



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

WWW.UUMAN.ORG 11420 CRABAPPLE RD, ROSWELL, GA 30075 770-992-3949

March 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.....	1
COME TO DANCE CHURCH.....	2
SWAMP LILY PLAY—UUCA.....	2
CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT.....	2
UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.....	3
NEW MEMBER CORNER.....	4-5
SHARING THE PLATE.....	6
REV. CYNTHIA'S FINAL GIFT TO UUMAN.....	6
A PAGE FROM THE PAGE TURNERS.....	6
FROM THE GARDEN.....	7
LIFE CELEBRATIONS.....	7
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS.....	8
MARCH CONNECTIONS.....	8



It's the most wonderful time of the year.

On February 12, we kicked off our annual holiday season of stewardship. (And you thought the song was only a Christmas carol!) Monies pledged during our stewardship campaign will determine our budget for the next fiscal year which runs from July 2017 through June 2018.

Raising money, collecting rents and fees, doing fundraisers has nothing to do with the actual mission of the congregation. Yet it is undeniable that without money, and an organization of some sort, fulfilling that mission is impossible, it's fantasy—you simply can't get something for nothing.

A. C. Miles writes:

“Whine about money at your own peril. If you have some savings and are able to pay your normal living bills each month with money left over for movies and eating out, you are better off than almost every UU church I know. There is no amorphous "they" in a church spending "your" money. If you want to deny your friends' children new curricula and well-lit, well-heated areas to learn and play at church, then look those little kiddies in the eyes and say so. Otherwise, take part in the process to make your church successful in its mission.”

In my ministerial search process last year, while evaluating the churches to which I could potentially apply, I took it upon myself to calculate a rough estimate of each church's actual pledge level.

At the time, by my rough calculations, UUMAN's average pledge was \$1,977. This was 16% lower than the \$2,370 average of the other churches in search. This average represents about \$200/month.

Here are the four most convenient ways to inform us of your pledge:

- Hand your completed pledge form, sealed in the provided envelope, to your Pledge Coordinator, Mike Chambers, or Bob Popp. They are your sacred trinity of stewardship.
- Place the sealed envelope in the UUMAN mailbox of Bob Popp (treasurer) or Mike Chambers (stewardship). Mailboxes are located across Fellowship Hall in the office hall across the hall from my office.
- Mail it in. There's a label with UUMAN's address on the envelope in your pledge material.
- Put your completed pledge form, sealed in the provided envelope, in the offering basket as it passes.

Of course, I don't think anyone here at UUMAN thinks that the annual Stewardship Campaign is “the most wonderful time of the year.” No—not even the brave souls who choose to serve on your Stewardship Committee.

The book of Ecclesiastes says “For everything there is a season...a time to plant, a time to pluck up what is planted (3:1-2).” Theologically, maybe we should view our stewardship campaign as our time of planting.

May we plant our seeds well. May we water these seeds as best we can. And may we, and those who follow us, with hearts filled with gratitude, lovingly harvest our planting.

Take care and be well,

Rev. Dave



Come to Dance Church at UUMAN

SWAMP LILY TO OPEN IN UUCA'S UNDERGROUND THEATRE

Dance Church is a spiritual but non-religious event. It is a diverse gathering to honor the body/spirit connection, celebrate life, and build community through dancing in whatever way you are moved and with an openness to the sacred, however defined. Do your yoga, stretch, boogie; lay on the floor, dance in your chair, dance alone, with another, with others; connect with your own spirit and that of whatever may be greater. A circle will begin and end the gathering and a variety of music will be played. Every Body is welcome!

Several members and friends of UUMAN have attended Dance Church in Decatur and talked about getting something started outside the Perimeter. We had our first evenings of dance in January and February. Those who attended agreed that Dance Church is a great way to relieve stress, have fun, connect with others, and find inner joy in these stressful times. Dance Church North is now happening once a month at UUMAN. We hope you can come dance in the Sanctuary on the following Fridays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM:

- March 17
- April 21
- May 19

Opening Circle: 7:00 PM

Dancing until @ 8:00 PM

Quiet time to relax, journal, stretch at 8:00 - 8:15 PM

Closing Circle: 8:15 PM

Come for all or part of the evening.

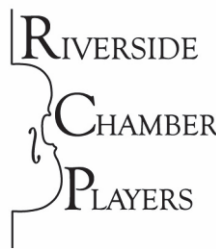
Bring your water bottle and dress for comfort. If you want to lay on the floor to stretch or relax, bring a yoga mat or blanket.

(\$5 suggested donation, but don't let \$ stop you from attending. Children always free.)

Administered by Marjorie Pomper

More Info: marjpomper@gmail.com

play set in the South and directed by UUCA congregant Carol Welter, starting Friday, March 31 in the UUCA Underground Theatre. Written by Georgia playwright Donald Hutto, the play is a simple love story that begins during World War II and continues to the present day. Curtain time for Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1st, performances is 7:30 pm. The Sunday, April 2 matinee begins at 2 pm. Tickets are \$10 and will be available online and at the door. The Underground Theatre is on the lower level of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta, 30329 (alternate address for the parking lot: 1597 Interstate -85 Frontage Road, Atlanta, GA 30329). Refreshments will be available.



Classical Music Concert at UUMAN

The Riverside Chamber Players will be performing at UUMAN on Sunday, March 5 at 3 pm. They will present a world premiere by

Michael Kurth, (RCP Composer in residence) "Some of a Sudden" scored for string quartet, with an introduction by the composer. Also included on the program is French composer Jean Francaix's quartet for english horn, violin, viola and cello. Concert will be followed by a fantastic wine and cheese reception.

\$15 general, \$10, senior (55+), free – students and teachers

- Marc Lee

The UUCA Performing Arts Coordinating Team presents Swamp Lily, a

UUA General Assembly June 21-25 in New Orleans



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is when our association takes care of business.

General Assembly is also a time to worship together. If you have never worshiped together with 4000 other UUs, you don't know what you're missing.

General Assembly is also a time to participate in Public Witness, to take a public stand for the anti-oppression perspectives within which we believe, and to reach into the communities affected. And we'll be doing a lot more of that [than usual, this] year in New Orleans.

General Assembly is also a time to learn about how to do what we do better, whether that's regarding membership, stewardship, worship, social justice, music, or whatever.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Registration begins March 1, including registration for attendance, for the discounted hotel accommodations (the best of which typically book up very fast), and for the hands-on service projects: "Days for Girls", "Clean Jackets", "Red Flame Hunters" and the Ubuntu Village service project. Also, financial aid applications, for adults and youth, can be submitted between March 1 and March 31 (only).

If you are interested in attending GA, please register, but also please enter your UUA GA information on this worksheet: <http://bit.ly/2IbJXi8>. I will be sharing additional details with those who enter their information there, as soon as those details reach me. If you have any questions about GA, about registering for GA, about GA accommodations, or would like to be considered to be one of UUMAN's delegates, please email denominationalaffairs@uuman.org

Important links:

General Assembly main page: <http://www.uua.org/ga>

Lodging Reservations*: <http://www.uua.org/ga/travel>

Financial Aid for General Assembly: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid>

* Feel free to choose whatever lodging arrangements you prefer, but please note that at least some UUMAN members going to GA will be staying at the Hyatt Place.

—Brian Kohn

New Member Corner

Andy and Liz Watson:

Andy was born in Orlando, FL. and raised in a small town called Clermont just outside of Orlando. Andy was raised in the local Lutheran Church and was his high school's mascot as a bagpiper in the Highlander Band but his main instrument was the trombone. Andy also worked summers for Disney and worked at the restaurant in Cinderella's castle for several years during summers and winter breaks through college. He attended and graduated from Florida State University during the mid 1990's and was a member of the "World Renowned Marching Chiefs" and attended two national championship games as a member of that band. He majored in computer science and worked for Fed Ex in Orlando upon graduation before moving to Atlanta in 2003 to work for Cox Communications. Andy currently works for a small company called "Make and Build" and enjoys working on various IT projects where he has free creative reign. In his free time he enjoys cutting up pieces of wood and making random things or going to museums, traveling, or tinkering with electronics.

Liz was born in the San Francisco bay area where she spent her childhood and moved with her family to Alpharetta in 1985 where she attended Haynes Bridge Middle School and the original Milton High School. Liz played soccer and the flute and almost majored in music at UGA but instead studied history. She married her first husband in 1997 who was active duty military and spent 7 years in Ft. Drum, NY near the Canadian border. In New York Liz decided to go back to college and obtained her nursing degree and had her first child Caroline in 2000 (who is now almost 17 years old and looking at colleges herself!) Divorce brought Liz back to Georgia where she met Andy who was by then working in Alpharetta with Cox. Liz has worked as a Registered Nurse and Case Manager for many years at hospitals such as Northside and North Fulton and even for Cigna but now enjoys working for a physician husband and wife team in Crabapple. In her very scarce free time Liz enjoys cooking, spending time with family and friends, and going to museums and traveling.

Andy and Liz married in early 2005 after a brief courtship and have two additional children together, Margaret (Maggie) is 11 and Andrew is 9. They also have two dogs, Ivy and Luigi, and two cats, Mickey and Minnie. UUMAN is the church home where they feel they have found several "kindred spirits" who share in many of their beliefs and values.

Elizabeth Norris & Michael Telford Bio

Elizabeth was born in Ontario, Canada and moved to Marietta, Georgia with her family 24 years ago. She has lived in the Roswell area for the last 12 years and manages Happy Tails Pet Sitting which currently employs 29 people. Her hobbies include reading, history, crafting, and spending time with her husband Michael and a close-knit circle of friends who all regularly get together. Michael was born in New York and moved frequently as a child due to his father's Navy career. His family settled down in Marietta, Georgia 29 years ago and he has lived with Elizabeth in the Roswell area for the last 12 years. He works in the North Point area as a Software Architect with Schneider Electric creating software for industrial customers. His hobbies include reading, gaming and spending time with their group of friends. Michael and Elizabeth originally met at a bookstore and have been friends for 20 years, together for 12 years and married for 6 years. They recently began the application process to become Foster Parents and look forward to bringing children along to UUMAN on Sunday mornings in the future. For the last few years Michael and Elizabeth have been searching for a church that was open minded and would support both Michael and Elizabeth's spiritual interests. Their first visit to UUMAN was in November 2016 and they have been regular attendees ever since. UUMAN was the obvious choice after years of sporadically searching for a church they could be comfortable in. The active inclusivity of UUMAN and the feeling of deliberate community immediately met both Elizabeth & Michael's wishes for what a congregation should be. Elizabeth and Michael look forward to finding their places in the congregation in the coming years, making friends and supporting UUMAN in its good work.

—continued on next page

New Member Corner

Gordon and Sheila Urquhart

Gordon and Sheila Urquhart have been married 18 years after meeting in a Scottish chat room on the internet. Both born in Scotland, the first conversations were about Scottish folk music. Gordon was previously married with 2 sons. He was introduced to Unitarianism by his first wife, who was a Unitarian minister. Gordon has been a UU for 50 years. He introduced Sheila to the Unitarian church and she has been a UU for 19 years but feels she was a Unitarian long before she ever learned about UU. Gordon taught at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa which allowed Sheila to attend and graduate in sociology. Gordon is now retired but Sheila continues to work in social work, providing support to individuals with intellectual delays. At home, Gordon and Sheila rescue senior dogs and they currently have 9 dogs ranging in age from 10 – 17. Gordon and Sheila also have 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 9 – 24. After attending several UU churches, UUMAN was the right fit.

Marcy Manning Matheson

Marcy Manning Matheson is a native of Atlanta. She attended Lakeside High School in DeKalb County and graduated 1984 with a desire to be a non-fiction author and minor in psychology. She met the older brother of a high school friend, left UGA to become engaged after one year of college and followed in grandmother's footsteps of going to cosmetology school. Although she wanted to work on movie sets doing make up, settled down at 20. Marcy was always the black sheep in her Jewish family of 4. Many demands and judgments placed on her including in her young marriage she began at age 23 experimenting with drugs, infidelities and resentments. Marcy became the mother of two beautiful daughters, and at age 31, walked out on her unhappy marriage. Tried remarrying in 2008 but although that marriage lasted 9 years the two only lived together in Memphis for 10 months. Marcy used drugs and disappointed her affluent family for over 25 years.

Always looking for acceptance and spirituality that made sense, being almost too curious about our purpose on this earth, Marcy tried many different faiths but kept God inside her heart as her personal protector. Marcy met Scott Maddox in September of 2016. They continue to grow in their relationship as Scott introduced Marcy to the Unitarian Church and his liberal beliefs. Marcy admits her beliefs are always challenged but has always been open-minded, strong-willed, bull-headed, but as warm-hearted for those she loves and choose to love her. Marcy turns 51 this year. Unfortunately has no relationship with her daughters, but her oldest is her carbon copy.



Sharing the Plate: 50-50

The third Sunday of month UUMAN designates ½ of the undesignated plate collection to a non-profit organization chosen by UUMAN's Social Justice Committee. Last month's recipient, CDA Kids received \$350.00. The organization chosen for March 19th is Every Woman Works.

From their website:

Our Vision—To empower women who are dealing with life challenges by providing them with the tools necessary to achieve financial independence, personal growth, family leadership, and a spiritual foundation through a curriculum of continuous education.

—Michelle Liebergesell



Rev. Cynthia's Final Gift to UUMAN

From the time she was being considered by the Interim Search Committee to her passing Rev. Cynthia loved UUMAN – she wanted to be with us as our Interim and was committed to nurturing us and helping us thrive. After her passing on May 28, 2016, what she gave to our congregation became even more obvious—an organized, thoughtful passage through our transition from lay ministry to the spiritual leadership of Rev. Dave Dunn; an enthusiasm and unifying processes for us to express our deep commitment to social justice, especially Black Lives Matter; and a feeling of stability and being part of a unified community that we had not experienced in a long time. Her final gift to us was naming UUMAN as the beneficiary of \$10,451 from a life insurance policy.

With all that in mind, the Board of Trustees is committed to finding a meaningful way to honor Rev. Cynthia and what she meant and still means to each and every one of us at UUMAN. Believing that having a UUMAN endowment fund, no matter how small, will preserve a small piece of the feeling of stability that we received from Rev. Cynthia and that with time and hard work a UUMAN endowment fund will lead to UUMAN's financial stability in perpetuity, the Board has committed to use at least part of Rev. Cynthia's bequest to set up a UUMAN endowment fund in her name. The size of the beginning endowment fund (\$2500 to \$10,000) and how the rest of the bequest is used will be voted on by the Board after listening to the wishes of the members of congregation.

The Board will soon be seeking your suggestions and ideas after they receive an initial report (due next week) from the newly formed Endowment Committee (a sub-committee of the Finance Committee) as to the viability and advisability of various options. So please, please, watch for UUMAN-Announcements for ways that you can participate.

—Beverly Jordan for the UUMAN Finance Committee

A Page from The Page Turners



The next meeting of The Page Turners – UUMAN's women's book club - will be Sunday, March 12, at 12:00 PM in

Discovery Hall. Bring a sandwich if you like. Or, after the first hour, some of us might want to continue the discussion over lunch at a nearby restaurant. Please RSVP to Carole Herman, at c_herman_2020@bellsouth.net

The March book is Leo Tolstoy's classic and brief novella, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. Here is what The Guardian reviewer said about it recently:

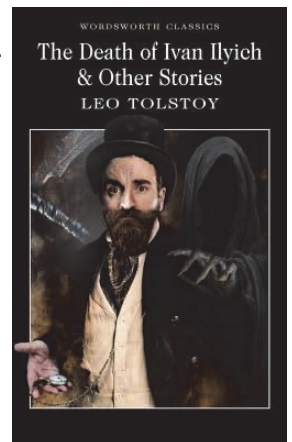
"The Death of Ivan Ilyich is probably his best-known work after *War and Peace* – and with good reason. It is one of the most lacerating works of literature ever written, a hard, pitiless stare into the abyss, not just of death, but of human nature. It is one of those works that's essential: not because reading it means you can tick off a cultural milestone (much in the way that people imagine that one day, perhaps in retirement, they can tick off *War and Peace*), but because without it you're missing part of the picture of what it means to be human, and not just in late 19th-century St Petersburg, but now."

As UU's, the question of what it means to be human is something we all ponder.

April's book will be the 2008 memoir, *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, followed by Chimanda Ngozi Adichie's 2013 novel *Americanah* in May. Please bring your suggestions for more books to read and talk about together over the coming months. We do best-sellers and classics, fiction, history, sociology, biography, and more. Comedy, poetry, drama, and how-to's are also possibilities – it's up to you.

If you enjoy reading and discussing books in a variety of genres, getting to know one another and having fun, this is the group for you. Become a "regular", or just try us out whenever you see that we're sponsoring a book you're interested in. Contact Carole Herman for the details. All women, whether UUMAN members or not, are warmly invited to the Page Turners!

—Carole Herman



FROM THE GARDEN

Dear UUMAN Members and Friends:

We actually have pictures to show you this month. That's rare. Normally, the daffodils are blooming in March and April, not February when these pictures were taken!

Meanwhile, I want to remind you that our UUMAN Gardening Group gets back to work this month, starting on Monday, March 13, with another work day on Monday, March 27 (weather permitting). We try to work on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from March through November. UUMAN announcements are sent out on the Friday before each work day. If you've never worked in the garden before, please consider joining us this year. Hope to see you there!

Claire Sullivan

UUMAN Gardening Group
 cbsullivan@bellsouth.net



The Discovery Hall Camellia



The First Daffodil



A Group of Daffodils



Close up of a Camellia



Narcissus—they just appeared this year



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 Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
3/4	Marty Harvey and Kim Palmer are celebrating 23 years together on this, the first Saturday of March. As Marty said, "We always get to celebrate on a weekend"!
3/6	Fiona K. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/10	Alden Kennedy Corey, Kathie Lyon's grandson, is celebrating a birthday
3/12	Claire C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/16	Liz Garcia is celebrating a birthday
3/18	Maya H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/20	Marc Lee is celebrating a birthday
3/26	Lori Achille is celebrating a birthday Dirk Bender is celebrating a birthday
3/27	Lucas B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/29	Danielle B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/31	Guillermo Kuhl is celebrating a birthday Janet Lacey is celebrating a birthday Stephen S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
3/5	In the Wake of Standing Rock We have learned much from the prayerful actions at Standing Rock. We know the serious injustices visited on the First Peoples of this land by the original colonizing powers and by the current powers-that-be. Do you have a role in reclaiming the integrity of your ancestral lineage and this country?	Donna Melcher, Worship Paula Watson, Worship Associate
3/12	UUMAN and North Fulton Community Charities North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC) offers food, clothing, educational and social service assistance to thousands of local families in need each year. A few members of UUMAN are currently volunteering there on a regular basis. How can we take it to	Rev. Dave Dunn Bruce Langston, Worship Associate
3/19	I Was Here Our Senior Youth, Junior Youth and Coming of Age members will relate some of their most memorable moments of their time at UUMAN, look at the issues they've been involved with. They will show us how UUMAN has left it's mark on them and how they've left their mark on UUMAN.	Youth Group—Annual Service
3/26	Prophetic Sisterhood In the late 19th century, a radical band of pioneering women ministers, defying the Unitarian establishment; founded, nurtured and grew dozens of congregations throughout the Midwest. They are now largely forgotten. How might we hold on to our UU heritage that is often plagued by a conspiracy of forgetfulness?	Rev. Dave Dunn Jim Nickens, Worship Associate

March Connections

Date	Event
2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at peltier.john@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired) on Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate painting@uuman.org
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David at dan@uuman.org
Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly at 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences. For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito campoften@aol.com

For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to www.uuman.org.

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 proceeding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org

March Connections

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge lletheridge1@gmail.com
Every other Sunday afternoon, 12-2:00 p.m.	Spiritual Autobiography Explore the key passages of our lives, in a way that allows us to begin to uncover our true selves, our vital inner core, and the spirit of life that animates us. For more information, contact Dave Hudson: hudsondavid@bellsouth.net