

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

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Important Information

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INTERIM MINISTER:

The Rev. Cynthia Frado

413-253-2848 (office) or 508-320-5771 (cell) or
therevfrado@aol.com Contact her for an appointment.

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Judy Mitrolka

413-253-2848 (office) or office@uusocietyamherst.org
No regular office hours during the summer. Please call or
email Judy, leave a message, and she will get back to you.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Rebecca Fricke 413-687-8722 or rebfricke@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Brenda Miller

413-253-7855 or bmmiller.music@gmail.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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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.
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



Schedule of Services

Sunday, June 4, 10:30 A.M. – *Transitions of Love*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

This is a tender morning of transitions. Before the service, at **10:00 A.M. in the Social Hall**, we will have a congregational vote to bestow the honorary title of Minister Emerita on the Rev. Alison Wohler. During the service itself, we will also honor our graduating seniors with a Bridging Ceremony. The service will be followed by a brief but lovely social time, followed by our important Annual Meeting. A very busy morning and afternoon at UUSA!

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 A.M. – *Flower Communion Sunday*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado officiating

As we put closure to the 2016-2017 formal church year, we will celebrate our new members and volunteers, dedicate **Clara Herman**, and share in the beautiful tradition of a flower communion. (Bring a flower from your garden if you can.) A great day to be together before our summer break. Be sure to join us for summer services when you are not traveling!

Please also see the notice below about an interfaith service in Northampton at 2:00 P.M. this afternoon that is co-sponsored by our UU Society.

Sunday, June 18, 10:30 A.M. – *James Luther Adams' Five Smooth Stones of Religious Liberalism*

Rebecca Fricke and Karen Fisk

Adams, an influential liberal UU theologian, developed the idea that religious belief was not simply a personal attitude or guide for behavior. Theologians have since distilled Adams's studious call for action into what we call the Five Smooth Stones. Congregations use the stone concepts in sermons, lifespan education and in talking about their faith in action work.

Betsey Johnson, Lay Leader

Sunday, June 25, 10:00—11:30 A.M. – *Congregational Pancake Breakfast*

Peter Lacey will again lead a crew of men from our UU Society in preparing and serving a delicious breakfast to the congregation. Let's celebrate this Sunday by breaking "bread" with each other. The fellowship of a meal together will serve as our worship.

In lieu of a collection, we do welcome and encourage donations to the UUSA to support the cost of the meal.

Most sermons and readings are posted on our website, www.uusocietyamherst.org. Click on the "SERMON ARCHIVE" button on the right side of the home page, and then on the title of the sermon you wish to read.

INTERFAITH SERVICE

Prayers for the Planet — Reverence and Resistance

Our UU Society and the Green Sanctuary Committee are co-sponsoring this festive, spirited, interfaith outdoor service to lift up our love for Earth and our resolve to protect it. This event will be held under a tent (rain or shine) on Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 P.M. at Congregation B'Nai Israel, 253 Prospect Street, Northampton. Free, family-friendly, and open to all. Free childcare, children welcome, sign language interpretation provided.

Climate change threatens everything we love. The world's great religions are united in their call to humanity to honor the sacredness of Earth and to create communities in which human beings and all of life can flourish. Gather outdoors with friends, neighbors, and faith leaders from a wide range of traditions as we join in prayer, song, and silence. We will listen to stirring messages from two nationally known climate activists, and together we will renew our energy, determination, and hope!

Speakers include the Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Minister for Ecological Justice at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Boston; and Jay O'Hara, Quaker and co-founder of the Climate Disobedience Center.

A variety of local artists will lead music.

For more information, visit www.prayersfortheplanet.org.

Musings from the Interim Minister's Inkwell

Winding Down, Gearing Up, and Breathing In Between

It is very hard to believe that we have nearly completed a formal church year cycle. Even as I write this, there is still an enormous amount to accomplish before I get on an airplane in mid-June for Ministry Days in New Orleans. The work and aspirations of congregational life, business, and ministry do not fully recognize the lines of demarcation between the 42 weeks of full-time intensity and the 10 weeks of rest and renewal that we embrace. People still have crises, bills still need to get paid, and preparations for the fall still need to happen. We just do it with sunscreen, t-shirts, shorts, and tall glasses of lemonade.

To point, the newly established Search Committee that will be voted upon on June 4th will be hard at work this summer, getting their instructions, beginning to gather necessary information, dividing up tasks, and team building. While the staff will go into summer mode, basic and necessary needs will be tended and pastoral emergencies will be addressed. There will be a Board retreat in August as well as a Pastoral Care Team “refresher” training. Other committees will have some informal meetings to begin working on next year’s agenda. A new RE Team Ministry will be looking toward yet another wonderful year of opportunities for our children. And in between it all, we will be breathing the *breath of renewal* that summertime affords.

Ice cream, canoeing, barbecues, good books, outdoor concerts, family time, new adventures are all the hallmarks of our down time. There will be summer services with a variety of guest speakers, pancake breakfasts, and other opportunities to stay connected with the UUSA community. This time of year gives us permission to move beyond the boundaries of our everyday routines and embrace new experiences, large and small, as we prepare for a very busy and exciting year to come.

I am very grateful for the support that I have received this past year, helping me to become acclimated to the community. UUSA is blessed to have a very competent and dedicated staff, and volunteers work equally hard to make this a welcoming, loving, and inspired congregation. It is my privilege to serve as your interim minister, and I am looking forward to our last year together and all that we will do to bring our UU principles into the world.

In faith and peace,

Rev. Cindy

Dedicated Offerings

Dedicated Offerings provide a way for our Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst community to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles.

On one Sunday every month (except for June, July, and August) we schedule a Dedicated Offering (DO), recognizing that our Society needs our support on the other Sundays of the month. 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.

On May 21, our final Dedicated Offering in this fiscal year, we collected \$648.20 for **Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture**.

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 in 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. Remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients – this is a voluntary initiative.

June 4, 2017

- 10:00 A.M. Special Congregational Meeting in the Willie Eaton Social Hall to vote on awarding the honorary title of **Minister Emerita** to the Rev. Alison Wohler
- 10:30 A.M. Sunday Service
- 11:30 A.M. Annual Congregational Meeting in the Willie Eaton Social Hall (more information may be found on page 7 of this newsletter).

Membership

Three more individuals have added their names to our 98-year-old Membership Book! They are **Rosemary Cowell** and **David Huber** of Amherst, and **Lynne Latham** of Hadley.

We will recognize all who joined our UU Society this year in a ceremony during the service on June 11.

New email address Anne Louise White may now be reached at annieluigie@gmail.com.

Hello from afar Azure Forte writes that she recently moved to the Seattle area. She is now at 14223 NE 187th Ct., Woodinville, WA 98072, 413-768-9120; email is still azforte@gmail.com. "I had wanted to visit the church before my departure to say goodbye and thank you. The tasks involved for the relocation simply overwhelmed my life. I offer a heartfelt thank you to Amherst Unitarian Society. It was wonderful to be included. Warmest regards, Azure Forte."

Finance Committee

Greetings from your Finance Committee! As we approach the end of the year, we wanted to give you a snapshot of where things stand in terms of the Society's finances. These numbers are through the end of March, so they reflect a full three-quarters of the fiscal year.

You may recall that earlier in the year, pledge receipts were coming in at a record pace. That pace has slowed somewhat, but we are still on track to meet anticipated revenues from pledges. Keep up the good work!

Rentals continue to produce revenue at about expected levels. Long-term rentals are exceeding the budget slightly; short-term rentals are just below expected levels.

Saving the best good news for last: Our endowment and other invested funds have performed well in recent months. (As one example: The General Endowment has increased in value by \$12,206.33 in the first months of 2017.) In general, these increases do not directly affect our budget: We do receive income from our endowment, but we do so at a set rate that is independent of its performance. Still, it is good news to see our various funds growing in size even as they help fund the work of this Society.

One significant financial concern is the ongoing incidence of unexpected repairs to various parts of the building. As a result of these repairs, we have already exceeded our annual budget by \$4,800.

It is this unexpected expense that explains why, over the first eight months of this fiscal year, we have realized a net operating loss of \$3,525.56.

While the nature of unexpected repairs is . . . unexpected, the Finance Committee and the Board will be looking at possible ways to minimize the impact to our budget. For example, the elevator is a key driver of repair expense, so we hope to be discussing possible ways to at least make predictable the higher costs we've been experiencing (e.g. with a different kind of service plan).

We hope this information is useful to you. But we do want to stress that your continued generosity is essential to our financial health and well-being.

Thanks for the support!

Fundraising



The Talents & Treasures Auction on May 6 was a big success. We have not yet paid for expenses, but it is probably safe to say that we made \$9,000 or maybe even a little more. LOTS of people helped. They brought food and drinks, helped set up and clean up for auction, solicited items from local businesses, and offered items and services of their own. Many people came and bid on items in the Silent and Live Auctions, and lots of folks

went home with treasures they had won. We had a great committee, ably led by **Carol Johnson**, and an amazing system for organizing the catalog and tracking the winning bids, thanks to **Carolyn Cave**. We hope everyone who offered a service item, or was lucky enough to win something, enjoys the many connections we will be making with each other as winners redeem their prizes. Thanks to everyone!

Committee members: Carolyn Cave, Susan Rice, Mary Herman, Louise Grosslein, Fran Plumer, Rachel Peterson, Carol Johnson (Chair)



Religious Education Ministry

Wrapping Up the RE Year Thanks to all of the RE volunteers for their dedication to the program – your faith and service are what keep our programs running. I would also like to thank all of the parents for bringing their children to us and teaching them to live our UU principles. We have incredibly thoughtful and caring children and I am so grateful to them for sharing their time with me. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the UUSA for their generous pledge support. Your pledges enable our RE program to buy everything from glue to books to teacher and parent resources and staff trainings.

Have a wonderful summer and please remember that we will have childcare during summer services. See below for more information.

Thank YoUU,
Rebecca Fricke

RE Child Care Available During Summer Services **Jacy Armenti** will be providing child care during the hours of service on the following dates: 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3. There will be activities and games available for all ages, including structured investigations and questions to solve every week. Every child will have their voice heard, be part of the community and have fun! If there is no childcare, fidget toys and art supplies are available for children to use during the service.

Mindfulness Group UUSA member **Jessica Murphy** offers mindfulness classes to our UUSA congregation. This month the dates and times are Tuesday, June 6 and Tuesday, June 20, 7:00-8:00 P.M. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jess at 413-575-1963 or jessica.mindfulness@gmail.com for details.

Small Group Ministry

This past year we tried to start an Intergenerational Small Group. The logistics got in the way, but there was much enthusiasm for the idea. So we are trying again! **Anne Louise White** will facilitate the group, which will meet at the Meetinghouse on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M., starting on October 5. Mark your calendars, and please let us know if you are interested by contacting Anne Louise at annieluigie@gmail.com

We also have a number of openings in existing groups. Please contact either Anne Louise White (annieluigie@gmail.com) or **Mary Wyse** (mshwyse2@gmail.com) about these.

Meetinghouse



UUSA Gardening News Can you contribute one hour this summer to support our UUSA gardens?

We need members to water our garden beds once a week if we don't receive 1 inch of rain. We are looking for volunteers for the weeks of June 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 13, 20, 27, and September 10. Please contact **Sue Kelsey** at 413-536-2676 or smkelsey53@gmail.com if you are interested.

Our Caring Ministries



Our Minister, Caring Circle, and Pastoral Care Team are all available to help during difficult times.

Caring Circle coordinators are **Carolyn Cave** and **Clare Bertrand**. Please contact one of them or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Caring Circle members are **Clare Bertrand, Linda Callahan, Carolyn Cave, Sue Kelly, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman** and **Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team co-coordinators are **Pete Rogers** and **Mary Wyse**. Other members are **The Reverend Elizabeth Alcaide, Charlie Atwood, The Reverend Cindy Frado, Bo Mack, Fran Plumer, and Libby Stanforth**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

We send warm thoughts of caring and support to all those who are ill, bereaved, or struggling in some way, and in particular to **Bob Johnston, Millis Mershon and Ed Tick.**

Social Events

The Women's Lunch Group meets every other Thursday at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. The next luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday, June 1 at 12:00 Noon at Cushman Market & Café** (491 Pine Street, North Amherst). We welcome every woman, whether new to our Society or a longer-time member or friend. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you have questions, need help finding a ride, or want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Sophie Rogers** at 413-772-9814 or sophiesailing@gmail.com.

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

Congregational Pancake Breakfasts On the last Sunday of June and July, some of the men of our UU Society gather in the kitchen to prepare a congregational breakfast. Breakfast is served in the Willie Eaton Social Hall from 10:00 -11:30 A.M. A small donation is requested at the door.

Social Action

Just One Thing On Sunday, June 11, the last collection of **Just One Thing** of the church year will occur. Let's make this a HUGE offering. Canned goods containing MEAT are needed. Examples: chili with meat, meat stew, corned beef hash. Also needed is DRY CAT food. Pets brighten many lives. Help people provide nutritional food for them. THANK you for your ongoing support of our neighbors in need. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894.

Not Bread Alone On Saturday, April 29, four UUs and one friend helped at Not Bread Alone. As usual, volunteers prepared innovative dishes from ingredients at hand. In addition to a very colorful tossed salad, rice, beef vegetable soup, curried lentil soup, baked ham, and two egg dishes were served. Cherry pie and a delicious homemade chocolate cake rounded out the meal. As we were surrounded by almost 15 UMass students, we were not needed for the entire time. **Mary Beth Seminario** organized the donated produce from Whole Foods for distribution to the guests after lunch, **Kim Salditt-Poulin**, who regularly helps at NBA, helped prepare the meal and **Carolyn Holstein, Maria Lydia Spinelli** and a friend of hers named **Barbara** helped with clean-up. We will be needed again on July 29. And as most students will have left for the summer, many more UUs will be required. If you can help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**. mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894. Thank you for all of your support in feeding needy people in our community.

Wednesday Community Breakfast

Help is always appreciated at our Wednesday morning Community Breakfast! Volunteers are needed each Wednesday at our Community Breakfast co-hosted with Craig's Doors and held in our UUSA Social Hall. We need about eight or more volunteers every week for slots running from 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Sign up online at <http://signup.com/go/83M6sv> or email **Clare Bertrand** at clarebertrand@gmail.com and join us. Thank you!

Green Sanctuary

We will have our 2nd Sunday Action Table on June 11. We will have a petition people can sign to support the 12-point MA Climate Emergency Plan, which has been drawn up by CAN (Climate Action Now). There is a hearing in Springfield on June 12, and we hope people will attend, if possible.

Ion Corner

This past spring ION (Interfaith Opportunity Network) held monthly meetings at First Congregational Church (April) and Friends Meetinghouse (May). Our June meeting will be at The Marion Center in Holyoke where we will watch and discuss the movie "Three Faiths, One God — Judaism, Christianity and Islam." On June 4, ION members are invited to the Pentecost service at First Congregational Church in Amherst.

We presently have representatives from 15 different places of worship. In April we discussed increasing our membership and decided to contact other churches/religions, including Catholic, Ecuadorian, Korean and Baha'i. In April our Muslim member told us that Ramadan begins for a month on May 27. She explained that during that month Muslims spend more time fasting, reading the Koran, praying (including late night prayers),

doing charitable work in addition to their daily employment. They also complete the reading of the Koran and spend the final 10 days of Ramadan in retreat.

In May, people talked about what their synagogue or church had discussed concerning helping with sanctuary for immigrants. We will not meet in July and August and will reconvene in September.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 4, 2017

11:30 A.M. at the UUSA Meetinghouse

1. Vote to approve the minutes of the Special Congregational Meetings, held on March 12, 2017.
2. Vote to approve a slate of nominees to the Ministerial Search Committee. (See below) Nominees will also be accepted from the floor.
3. Vote to approve a slate of nominees to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst Board of Trustees. (See below)
4. Vote to approve a slate of nominees to the Leadership Development Committee. (See below)
5. Vote to approve the Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Ministerial Search Committee Slate

Carolyn Cave, Jenn Chylack, Karen Fisk, Janis Gray, Mary Herman, Carolyn Holstein, Carol Johnson, Anne Perkins, Steve Rice, Richard Roznoy, Chas Stevenson

Board of Trustees Slate

Karen Fisk – VP, Lynne Latham, Clerk, Fran Plumer – at large, Emily Shankle – at large, Sonya Teter – at large, Darcy Dumont – at large

Leadership Development Committee Slate

Steve Rice, Tom Fricke, Joe Flueckiger

Childcare will be available during the meeting. Please plan to attend.

Proxy Ballots. Members unable to attend any congregational meeting may vote by proxy. The member must notify the Clerk, in writing or by e-mail, of his/her intention to vote by proxy, naming the individual who will hold the proxy vote and requesting the proxy assignment form for the meeting. Such notice must be given at least three days prior to the date of the meeting. The individual named as proxy must be a member of the UUSA and must be present at the meeting. The proxy-holder should notify the Clerk of his or her intent to act as a proxy by submitting the signed proxy assignment form to the clerk prior to the start of the meeting. Proxy votes do not count toward a quorum as defined in Article VII D.