

# THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

121 North Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 502, Amherst Massachusetts 01004

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## Important Information

**STREET ADDRESS:** 121 North Pleasant St.,  
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**MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA  
01004-0502

**INTERIM MINISTER:**

The Rev. Cynthia Frado  
Office hours: TBA

**CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Judy Mitrolka**

413-253-2848 (office) or [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org)  
No set office hours during the summer months. Call and  
leave a message or email me and I will get back to you.

**INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

**Rebecca Fricke** 413-687-8722 or [rebfricke@gmail.com](mailto:rebfricke@gmail.com)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

President: Joe Flueckiger 413-230-3365  
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## NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor: Janis Gray, 413-259-1584  
Production Editor: John Foster, 413-253-2632  
Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.  
Please sign submissions, so we may reach you if  
we have questions. Submit entries one of two  
ways:

1. Email it to [jsgray@crocker.com](mailto:jsgray@crocker.com).
2. Mail it to 219 Wendell Road, Shutesbury MA  
01072.

Please limit entries to 500 words (100 for the  
“For Your Information” section). Submissions  
may be edited to save space or to maintain a con-  
sistent style. Thank you!

Printed on recycled paper



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## Schedule of Services

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**Sunday, August 7, 10:30 A.M. – *Spoon River Anthology***

**Carol Rothery and Friends**

Selections from Edgar Lee Master's book of reflections from beyond the grave by the residents of a small Mid-western town, circa 1900. Contact Carol Rothery at 413-253-3125 or [carolrothery@comcast.net](mailto:carolrothery@comcast.net) if you would like to be one of the readers.

Lay leader: Betsey Johnson

**Sunday, August 14, 10:30 A.M. – *Summerfallow***

**Mark Koyama**

Alison has retired. The Interim minister has not yet arrived. Late summer Sundays are sparse because lots of folks are away. It's a quiet time in the life of the UUSA. The fields, so recently furrowed by the plough of intellectual and spiritual stimulation, now seem at rest. We are in *summerfallow*. But the fallow field is not an idle field. The earth rests into itself. An unpredictable and nourishing wildness settles in. The rhythms of creation find their way back into our lives. Summerfallow too, is a spiritual time. Lay leader: Mary Herman.

Mark Koyama's last name means "small mountain" in Japanese. The son of a theologian and a pianist, Mark grew up in Thailand, Singapore and New Zealand before coming to the United States at thirteen years of age. Mark studied Buddhism for his BA in Religion from Bates College (1988). His graduate degrees are in Hebrew Bible (MA: Union Theological Seminary 1992), Fiction (MFA: UMass Amherst 2010) and Christian Ministry (M.Div.: Yale Divinity School and the Institute of Sacred Music 2015). Mark, who is currently in the process of seeking his first call to ministry, lives with his wife Cary and their three children, two cats and two dogs in an old farmhouse in Montague, MA.

Lay Leader: Mary Herman

**Sunday, August 21, 10:30 A.M. – *Art in the Service of Christianity***

**Betty Romer**

Betty is a friend of our UU Society. Art in the service of the Church — faith made visible — was an important means by which the Church could unify, instruct, inspire and guide its followers. Betty's visual presentation, "Art in the Service of Christianity," traces (briefly) this art from the third century to the 18th century CE.

Lay Leader: Polly Peterson

**Sunday, August 28, 10:30 A.M. – *Walking Through the Open Door***

**Mary Herman, UUA Affiliate Minister**

Life offers us countless invitations to meaningful relationships, and these invitations are always before us. But while we yearn for people who offer us a genuine welcome, attention, affirmation, and affection, getting to know one another doesn't just happen, it takes intention and risk. To find the meaningful, we have to open ourselves to the possible, to accept the invitation that is awaiting us. Lay leader: Anne Cohen.

Mary, a UUA Affiliate Minister and a member of our UU Society, is a humanist clergy leader with the American Ethical Union, an ethical and religious movement founded in 1876. She served the Washington Ethical Society as its Leader (Minister) for Congregational Life and has been a member of the movement since 1980.

Lay leader: Anne Cohen

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## Dedicated Offerings

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Dedicated Offerings are a way for our UUSA community to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian Universalist principles. One Sunday every month we meet (except June - August), we schedule a Dedicated Offering (DO), allowing that our Society also needs our support on the other Sundays of the month. On occasion, we hold an additional Dedicated Offering during a given month in response to an unanticipated crisis somewhere in the world. Through the amazing and continuing generosity of our congregation members, we raised total of \$9,142.00 in FY 2016 to help 11 different organizations.

Dedicated Offerings are suggested by both individuals and committees of the Society, and the program is managed by the Minister and the Dedicated Offering Committee.

A form for you to suggest a Dedicated Offering recipient is available in the office. Our goal is to cover a wide range of areas of need in our area and the larger world, including these categories: local, regional, national, international, environmental, medical, educational, animal rights, arts/music/culture, and different ages and genders.

*Thank you* for showing your support for the Dedicated Offering program, not only with your contributions to the DO recipients themselves, but also with your contributions to the Society on other Sundays when our budget counts on those receipts. Please remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients. This is a voluntary initiative.

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## Thank You

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The Rev. Alison Wohler's Committee on Ministry is very grateful to all who pitched in to help with the celebration on June 12 of Alison's time with us. Among the gifts Alison received upon retirement from full-time parish ministry was a check for approximately \$9,000, the sum of donations sent to **Bo Mack** and **Fran Plumer** by individuals answering our invitation to contribute to a monetary gift. Your generous response affirms what we already knew: that this congregation is, indeed, a family, working together with so much love spread among us.



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## Religious Education Ministry

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**Adult Programs:** Mindfulness is bringing awareness to what is happening within our minds, bodies and hearts in the present moment. Learning to live more fully in the present, attentive to our inner experience, we are able to respond to life with greater clarity, steadiness of mind, kindness and wisdom. Come and enjoy guided mindfulness practices and time for discussion. No prior experience needed. Two Tuesdays each month, 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. (August 16 and 30), in Classroom A.

### **Child Care During Summer Services**

On August 7, **Jacy Armenti** and **Susan Rice** will lead activities and games available for all ages downstairs. There will not be child care on August 14, 21 or 28. Ask a greeter for a "Busy Bag" to occupy younger children during the service.

**Regular Religious Education for Children and Youth** Resumes September 11. Children of all ages will generally start upstairs for the beginning of the service. Children (infants through pre-K) are able to join the Pre-school teacher beginning at 10:20 A.M. if that is easier.

After the first hymn, someone from the RE Program will stand up and say a few words. This person will light a candle to transfer the chalice flame downstairs to the RE chalice.

The congregation will then "sing out" the children and youth. Youth group (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meets first and third Sundays of the month. Please feel free to come with your child or youth to introduce yourselves. You are welcome to stay downstairs or go back to the service if your child is comfortable.

Parents are asked to pick their children up from downstairs after the service and return upstairs to enjoy an Intergenerational Social Hour. There will be supervised free time for children until 11:45 A.M. if parents would like to greet others during social hour before picking up their children.

## Our weekly Wednesday Breakfast is two years old!

Wow. In cooperation with Craig's Doors, UUSA has been hosting the Wednesday Community Breakfast since July 2014. During the summer about 100 guests arrive and are greeted by **Vicki Hinson-Smith**. Volunteers come starting at 6:00 A.M. to cut up the potatoes, then set up the coffee and food table and get cracking the eggs. Can you volunteer for a few hours on a Wednesday? The community who appreciates this hearty meal will thank you. Join Glen, Sophie, Clare, Grace, Jade, Liz, Elizabeth, Chas, Polly, Darcy, Mary, Rick and others. Sign up online <http://signup.com/go/83M6sv> or email [glenbertrand@gmail.com](mailto:glenbertrand@gmail.com) and join us.

## Social Events

**The Women's Lunch Group** meets every other Thursday at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Our next gathering is August 4 at Bistro 63 at the Monkey Bar and Grill (63 North Pleasant Street, Amherst). We welcome every woman, whether she is new to our Society or a longer-time member or friend. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you have questions or want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Sophie Rogers** at 413-835-0644 or [sophiesailing@gmail.com](mailto:sophiesailing@gmail.com).

**The Men's Breakfast Group** is now meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant (314 College Street, Amherst). Contact **Michael Sussman** at [msussma@music.umass.edu](mailto:msussma@music.umass.edu) for details.

## Check Out Our New Website!

On August 1, the newly formed Digital Outreach Committee (DOC) will launch an exciting new website for our UU Society. You'll find it at <http://www.uusocietyamherst.org/>. The website is based on a [Word Press theme developed by the UUA](#) and has been customized for our Society's particular information and needs. This website is mobile friendly and will work well on your mobile phones and tablets as well as your desktops and laptop computers. The website is packed with information that is important to you and new visitors as well. You will see colorful photos as well as information on upcoming Sunday services and events.



DIRECTIONS SEARCH GIVE CONTACT

A screenshot of the UU Society of Amherst website. The header includes a navigation menu with links for Home, About, News, Worship, Learning, Action, and Connection. The main content area features a large photo of a group of people holding a banner that reads "UU SOCIETY of AMHERST DIVESTS of FOSSIL FUELS". To the right of the photo is a yellow box for an "Upcoming Service" titled "Polly Peterson: The Power of Poetry" on July 24 at 10:30 am. Below this are three buttons: "FIRST TIME VISITOR?", "UPCOMING SERVICES", and "SERVICE ARCHIVE". At the bottom left, there is a photo of a building and a blue button that says "Change Equals Opportunity". At the bottom right, there is a section titled "Summer Worship Information" with text about Sunday services in June, July, and August.

The committee is comprised of **Karen Fisk, Rebecca Fricke, Janis Gray, Bo Mack** and **Steve Rice**. Janis and Steve are currently co-chairs and Bo Mack is the webmaster. The committee would be happy to receive your comments about the website and especially any corrections that might be needed. In addition to developing and maintaining our new website, the DOC will be responsible for other social media.

**Facebook Reminder** UUSA continues to build its presence on Facebook. We currently have 222 “friends.” If you have not already done so and you are a Facebook follower, please visit our page (<https://www.facebook.com/UUSocietyAmherst/>), or search Facebook for “Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst (UUSA),” and “like” it. More important, as you see UUSA posts that appear every day, PLEASE like, comment or share them. The more activity we have on our page, the more traffic to our site is generated among a broader circle. This is one more way to reach the broader community and attract them to our Society. We are heartened to hear more frequently that people have learned about us on Facebook, so we know it works. Thank you.

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## Our Caring Ministries



**Pastoral Care During August** With the summer months upon us, life still “happens” even during these lazy hazy days of barbecues, baseball, and watching the grass grow. With this in mind, I want to encourage you to contact members of the Pastoral Care Team if you have a crisis with which you need some support during July and August. While I will officially become your interim minister as of July 1st, I will be out of the country for three weeks this summer, and then I will be attending a week-long program for interim ministry in Minneapolis later in August. It gives me great comfort to know that you have a qualified and attentive Pastoral Care Team to serve you while I am away (and beyond). I will be kept “in the loop” in the event of any serious event.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer hiatus. I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

With gratitude and joyful expectation,

Cindy

**Our Caring Circle** meets monthly to review the needs of our UUSA friends. Want to learn more about what the Caring Circle does? Find our informational table at Social Hour and sign up to be a volunteer driver, etc. **Susan Rice** and **Margaret Manson** are covering as coordinators for the Caring Circle. If you are unable to get in touch with your Caring Circle person for contact, rides, food, and simple needs, please call Susan or Margaret for assistance.

Warmly, **Clare Bertrand, Linda Callahan, Carolyn Cave, Sue Kelly, Karen Mack, Margaret Manson, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman and Gordon Wyse.**

**Call someone on our Pastoral Care Team**, which also meets monthly, for more complex or personal needs: **The Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide, Bo Mack, Jessica Murphy, Fran Plumer, Pete Rogers, Michael Sussman, Libby Walton-Stanforth or Mary Wyse.** For all who are traveling on life’s journey, through the good times full of grace, or through the rocky valleys we experience along the way, know that you never need to walk on your path alone.

A blessed summer to each and all.

E. Alcaide, for the Pastoral Care Team

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## Social Action



The Social Action Committee of the UUSA announces its next meeting: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at Gabriella Horvay’s home, 109 Potwine Lane, South Amherst. Join **Maria Lydia Spinelli, Marybeth Seminario, Susan Kelsey, Kenton Tharp** and **Gabriella Horvay** for a discussion of our plans for next year. All are welcome.

For further information please contact **María Lydia Spinelli** (708-567-1759) [spinelliml@gmail.com](mailto:spinelliml@gmail.com).

Agenda:

1. Check in
2. Approve minutes of 5-22
3. Summer activities if any. e.g., Hospitality for Habitat for Humanity in Amherst – If interested, contact Maria Lydia (708-567-1759).
4. Update on Refugees in Western MA.
  - a. Support group Pioneer Valley activities
  - b. Updates in regard to Governor's position in reference to flow of refugees into our area.
5. Update on Group Stand up for Racial Justice (Anne Perkins)
6. What we would like to accomplish in the next year. Use Mass Action as reference.

End Mass Incarceration  
Refugees and Immigrants  
Racial Justice  
OTHER

7. What can we do now... Election issues.  
Study groups, getting speakers/announcing interesting talks,  
Letter drives, monitoring legislation

8. Other business

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## Fundraising



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### SEEKING ARTS AND CRAFT VENDORS

Stone Soup Bazaar - Saturday, December 3

Planning is under way for this winter's Stone Soup Bazaar & Cafe. We are halfway towards our goal of 30 vendors. If you are an artist or crafter or know someone who is, please consider joining us and definitely help spread the word. For more information and a vendor application, contact **Sandy Sladen** at [sandysladen@gmail.com](mailto:sandysladen@gmail.com)

Meanwhile, here is the palette of colors for our next quilt for Stone Soup Bazaar!



Last year a group of us – including many who had *never* done anything like it before – made a gorgeous quilt together to offer as a raffle prize at our Stone Soup Bazaar & Cafe. Now we're gearing up to do it again. Even if you don't sew, or even know how to sew, consider joining us this year. We had a lot of fun, made new friends and – oh, yes! – raised a lot of money for our UU Society in ticket sales.

Or, you can help us gather fabric! Print out the photo above in color, or pick up a copy on the literature table in our foyer. Keep it with you! You will be looking for 100% cotton prints that fall into these four colors. Have the shopkeeper cut you a quarter of a yard – or even look through bins or racks of “fat quarters” to see if you can come close to matching. Go ahead and play at “JoAnn Fabrics” in Hadley, “Quilts and Treasures” in Longmeadow, “A Notion to Quilt” in Shelburne, and in August a new shop opens in Hatfield called “The Yellow Quilt.” Organizer **Rachel Peterson** hopes to have the bulk of fabrics collected before September 10. She will come to you to pick them up or you can meet at the meetinghouse. Contact her at [rqpeterston@gmail.com](mailto:rqpeterston@gmail.com) or 413-549-4959.

If you'd like to join a UU Quilting Bee in the Willie Eaton Social Hall, here are the dates we plan to meet. Come to just one for an hour or two, or come to them all!

Saturday, August 27 from 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 10 from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

### A Family Reunion for Our Organ

Our historic Steere & Turner organ, built in 1886, was donated to us in 1925 after William Penn Brooks, a long-time member of Unity Church (now Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst), purchased it from Massachusetts Agricultural College (now UMass). Brooks served as President of our Board of Trustees from 1918-1924. In 1924, upon the death of his wife Eva Bancroft Brooks, he stepped down from that position. At his request, the organ was dedicated to his wife for “her life of devotion to the church.” The plaque commemorating this event is still attached to the wall next to our organ today – near photos of William and Eva in their time.

This July 21, Cynthia Redman – a great-grandchild of William and Eva Bancroft Brooks – led a group of cousins from many states to our meetinghouse to see the organ and the town and church where their ancestors played prominent roles. **Judy Mitrolka** and **Janis Gray** met them at the door; in the sanctuary, **Jay Stryker** was waiting to talk about the organ, demonstrate its mysterious workings behind the scenes in the “organ room,” and play a variety of songs from the late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Cynthia later wrote from her home in Connecticut, “It was a real treat for all of us to hear it, especially ‘America the Beautiful!’ Thank you all so much for the lovely visit and mini-concert! It proved to be a delightful day.”

