

April 2021

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## Gun Violence In America

Why?

Why do these shootings happen? Is it the easy availability of guns – actually they're not really guns;

more accurately, they're weapons of mass destruction that, like guns, happen to shoot bullets.

When looking for the "why" of the shooting in Boulder, Colorado I came across a reference to the Columbine High School shooting in nearby Littleton, CO.

In April 1999, a pair of student gunmen killed 13 people and wounded 21 others at [the high] school in Littleton, outside Denver. The event plunged the nation into sorrow and set the stage for more mass shootings to come over the next two decades. (Italics mine) (Taylor, Derrick Bryson, NY Times, March 24, 2021).

"Setting the stage!!!???" There's now a stage!!!???  
It's a sickening metaphor...but it's the truth.

It breaks my heart and it enrages me that after 22 years we can't fix this; that after 22 years we cannot get this right!!! The progress we've made in the last 22 years is staggeringly inconsequential. And in the post-shooting political rhetoric, we can plainly see the stars aligning, more like settling comfortably, into the status quo.

A Catholic acquaintance once admitted to me that during the sacrament of penance she sometimes confessed sins to the priest prior to her having committed them.

To me, as someone who is not a Catholic, it's nothing short of absurd. If I were a Catholic, of course it would not be anything I could ever bring myself to do in good conscience. To me, for me, such an act feels thoroughly hypocritical.

Here is something I really struggle with:

I have a very hard time leading vigils, moments of silence, etc. when these shootings happen... especially when I know that they will soon happen yet again due to our staggeringly inconsequential efforts.

I know that as a minister such vigils are not supposed to be for me, that they're not supposed to be about me...and I understand that they're not; yet I can't help feeling contaminated leading them. And although one can successfully argue that when leading a vigil I'm not leading an act of penance, I can't help feeling that I'm leading one. And I feel as if I'm leading an act of penance for some sins prior to them having been committed. To me, for me, such an act feels thoroughly hypocritical.

My sister lives 15 minutes from the site of the Boulder shooting. I was actually in Pittsburgh the morning of the shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018. I had to pull off to the side of the road to allow dozens of emergency vehicles go by on the way to the scene.

My best friend, he and his wife both teachers, live in Littleton. When visiting him, he pointed out the house of a neighbor who'd lost their daughter in the Columbine shooting.

I can't imagine.

May they, and may they all, all 22 years worth, find peace.

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

~ Dave

## Did You Know That UUMAN has a Legacy Giving Program?

# UUMAN

## LEGACY SOCIETY

*TOUCHING HEARTS OF THE FUTURE*



What is a Legacy? According to Alexander Hamilton, it's planting seeds in a garden that you never get to see.

Recently UUMAN's Circle of Women had a guest speaker join them who is an expert in the making or revising of wills and other estate documents. If you or your loved ones are working on or towards your own estate planning, please consider including UUMAN in your plans.

UUMAN has several types of Giving Programs. These include but are not limited to our annual Stewardship Campaign, Special Projects Programs, Live Events Gifting and Legacy Giving Programs.

Gifts given to the first three programs mainly go towards our Operating Fund where the primary goal is to ensure that UUMAN has a sustainable financial future which will enable us to maintain/upgrade our physical campus, pay fair wages to our staff and attain our social justice goals as well.

Gifts given to the Legacy Giving Program however, are designed to build long term financial stability and leave a legacy that builds UUMAN and liberal religion in our community. Over time, this kind of endowment supports the stability of our church in good and difficult financial times. It can also support projects, grants and scholarships approved by the Board of Trustees.

UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund (originally the UUMAN Endowment Fund) was brought to life in 2018 when the Endowment Committee, (Ashok Nagrani, Bev Jordan, Donna Melcher and Colin Decker), recommended that, instead of managing our investments ourselves, the UUMAN Board of Trustees vote for UUMAN to become a member of the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). They manage the endowment funds of many UU entities and congregations. Thus the UUMAN Endowment Fund was born with an initial deposit of \$10,000. The name was changed to the UUMAN Legacy Fund in March of 2018.

Initial contributors to the fund who gave either a Life Events cash gift of \$1000 or more or gave to the fund through their estate documents (bequests) were recognized as charter members of the UUMAN Legacy society and given a place on the plaque that hangs in UUMAN's foyer. (There's a lot of space on the plaque to add your name to the list of Legacy Society members and Arnie Moore has saved a beautiful piece of wood to create a second plaque!)

Contributing to the UUMAN Legacy Fund gives contributors the opportunity to make sure the same support and benefits they received are there for those that follow them. It is also a way to invest in the future as well as leave a personal legacy for future generations that reflects their ideals and values at UUMAN and in the world.

UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund is like a permanent savings account. Only some portion of the annual interest from the Legacy Fund can be used. The principle is not touched except under guidelines established by UUMAN's Board of Trustees. Currently the fund stands at: \$43,166-net income of \$6341.

The UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF) invests in socially responsible mutual funds. The ability to how and where we choose to invest (investment screening) can forcefully proclaim our UU ideals. This screening can exclude investments from portfolios based on social, environmental and governance criteria. This criteria is designed to represent UU values which is expressed in General Assembly and Board Resolutions , UUA Purposes and Principles, etc..

Consider this investment in UUMAN's future an investment in the future of liberal religion as well. We must create a new narrative that imagines a new world for ourselves and our children's children be it justice and racial equality here in America or the broader vision of global peace.

For Giving and more information on this fund go to [uuman.org](http://uuman.org), click **Give**, then **Legacy Giving Program**.

~ Carolyn Lee

# Humans at UUMAN...let's get to know each other even better

## 1. Please introduce yourself (and your family) to everyone at UUMAN.



Hi everyone! I am Canedy Knowles and along with my husband, Ale de Vries, and our daughter, Davis, I moved to Alpharetta in June of 2019 after almost 30 years in New York City.

I came to UUMAN shortly after we unpacked the moving van because I saw the rainbow flag on the sign and it was World Pride in NYC and I wanted to be with the people who loved all people. I cried

the first time I introduced myself and I think I have cried every time I have spoken in a service since. It is what makes me a good actor, but not so good at keeping mascara on my face. Before the pandemic, I was an actor, improviser, director, teacher, writer and political and social activist and my husband was a Senior Project Manager at Reed/Elsevier. Since March, we have continued to be all those things (although Ale also added sole code engineer responsible for creating the program that delivered all coronavirus related articles written in the past and throughout the pandemic out to the CDC, NHI, WHO and open access accounts to make sure everyone had all the information coming out about COVID as fast as possible) and we both have added leaf watchers, bird lovers, terrier trainer (we are terrible at that), homeschool teachers and terrible at knowing the day or month. Once we re-emerge from this time, I am not sure what I will be... other than incredibly grateful for the incredible community of friends and family that have carried us through this moment in history. That includes our incredible UUMAN family. I am so glad I saw that rainbow flag because I found the people who love all people.

## 2. What makes you want to teach this age group? What has it been like during covid? What do you hope they are taking away from your time with them? What do you miss most about being together in person?

I knew I wanted to help with RE when they asked for volunteers, but decided to work with this age group because in September of 2019, our daughter had separation anxiety and wouldn't do anything without me.

The only way to get her to go to class was to be there with her. And I love this age in general. They are so imaginative, thoughtful and funny. I am always surprised and amazed at their wisdom, creativity and availability. With this age group, we get to play and color and sing and pretend and be silly in every class and I love that.

While teaching online is not ideal, we knew how vital it was that we continue our meetings. It's been an interesting challenge and I couldn't have done it without the amazing Carolyn Lee as my partner. Together we have discovered ways to have fun, stay connected, build relationships, tackle big issues and bring meaning to our meetings- and a special thanks to Melinda for countless runs to the Dollar Tree to get supplies and create weekly packages. It also helps that we have a remarkable group of young people who are willing to be present with us and stay engaged. While I did this to bring them some joy on their Sunday mornings during this difficult time, THEY are the ones that bring the joy. I look forward to sharing space with them every week.

I can't wait until we are back in person so we can play and laugh and sing without ever having to say: You're on mute...can you unmute yourself? And to see these friends, some who have never seen each other in person, learn and grow side by side. Plus I can't wait for some serious hugs.

## 3. What are your favorite things to do away from UUMAN? What are you looking the most forward to when we are free again? Is there anything that no one knows about you that you want to share?

We haven't been with UUMAN that long, but a lot of my professional career can be discovered by a quick google search. And while I love "The Business," my soul work is in media and theatre arts for social change. During the pandemic I have leaned heavily into this work and am collaborating on a few programs with some amazing change makers from my past and present including CityKids and UUTV. One of these is an incredible program called "Family Strong" with "Men Stopping Violence." Shelly brought me onto the creative team and I am so grateful that she did. I can't wait until we are free to implement this powerful program in person- and finally meet my collaborators.

And one thing you can't find if you Google me is that I was part of the US Olympic training team for Tae Kwon Do when I was younger. Trained 6 hours a day 6 days a week and competed across the country. I had a fierce spinning hook kick and could break multiple boards. I cannot do any of those things anymore and I am okay with that.

# Humans at UUMAN...let's get to know each other even better

This Humans at UUMAN is a chat with Carolyn Lee and Canedy Knowles who faithfully lead our youngest members every Sunday morning. They create faith & fun for these lucky kids.

## **1. Please introduce yourself (and your family) to everyone at UUMAN.**



My name is Carolyn Lee and along with my husband Marc we have been members since our daughter Riahna turned 1 year old. She just turned 27 last year and is engaged to be married in May of 2022! We also have a son from Marc's previous marriage- Justin- who is turning 40 this year in May. We have two grand-

children-aged 16 and 13. We have a rescue dog named Riley who is 6 years old. We though he was a corgi retriever mix but after DNA testing found out he is mainly Pomeranian with some Chow (and other breeds)! Currently I teach RE, am a Care Circle Coordinator, and I'm also on the Auction, Endowment and Life Gifting Committees. In the last 26 years I have also served on the Finance Committee (including doing UUMAN's books), and ran the Passover Seder.

## **2. What makes you want to teach this age group? What has it been like during covid? What do you hope they are taking away from your time with them? What do you miss most about being together in person?**

My daughter grew up at UUMAN and I started as an RE teacher in her Pre-K class and taught her class until she got into middle school. At that point she wanted me to teach elsewhere so I chose the Pre-K and K classes as I wanted to help introduce the youngest to the UU principles and teachings. I though teaching kids during covid would be challenging but even though we have a wide range of kids- 4-8 years of age- they have been attentive, bright and engaged and the age difference hasn't been an issue for most of the kids. It helps that Canedy Knowles is also teaching with me. She makes the sessions fun with activities they can work on while we discuss and interactive, physical exercise (improv) at the end of each class. The kids love it! Although the sessions are geared around fun and social interaction, we always have a message or theme to discuss as well. The kids learn but have a good time while doing it. In fact, I have learned so much from them as well! I miss the hugs from the kids the most.

## **3. What are your favorite things to do away from UUMAN? What are you looking the most forward to when we are free again? Is there anything that no one knows about you that you want to share?**

Before Covid- I was super busy socially. For example, I was a member of a neighborhood Bunko group and Scrapbooking club and the UUMAN Football "Ministry". I also ushered for 12 years at The Fabulous Fox. However, in the last year, my activities have been all outdoors. We needed something to do so we bought river property with an RV that permanently resides in a nice community in Blairsville. We have enjoyed our weekend getaways hiking, going to the local winery for Sat. afternoon, socially distanced outdoor concerts and hanging by the river and around the fire. My priorities have changed so not sure I will be going back to the clubs and ushering! We are starting to schedule outdoor concerts and dining but look forward to the day when we can do these things indoors again. I am not sure what people don't know about me- but if they do know me they know that I am an "open book"!

# Planting the Future



*Spring has sprung!* Who is ready to help us “Plant the Future at UUMAN”? If you haven’t already been contacted by one of our illustrious facilitators, you soon will be. Meetings are being scheduled in each of the ministry areas in **April and May** to answer the following questions.

1. What are our **strengths and weaknesses**? Has COVID unveiled a weakness that we hadn’t fully appreciated before? Has COVID revealed a strength that we hadn’t fully appreciated before?
2. Given that our vision is working toward **social, economic, and environmental justice**, what does that mean right now? How has it changed because of COVID-19? Who are we called to serve now?
3. How do we foster UUMAN’s **resilience and adaptability**?
4. Imagine what our **first “in-person” gathering** will look/feel like. What are people’s thoughts/hopes/fears about returning? What would be a safe environment for you to come back to? How can we come back together “better”?

*Ministry-specific questions:*

5. What specific changes for this ministry are needed to support our mission/vision better in this “**new normal**”?
6. What do we need to do in this ministry to **stay vital and be sustainable** in a quickly changing world subject to game-changing disruptions? (This is about being proactive rather than reactive.)

Will your voice be heard? That is up to you. If you have missed our voluminous communications and want to be included, please contact Donna Melcher or Elizabeth Rohan. It’s open to everyone.

~ 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-tech@uuman.org](mailto:membership-tech@uuman.org)

Date	Celebration
4/5	Bob P. is celebrating a birthday
	Chris A. is celebrating a birthday
	Jason H. is celebrating a birthday
4/7	Violet F. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/9	Marianne W., Ilona’s mother, is celebrating her birthday
4/10	Ana P. is celebrating a birthday
4/13	Shanti G. is celebrating a birthday
4/16	Dan B-D. is celebrating a birthday
4/17	Pat C. is celebrating a birthday
4/20	Joel S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/21	Ida G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/22	Nora W. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
4/25	Dan B-D. and Carole H. who were married here at UUMAN are celebrating their anniversary of 6 years
4/27	John A. is celebrating a birthday
	Dirk and Anne B. adopted Danielle 18 years ago!

# Fun on UUMAN's campus again!

## Partial re-opening PHASE ORANGE

**Gather 'round to hear the Good News!** As of March 23, based on COVID ActNow measurements for our counties, we are in **Phase ORANGE** of the re-opening of our campus. You can read for yourself all the details in our [Safety Guidelines for Gathering](#).

**Our intention** is to protect the most vulnerable among us and to remain inclusive and aligned with science as we reopen. It is a responsibility that is shared amongst us all and of course there is no risk-free scenario. Here is a summary of the guidelines.

**PHASE RED** – No events on campus. Outdoor volunteers may do grounds work. Bathroom may be used one household or person at a time. If we have a COVID case reported that has spread from a UUMAN event, we will go back to this phase until further notice. All building entries must be logged on the book in the narthex.

**PHASE ORANGE** – Outdoor events with reservations of not more than 10 households. No indoor events. All safety guidelines in effect (masks, physical distancing, disinfecting, etc.).

**PHASE YELLOW** – Outdoor events with reservations (no limit on number of households). Indoor events with reservations of up to 10 households. Duration of indoor events is max 2 hours including event preparations and cleaning afterwards. All safety guidelines in effect.

**PHASE GREEN** – Full reopening for events of any size (subject to FEMA max capacities based on 6 ft. physical distancing). Reservations required for indoor events only. All safety guidelines in effect.

**PHASE RAINBOW**  – Full reopening. All COVID related safety restrictions lifted.

**Our Gathering Safety Guidelines** will be kept current to the CDC recommendations, so the document should be consulted if you have an event you would like to plan. Here are a few key points.

1. **Coordinators** - Each event will have an Event Coordinator and a Safety Coordinator. For small events, these can be the same person. These names must be registered with the office when an event registration is made. Safety Coordinators are responsible to ensure that safety guidelines are followed.

2. **Reservations** – Each event (as per the phase requirements) will be by reservation only. This is for contact tracing and also to allow a fair way to sign up in case of a very popular event.

3. **Food and Drink** – Prepackaged, single serve items may be distributed at events. No coffee service. Eating outside, physically distanced is allowed.

4. **Singing** – No singing is permitted at any indoor event that will last 30 minutes or longer. No communal signing at any event. Outdoors, a singer or wind instrument must be at least 18 feet away from any surrounding people.

5. **Nursery** – Due to limited space, children must be registered for nursery. There is a special section in the document with new nursery procedures that should be reviewed by families. Signin procedures, snack and toy policy have changed. Parents should be aware that 6 foot physical distancing is not possible in our nursery.

6. **Religions Education** - RE is continuing online until further notice due to physical space. Children are encouraged to attend worship services in their household unit when the time comes. RE events (including Adult Enrichment) are subject to all the same guidelines as any other event.

7. **Spot Cleaning and Shared Objects** – Before and after the event, spot disinfecting of highly touched surfaces is required. Substitutes for shared objects is highly recommended, but if objects are shared they should be disinfected between use.

Details of implementation are currently being discussed and further information will be forthcoming. So many things have changed and yet our love for the community and dedication to the work we do has not. Let's be gentle with each other as we come back together and realize each person is making their own decisions about what is safe for them. As per our covenant, assume best intentions!

Special Projects Trustee

Donna Melcher

All in-person Sunday services and any meetings or groups at UUMAN are canceled until further notice. See [this page](#) for more details.

We plan to continue live-streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#).

## April 2021: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
4/4	<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.  EASTER SUNDAY LIVE ZOOM  50/50 Family Promise	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/11	<b>Parables and Portraits</b>  Come experience the wisdom and humor of several stories from the book "Parables and Portraits" by Stephen Mitchell. Come, let us tell you a story.	Rev. Dave Dunn
4/18	<b>Earth Ministry Service</b>	Earth Ministry Team
4/25	<b>Process Theology in Plurality</b>  Process theology reconceptualizes "God" away from being a pre-existent being, personality or entity toward the idea of God as an ongoing creative, evolutionary power or force. Process Naturalism does much the same without the concept of God. In addition, might these offer new perspectives on the nature of reality?	Rev. Dave Dunn

**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)