
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# Religious Exploration News

## The Month of March...

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

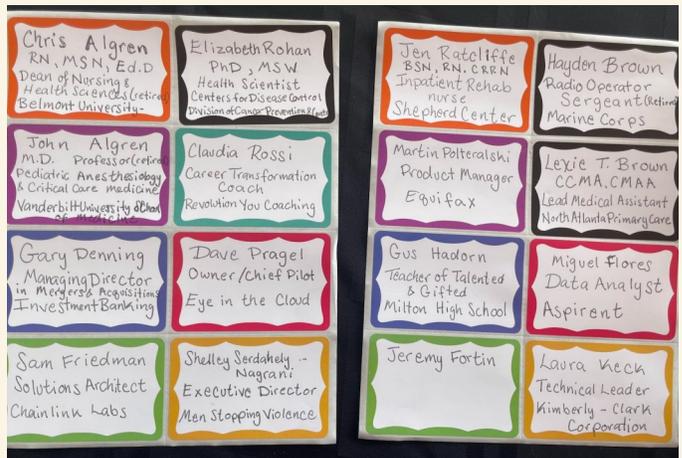
### UUMAN's First Career Fair



Teacher of Talented & Gifted, Retired from Milton High (Gus Hadorn) and U.S Marine Corps, Radio Operator (Hayden Brown)



Solutions Architect (Sam Friedman), and Bruce Langston perusing the booths.



A cheat-sheet of who signed up, job titles and companies (Poor Martin, one of these days I'll spell his name correctly)



Melody and Gabe Andrews exploring a career in medicine!

### What to expect in April from MCY

4/2 - No MCY programming due to Spring Break

4/9 - MultiGen Nature Walk and recycled egg decoration (plastic free)

4/16 - Jr&Senior class trip (spots still available) and K-2 & 3-5 activity

4/23 - RE Curriculum (MCY Fire Drill)

4/29 - ChildCare Provided for Spring Revival (Saturday from 11:30AM-3:30PM)

4/30 - RE Curriculum followed by Lexie's Baby Shower @12PM

## Spring is Sprung! Or Spring has Sprung?

When I look outside my window, I see signs of spring everywhere. The color of new growth always surprises me, a unique green so vibrant and full of life, a color I didn't know until I emigrated to this country.

I'm familiar with the lush colors of tropical plants and flowers, as I grew up near the equator, but this spring-green color is unlike anything else I've seen.

Spring marks the beginning of things in the northern hemisphere. I look forward to the annual return of spring to get me out of the gloomy, monochromatic tones of winter.

Spring also brings that burst of energy that I love more and more. I love how the nights now are still cold enough for a sweater. I delight in re-discovering a dogwood in bloom, a new jack-in-the-pulpit, or the blue flowers of dwarf irises.

Spring is also a busy time of the year for our congregation. It seems that every weekend is full. This makes me happy. We are a vibrant and active community.

The current Board is working hard at streamlining foundational structures (the Breeze church management system and the website) to help us be more efficient and reach a larger public, among other projects.

This will be my last newsletter submission as a member of the Board. It has been an exciting three years with a lot of responsibility, and sometimes long Board meetings. Yet, every time I walk away from 11420 Crabapple Road I feel a sense of ownership of our little church in Roswell.

As I step down from the Board, I know that the leaders who have risen are honest, caring members who will do a fine job guiding us through challenging times. Please give them your support. Ask them difficult questions, challenge their perspectives so we can all grow together.

I am concerned about the future—the world we are leaving our children. Our commitment to life must break the bonds of our love affairs with consumption, fossil fuels, plastics and chemicals. If we can move beyond ego, and money and power we can build a

world on a foundation of love that embraces life for all. Roswell is our home, and this is where we can do our part.

Our young people bring me hope. Their consciousness and their abilities were on full display at the Youth service. It is such a pleasure to watch them grow. Soon my grandson Koda will join their ranks.

Our work is never be done, but we are strong and resolute. We stand for universal values of dignity and wholeness, we care about the natural world, and we will make sound decisions.

May this spring bring lightness and energy to our work, for our faith, and for the world.

In loving service,

Jennifer Ratcliffe  
Past President



UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

### April 2023: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
4/2	<b>The Ox Herding Pictures</b> How does one achieve enlightenment? In the Zen tradition, this path of enlightenment is often represented by the Ox-Herding Pictures. What are they? One of the pictures is blank? What could this mean? Can we even make sense of these? What do they call upon us to do?	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/9	<b>Flower Communion</b> The Flower Communion, created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, is an annual ritual that celebrates peace, beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Please bring a few flowers to share.	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/16	<b>Earth Day Service</b> Join UUMAN's Earth Ministry team as they celebrate Earth Day with an Earth-centered service.	Earth Ministry
4/23	<b>Channing Holiday Service</b> On May 5, 1819, Rev. William Ellery Channing, the leader of the liberal Congregationalists split with the conservative Congregationalists declaring that the liberals would now be regarded as Unitarians. This declaration led to the formation of the American Unitarian Association	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/30	<b>Celebrating Our Elders</b> We are warmed by fires we did not light. So many thousands of volunteer hours have kept the fires of UUMAN going for over 30 years. We honor all elders and acknowledge the very important contributions they have made. Together we reflect on elders as a vital part of our community.	Rev. Dave Dunn Donna Melcher



### Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to

[membership@uuman.org](mailto:membership@uuman.org).

Date	Celebration
4/4	Marc Soule is celebrating a birthday.
4/5	Chris Algren is celebrating a birthday.
	Robert Popp is celebrating a birthday.
4/7	Rowan Friedman is celebrating a birthday.
4/14	Hayden Brown is celebrating a birthday.
4/16	Dan Ben-David is celebrating a birthday.
4/17	Pat Carter is celebrating a birthday.
	Claudia Rossi is celebrating a birthday.
4/20	Joel Shanahan is celebrating a birthday.
4/22	Nora Winders is celebrating a birthday.
4/25	Carole and Dan Herman are celebrating their anniversary of 8 years.
4/27	John Algren is celebrating a birthday.

**ABOUT THE UUMANTimes:** The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)