

## March 2024

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## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

It's the most wonderful time of the year! No, not spring planting season, or basketball's March Madness, or primary voting time, or even figuring out what to do to celebrate Leap Day. It's stewardship pledge drive season, a great time of year to reflect on what we have done as a community in the past year, and how we can re-commit to building our future together for the year to come.

Our annual pledge drive is consistently the largest source of revenue for UUMAN. Yes, our pledge income ensures that we have a campus and grounds that's clean, well-maintained, well-landscaped, and ready to support our weekly worship, meetings, and events. But our community means much more than just a building and grounds, and your financial contributions also enable the human side of us:

- Salary increases of 5%, annual bonuses, and insurance benefits for our hard-working staff.
- Educational opportunities for the growing population of children in our community.
- Expanded adult faith development and leadership opportunities.
- Modernized communications and membership outreach to get the word out and expand our community of care.
- Social justice outreach to transform the larger world.

Beyond the financial pledge, it is also a great time to take stock of the many volunteer and leadership positions available on UUMAN's many committees, programs, and ministries – and consider trying something new that calls to you.

Faith Development? Justice? Spiritual Arts and Music? Care? Operations? Outreach and Connections?

Whether you are new to UUMAN or have been around a while, you may have questions about how to pledge - which you can complete either through the online link, or with our classic thinned wood pulp experience on recyclable paper. You may also ponder how to think about how much to give, or how to increase your pledge by 10% or more over last year.

You may want to learn more about our many volunteer opportunities. Beyond our membership-wide email and worship messages, the Stewardship team (including Jennifer Phillippi, Laurie Wheeler, Merri Beth Stephens, and me) is ready to speak with you individually about any questions or concerns, including right after Sunday worship service, from now through the end of our campaign on March 24.

Thank you again for your generosity in maintaining our community, and for doing your part to make this the most wonderful time of the year!

### **Martin Poteralski**

UUMAN Board Vice President, Stewardship Committee

## The Benefits of Volunteering

“Off the heels of leading the Earth Ministry to make UUMAN the only solar powered house of worship in Roswell, our very own John Burkhardt is setting his sights on something bigger:

For the last year, John has been enrolling Atlanta-area UU congregations to join forces against medical debt. The campaign forgives millions of dollars of debt on behalf of Unitarian Universalism. Recently the campaign expanded to forgive \$4 million dollars of medical debt in the state of Georgia!

This is a wonderful opportunity to raise the visibility of Unitarian Universalism while helping the community. It culminates in a celebratory Debt Jubilee at UUCA, where all are invited, featuring musicians from our congregations and local press to spread the word

You can learn more at <https://linktr.ee/uudebtrelief>

John Burkhardt  
UUMAN Earth Ministry Leader



## March Common Grounds Coffee

Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen.

**March 16**, \$5 suggested donation (cash only)  
Doors open at 7 pm and show starts at 7:30 pm at UUMAN.

- Laura Keck

**COMMON GROUNDS**  
Coffee House  
Music Listening Room

**Saturday, March 16th**

Doors Open - 7:00  
Show Starts - 7:30

**\$5.00**  
Suggested at the Door  
**BYOB**

11420 Crabapple Rd.  
Roswell, GA

Jason Connelly

Bill Sheffield  
w/Spencer Kirkpatrick



## Our 50/50 Shared Plate

March's 50-50 recipient is **Cats in the Cradle Cat Rescue** and was chosen by our Youth. It is a no-kill, all-volunteer non-profit organization that is based in Alpharetta. It is dedicated to the rescue, care and adoptions of stray and special needs cats. Their representative, Claudia, will be with us the first Sunday, March 3rd. You can donate by putting cash in the offering plate on the first Sunday or anytime throughout the month through the Givelify APP (check 50-50) or by writing a check to UUMAN (memo 50-50). Half will go to Cats in the Cradle and half will go to UUMAN.

### Monthly Non-Profit Share of 50/50

	Non Profit	Amount
Sep 2023	Grovesway Community Center	\$390.00
Oct 2023	Atlanta Pride Committee	\$877.50
Nov 2023	North Fulton Community Charities	\$352.50
Dec 2023	Family Promise of N. Fulton	\$685.00
Jan 2024	No Harm	\$660.00

- Michelle Liebergesell

## The Great Stories Class

The Great Stories class meets first Sundays of each month at 11:15 to discuss wisdom narratives from around the world and throughout history.

This month, on March 3, Rollin Mathis will recount “The Blacksmith of Persia.” This is the story of Kaveh Ahangar, a Persian commoner who led a revolt against the evil invader and oppressor King Zahak.

Kaveh attached his leather blacksmith’s apron to a spear as a rallying flag, now a symbol of Persian pride. This story presents the themes of what a common person can do to resist evil, without waiting for royalty or a superhero; and how a conquered people preserve their dignity through resistance.

- Rollin Mathis

# MCY March Times

## Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

We've had an exciting and engaging February, and March is shaping up to be just as fantastic! Let's dive into the highlights and upcoming events in our youth programs:

### February Recap:

On February 4, our annual **Chili Cook-Off** was a huge success! The youth had their VIP zone set up in the foyer, creating a vibrant atmosphere where they could enjoy the festivities while socializing. It was heartwarming to see some of our children staying back to help with the clean-up after the event. Your enthusiasm and willingness to pitch in are truly appreciated!



February 11 was filled with creativity as we crafted adorable Valentine's Day cards with the Director of Religious Education (DRE). It was a joyous time of crafting and bonding.



### Upcoming in March:

- The first week of March (3/3) will proceed with our regular **Religious Education** (RE) programming.
- On March 10, while the PreK-1st and 2nd-4th classes continue with their regular programming, our junior and senior youth will have a **rehearsal for the upcoming Youth Service** in the sanctuary. Classes will meet in the sanctuary at 11:15 am on that day.
- Mark your calendars for March 17, as our **Youth Service** approaches! The theme for this service is "Leadership," and it promises to be inspiring and empowering. Regular RE curriculum will resume on March 24.
- Finally, don't miss out on the **Multigen Easter Nature Walk and Recycled Egg Decorating** on March 31. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season together as a community.



# MCY March Times

## Religious Exploration with Children and Youth at UUMAN

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

### Acknowledging Our Senior Youth:

I want to take a moment to express my pride in our senior youth for their hard work in planning the upcoming Youth Service. They've taken on various responsibilities, including choosing the recipient for the 50/50 plate. They've decided to support "Cats in the Cradle" Cat Rescue, and we're delighted to have Claudia, a passionate advocate for these furry friends, joining us on the first Sunday of March to make an announcement. Learn more about this worthy cause at [Cats in the Cradle Rescue](https://www.catsinthecradlerescue.org/).

### Exciting Atlanta UU Cluster Collaboration:

We're thrilled to announce a collaborative project with the Atlanta UU Cluster. Our Director of Religious Education, along with leaders from other congregations, is coordinating a Youth Meet and Greet for both junior and senior classes. Additionally, we have an Overnight Youth Con planned for both classes. Please see the details below:

#### Senior Youth:

- Sky Zone - Roswell: March 24, 1 pm (followed by an early dinner at UUMAN)
- Overnight @ Athens: May 10 - May 11 (Registration at 6-7 pm, Dinner at 7 pm, Conclusion at 2 pm)

#### Junior Youth:

- Sky Zone - Roswell: April 13, 1 pm (followed by an early dinner at UUMAN)
- Overnight @ Emerson: May 3 - May 4 (Red Carpet Event) (Registration at 6-7 pm, Dinner at 7 pm, Conclusion at 2 pm)

For more information and to express your interest in volunteering or chaperoning, please email [dre@uuman.org] (mailto:dre@uuman.org). Additionally, mark your calendars for a virtual parent meeting on March 18th, where we'll discuss planning details and answer any questions.

### Parent Meeting to discuss Atlanta cluster Event(s)

Monday, March 18, 6:30 – 7:30pm

### Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ifz-iuet-zwd>

We're looking forward to a month filled with growth, connection, and fun in our youth programs. Thank you for being an essential part of our vibrant community.

**SENIOR CLASS MEET AND JUMP**

Come meet other UU Senior Class members from Athens (UUFA), Atlanta (LUCA), Roswell (UUMAN) and Marietta (EUUC) Congregation! We will play at Skyzone and then discuss Senior Con over pizza

**COST INCLUDES**

- ✓ 90-minutes of jump time
- ✓ Skyzone Socks
- ✓ Pizza Party afterwards

**\$29.85**  
Scholarships Available

**Drivers and Chaperones Needed!**

**SIGN - UP WITH YOUR DRE BY MARCH 6TH**

**Sunday, March 25th at 12:30 PM @ the Skyzone - Roswell, GA**

# New Members Corner

The Membership Committee is excited to introduce 11 new members to UUMAN. Please check out their bios to learn more about them. If you would like to be a part of the Membership Committee, please talk with **Lynn Hannan**, our wonderful new chairperson. **Hint:** A great place to meet people is at the Greeter stand on Sunday mornings. We would love to have you.

- Shelley Nagrani

## Michael and Ellery Arnett

Michael and his wife Lea have lived in East Cobb since 2004, along with their daughter Ellery and occasional rescue cats. Michael was born in Columbus, GA, grew up in Fayetteville, TN, and went to Auburn University and Georgia Tech. He is an electrical engineer, doing research in radar and communications. Michael enjoys reading science fiction, playing an occasional game of tennis, and tinkering around with home automation projects, for example, an automatic sprinkler system for the garden. Lea grew up in Tallahassee, FL, went to FSU, and majored in art education. Lea likes to paint and do clay handbuilding.

Together, Michael and Lea like to sing and play music in their basement studio. Michael plays electric guitar and bass, Lea plays the drums, and Ellery plays the piano. Ellery also likes to sew and crochet, and is the costume manager for her high school's theater productions. There are usually several projects going on at the Arnett household at any one time, but the projects get put on hold at least once a year for a beach vacation, usually somewhere along the Gulf Coast.

## Ash Battistelli

I am originally from Memphis TN (and very proud of that). Have moved between the Midwest and midsouth most of my life, Georgia is the most south I have lived thus far. I have been living in Alpharetta since April of 2023 and have been visiting UUMAN on and off for about the same length of time.

Ex-catholic, ex-Episcopalian, part-time pagan and full-time unitarian universalist. I love being surrounded by people with different belief systems, keeps you curious and protects you from being in an echo chamber (that's not healthy for anyone).

Moved to Georgia to be with my partner, Daniel, whom you will not see in church as he worships the football gods most Sundays and its just not his scene (might see him in a game night sometime though!)

I love animals and hate factory farming so I'm vegetarian (nothing against the carnivores, I just have a "beef" with the commercial meat industry as a whole).

I am passionate about social justice and love that UU takes action on important issues.

I like cats. Video games. Dungeons & Dragons. Sewing (I'm learning). Reading. And too many other hobbies to list because ADHD makes all hobbies MY hobby.

Though myself and my partner plan to move in spring of 2025 – location to be determined - I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone while I'm here and contributing wherever I can.

## Richard Bomba

Richard taught orchestra, guitar and music appreciation at Milton HS in Fulton County, Ga for 15 years before retiring in 2017. He is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado with a Master's Degree in Violin Performance and Orchestral Conducting.

For fun, Richard enjoys playing the harp, woodworking, sewing, quilting, gardening, camping, hiking and reading.

Richard believes strongly in nonviolence, gun reform, justice, LGBTQ rights/equality, life-long self-education and kindness.

## Hayden Brown

Hayden Brown lived most of his life around the metro Atlanta area, minus 7 years during his time in the marine corps. He is currently attending college at KSU, after working his day job at Home Depot. He spends the time he does have with his wife Lexie and baby Koda, usually doing home projects for the future. Some of his interests or hobbies include fish keeping, playing cards with his friends, having a drink with family, and whatever else pops up day by day. Hayden has attended UUMAN off and on for a couple years, debating if even calling himself UU was the right answer or term, but now he is proud to call UUMAN home.

## Valeria Caamaño-Pichardo

Valeria Caamaño-Pichardo has resided in the metro Atlanta area for over 20 years. She was born in Mexico and immigrated to Gwinnett, where her mother taught ESOL to adults. She was immersed in extremely diverse environments and cultures throughout her childhood and became aware of the strength in diversity from a young age. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame where she studied philosophy and psychology among other academic, creative, and diversity pursuits. Her main work is teaching ESOL and literature to high schoolers and she learned about Unitarian Universalism through an amazing mentor teacher. Her passions include photography, learning, and contributing to her local community.

# New Members Corner

## Aleena Herrick and Greg Krohne

Greg and Alea have resided in Roswell since Gabriel, who is now nine, was one and a half years old in 2015. Alea is a nurse practitioner and Greg is a computer programmer and decided to move to Roswell from south Georgia after Alea landed a job at Emory. Since then Alea has gone on to be a hospice nurse. After moving away from family they decided to start looking for someplace to find community and started showing interest in UUMAN and have since decided to call home. They are all avid game players and spend as much time together in their free time. They are excited to find like minded individuals both in politics, spirituality, and games.

## Sharon Paige Lewis (she/her)

I have a background in classical music and art – enjoying and studying both from a young age. I spent my childhood years as a feral creature – spending as much time as possible in the 100-acre woods that I was lucky enough to have behind my house. I had perpetually skinned knees and at least some dirt on my person most of the time. I learned the joys of squishing mud between your toes and hanging upside-down from trees.

I have a B.A. in Graphic Design with a Concentration in Illustration from Auburn University. Later – during the recession of 2009 – I went back to school to get a master's degree in business administration from UAB. My hobbies include gardening, painting (water & oil), writing music, brewing beer & wine, and playing bowed psaltery in the local mountain dulcimer group.

I'm about to be an "empty nester" – my two wonderful children are 18 and 20 years old. I live in Chamblee with my son and occasionally my daughter (who is usually at college) – along with our fur babies of various species.

Life goals include:

- Finding a sanctuary: A small hobby farm with chickens, fruit trees and sustainable garden.
- Enjoying more bonfires and watching the stars.
- Traveling more - it provides perspective.
- Getting back to my feral roots.

## The Love-Carter Family

Kassie Love and Dan Carter are both new to the UU faith, discovering UUMAN last spring. They met in the Macon, GA area, where Dan worked and Kassie attended Mercer University. Kassie and Dan bought a home in Cumming, GA al-

most 4 years ago, where Kassie works as a mental health therapist and Dan works for an international cybersecurity organization. Kassie and Dan have three children - Waverly (9 years), Sansa (6 years), and Wilder (4 years). Waverly is a competitive gymnast, Sansa loves to sing, and Wilder really lives up to his name :) The family also has two house bunny rabbits. Because, when you have one child allergic to cats, and another to dogs - you adopt bunnies!

## Meredith McCaskey

Meredith moved to Marietta last summer with her husband Nate and two kids Sean (age 8) and Muriel (age 6.) After deconstructing from her conservative Evangelical upbringing, she is delighted to find herself at home with the values and community of UUMAN. Meredith has always been a writer; she self-published her first novel three years ago and is currently working on her next one. She also enjoys reading, playing piano, making art, doing crafts with her kids, and taking her Brittany spaniels Jewel and River for walks every day.

## Susan Moreno

Susan (she/her) lives in Mountain Park with her husband, David, and three children, Evie (9), Rachael (7), and Millie (3), and the dog Styx, and the cat Patchwerk. She has been serving on the board of Keep Roswell Beautiful, our local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, for the past two years, and she hopes to steward UUMAN's environmental justice actions in the Roswell community and beyond. The Moreno family loves board and computer gaming and playing music together.

## Merritt Pennick

Merritt is a Georgia local and lives in Gainesville Georgia with his husband, Jason. Merritt has been attending UUMAN since Late November. Merritt is a PreK teacher assistant and works closely with students with disabilities. He is anticipating graduating with an associates degree in Early Childhood Education in May 2024. His hobbies include illustration and comic making, sewing and playing with his dog, Daisy.

## Kate Picklesimer

Kate is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, and moved to Atlanta to attend college at Georgia Tech to study Civil Engineering. During and after college, she lived in many parts of Atlanta and then moved to Woodstock in 2022. She has two children, Miles (6) and Aubrey (4). She enjoys cycling, swimming, hiking, music/concerts, and dogs. Kate has never been a member of a church before but had an interest in joining a UU church for quite a while. She is excited to become a member of UUMAN and join such a great community.

# New Members Corner

## Patricia “Rocky” Riedel

Rocky was born in Philadelphia, then married Joe and they cherished raising their kids, Trisha and Matt, in the Philly suburbs and also in Roswell, GA. She studied the arts, concentrating on acting and painting. Her inner journey eventually led her to take a leap of faith: she lived in a tent by herself on the beach in Hawaii for five weeks. The island accepted her (as they say in Hawaii) and she ended up living there for twenty-five years. There she remarried and lived in a yurt with her retired professor husband, Don, and their three dogs, two cats, a peacock, ducks, geese, turtles, a rabbit and Petunia, their wild boar.

With Don’s help and encouragement, she continued with her artwork and was blessed to have galleries on the island of Kauai represent her work.

She and Don stayed in Hawaii as long as they could, Hawaii being their true spiritual home. But when Don’s health worsened they moved to Johns Creek with Tallulah Rose, (their remaining dog) and Archie, (their remaining cat) in order to be near the kids and grandkids full-time. That was right before the pandemic. Sadly, shortly after they returned, Don—her best friend—died. And then so did Archie, he wanting to be with his Dad.

Wishing to find a community like she had in Hawaii, a friend suggested looking into Unitarian Universalists. When she read the Seven Principles on the UUMAN website she knew she found her people. The seven principles beautifully echo the Aloha of Hawaii. She feels blessed to have found you.

## Melinda Whetstone

Melinda Whetstone is originally from Ohio, but has lived in the Southeast most of her adult life. She moved to Cherokee County from Orlando, Florida in 2022 and is glad for the seasonal changes she was missing. She has worked as a software trainer, business process analyst, and university instructor. She has also volunteered as a guardian advocate, but her main achievement has been her role of advocate for children and adults with ADHD and autism. She recently used her caregiving, research, and advocacy experience to assist a family member diagnosed with and hospitalized for myasthenia gravis. Melinda’s hobby of genealogy expanded to examining her family tree with an eye for autoimmune diseases, and her recent diagnosis of scleroderma has further fueled this passion.

She grew up in the Methodist church, but baptized her children in other liberal Protestant denominations. She loves the fidget space allotted for UUMAN’s children, as she well remembers trying to fidget quietly in the pew growing up. As

a mother, she appreciated the congregation’s tolerance and humor when her own children crawled underneath the chairs or when the youngest proudly and unprovoked decked his brother during the Christmas Eve children’s message. She served on the church’s leadership team, but it was that support and community that was so important. She hopes she can be part of continuing this UUMAN tradition of community and connection.

Melinda has a son who is a senior at Florida State and she lives with her eldest son who works for a tech company. Her two senior cats add to the chaos and joy of her life near Holly Springs.

## March: A Month of Sundays



## 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
3/9	Rozanne G. is celebrating a birthday.
3/12	Claire C. is celebrating a birthday.
3/15	Judy D. is celebrating a birthday.
3/17	Amanda B. is celebrating a birthday.
3/20	Marc L. is celebrating a birthday.
3/23	Todd W. is celebrating a birthday.
3/26	Lori A. is celebrating a birthday.
	Dirk B. is celebrating a birthday.
	Diantha H. is celebrating a birthday.
3/28	Bev J. is celebrating a birthday.
3/29	Danielle B. is celebrating a birthday.
3/31	Janet L. 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 [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
3/3	<p><b>The Search for the Truth and the Marvels of Mindfulness</b></p> <p>"I have a saying 'If you want to change the world, then transform and align your own life in the direction of the path of goodness, discovery and Truth.' We can do this through our already present deeper wisdom and clear seeing. This is where the marvels of mindfulness come in. Mindfulness gives us the very real possibility of transforming our heart and mind."</p>	Mark Gebert
3/10	<p><b>Dismantling Racism Requires Overcoming Capitalism</b></p> <p>UUs are in the process of formally committing ourselves to "dismantle racism in our selves and in our institutions." Tracing racism's history on our continent, and how we have historically enshrined it in our governing documents and practices, can give us some clues about its origins and causes. This service will address the most direct way that liberatory communities can pull racism out by its root cause.</p>	Rev. Jonathan Rogers
3/17	<p><b>Youth Group Service</b></p> <p>Come join us at UUMAN's Youth Group presents their annual Sunday service. We probably don't need to tell you but...come prepared for some surprises.</p>	Youth
3/24	TBA	Lylah Lockridge
3/31	<p><b>Flower Communion</b></p> <p>The Flower Ceremony, sometimes referred to as Flower Communion or Flower Festival, is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community.</p>	Debra Burrell