

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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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.

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NEWSLETTER

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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, August 6, 10:30 A.M. – *In the Nick of Time: Henry Thoreau at 200*

Polly Peterson

Polly Peterson, a writer on UU history and a member of our UU Society, will be our speaker this morning.

Sunday, August 13, 10:30 A.M. – *25 Years of Support to the Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Rob Fuderich

Rob Fuderich, a participant in our UU Society, will speak on how the United Nations Convention guided his work with UNICEF in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bosnia, the newly independent nations of the former Soviet Union, South Sudan, Kosovo, Jamaica, and Uzbekistan, and how the CRC, the most ratified human rights treaty in history, is relevant to the principles of UU. **Mary Herman**, Lay Leader

Sunday, August 20, 10:30 A.M. – *What is Synchronicity?*

Casey Attebery

Casey Attebery, a participant in our UU Society and a member of our choir, invites us to come discover the role synchronicity plays in music and life, as well as its benefit in the realm of therapeutic sound. **Steve Rice**, Lay Leader

Sunday, August 27, 10:30 A.M. – *“I and this Mystery, Here we Stand” — My scary-serendipitous adventure with a brain tumor*

The Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide

Elizabeth Alcaide, our member and a retired UU parish minister, will share with us a shaky, vulnerable time in her life, surely similar to ones many of us experience sooner or later.

In keeping with our ongoing discussion of [Being Mortal](#) by Atul Gawande, please join us after the service for a sharing circle on this subject of personal vulnerability.

Sunday, September 3, 10:30 A.M. – *What Endures*

Mary Herman

Mary Herman, a member of our UU Society and a UUA Affiliate Minister, will be our speaker at the last of our summer services before our regular congregational year resumes.

Many 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.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Search is On! Your Search Committee is already hard at work in the search for a new settled minister who will be the best match for the UUSA. During our kick-off, day-long retreat (facilitated by our Ministerial Transitions Coach, Debby Bergh), we discussed our next steps, deepened our understanding of the entire search process, and chose our primary roles. It was a productive meeting and really helped us get to know one another better and begin on the right foot. We are excited and honored to take on this important work on your behalf.

The Search Committee members and their corresponding roles are listed here: Committee Chair, **Carolyn Cave**; Congregational Record, **Jenn Chylack** and **Mary Herman**; Hospitality, **Lisa Cyr**; Communications, **Lisa Cyr** and **Mary Herman**; Congregational Input, **Steve Rice** and **Anne Perkins**; Treasurer, **Anne Perkins**; Negotiation Team Member, **Steve Rice**.

Over the next few months, we will need lots of help and involvement from the entire congregation, so please look out for communications from us. Key for us is determining who our congregation is, who we want to be, and what kind of minister can help us fulfill those aspirations. There will be two main ways we will gather that information. First, beginning in late August, we will be sending out an online survey to members and friends (or paper for those who don't use email) which will need your careful attention. Then in early October, we'll hold small cottage meetings, which are like focus groups. Look for a letter in your mailbox in late August which will provide a step-by-step explanation of the entire process and your important role in our work.

We've been asked about the confidential nature of the Search Committee's work. We want to make our process as transparent as possible. Down the line, however, aspects of our work with potential ministerial candidates will be confidential. At any point in the process, please do feel free to ask us your questions and we'll provide answers to the best of our ability.

Thank you for electing us and entrusting us to carry out this very important work!

Carolyn Cave, Jennifer Chylack, Lisa Cyr, Mary Herman, Anne Perkins, Steve Rice

UUSA Safety Policies – Effective Sept 1, 2017

At a meeting in June, the Board of Trustees adopted some important new policies to help provide a safe and enjoyable environment in our building. The policies described below apply to ALL RENTERS AND OTHER USERS OF OUR BUILDING, *including members of the UUSA and their guests*, and are effective September 1, 2017.

June 28, 2017

This letter is to advise of changes in policies regarding use of spaces in the UUSA meetinghouse, to help provide a safe and enjoyable environment in our building.

At least two adults must be present in the same room whenever a child or children are present.

Each renter or other user of UUSA space is responsible for seeing that the person or persons admitted by the user are there to attend the user's program or event. This means, among other things, that:

- 1) The user is responsible for monitoring persons entering to assure they are there to attend the program or event and go only into the areas of the building being used in connection with the user's program or event;
and
- 2) If the user is not able to monitor persons entering the building once the program or event begins, then the user must lock the exterior doors. (Users may share their cell phone number or post the number on the door to facilitate late entry.)

These policies apply to renters and all other users of spaces at our meetinghouse and are effective September 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Joseph Flueckiger
President, Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst

Music Notes

Report from the Music Director's Piano Bench I hope you are all enjoying your summer. I certainly am! Lots of physical activity, practicing the piano, going to concerts, and a bit of travel here and there are keeping me in a happy summer mood most of the time! Great that the rain has calmed down a bit.

Looking ahead to the fall, I am excited to be back in September to continue serving as your Music Director.

As we begin our 2017-18 season, we will begin rehearsing on the morning of our Water Communion, September 10. I always have my ears open for music we can use in our services!

I look forward to another year of choosing and presenting relevant and moving music for our services and working in partnership with our wonderful choir and our gifted interim leader, **Cindy Frado**. Please join us in the choir as often as you can. We do have a lot of fun!

Rehearsals will remain the same this year. Sunday mornings 8:45-10:00 A.M.

Brenda Miller

Save the Date and Save Your Stuff

for this year's

Fantastic

Fall Tag Sale

Saturday, September 30, 9am-3pm

At the Meetinghouse

The UUSA Fantastic Fall Tag Sale is set for September 30, 2017.

But it won't happen without YOUR HELP!

We need to fill this multi-table tag sale with great items, including collectables, art objects, household items, small appliances, toys/games, office supplies, holiday items, small furniture, books and more. In an attempt to duplicate the success of our previous tag sale events, for this year's **Fantastic Fall Tag Sale** we are inviting each of our UU Society's committees to organize collections and staff a table. We hope groups of people or individuals will also consider organizing and staffing tables. To accommodate members who just want to drop off items during the collections days, we are looking for volunteers to staff tables with those donations. So start saving what you can to donate to the sale. **For now, if you don't want or need it, UUSA does!**



Religious Education Ministry

RE Child Care Available During Summer Services **Jacy Armenti** will be providing child care during the hours of service on the following dates: 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 child care, fidget toys and art supplies are available for children to use during the service.

Volunteer one Sunday to RE between September and June? I am looking for people willing to volunteer one Sunday to the RE program. Come with a plan or ask me for one and I will be happy to assign you a role. Lessons can include reading your favorite story, doing an art project, watching a short video and leading a discussion, theater — the children have open minds! Please contact me — **Rebecca Fricke** at frickedre@gmail.com or 413-687-8722. Thank UU.

Mindfulness Group UUSA member **Jessica Murphy's** mindfulness classes for our UUs are taking a pause for August and will resume in September. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jess at 413-575-1963 or jessica.mindfulness@gmail.com for details.

Our Caring Ministries



Every morning was a cheerful invitation to make my life of equal simplicity, and may I say innocence with nature herself...The morning, the most memorable season of the day, is the awakening hour. Then there is least somnolence in us, and for an hour, at least, some part of us awakens which slumbers all the rest of the day and night. Little is to be expected of that day, if it can be called a day, to which we are not awakened by our Genius...to a higher life than we fell asleep from...

Morning is when I am awake, and there is a dawn in me.

Walden, Where I Lived and What I Lived for, Henry David Thoreau

In celebration of Thoreau's 200th birthday, may we wish each other the courage and inspiration of each morning's dawning, and days full of adventure, challenge, discovery, serenity, and love.

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

Our Caring Circle coordinators are **Catharine Porter** 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, Catharine Porter, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman** and **Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team co-coordinators are **Mary Wyse** and **Pete Rogers**. 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 our special thoughts to **John** and **Susan Barbaro, Vicki Hinson-Smith, Ann Howard, Betsey Johnson, Bob Johnston** and **Millis Mershon, Paul** and **Carol Rothery, Jan Cole-Stryker** and **Jay Stryker,** and **Ed Tick** and **Kate Dahlstedt** for healing, wholeness, and peace.

From your Minister, Caring Circle, Pastoral Care Team, and Small Groups.

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.

Membership

Membership Directory and Family Album A directory and separate "Family Album" with photos were emailed to our members and friends in June. Those who do not use email should have received printed copies via the U.S. Postal Service.

A limited number of printed copies are available on the Welcome Table during Social Hour.

Do you wish you'd been included in our UU Society "Family Album"? We know a number of individuals, couples and families were not around when the photos were being taken by **Sandy Sladen** and **Margaret Manson** over the course of a number of Social Hours last fall.

We will be happy to prepare a "second edition" of the album. If you were not in the first one, just submit a (fairly recent!) photo of your own to **Janis Gray** at jsgray@crocker.com, bring it to her on a Sunday, or mail it to her at 219 Wendell Road, Shutesbury MA 01072 (be sure to write your name(s) on the back!). Janis can scan photos submitted in person or by postal service and return it to you.

The photo could be of yourself, of you and your partner, or of your entire family. Please choose a photo that:

- shows people from the waist or chest up (rather than from head to toe), so readers can better see their faces
- is in "landscape" orientation (wider than it is tall), rather than "portrait" orientation (taller than it is wide). This will make it *much* easier for Janis to add your photo to the existing layout of the album.

Thank you!

Meetinghouse



Our Oak Benches Have you noticed that our four oak benches have been refurbished? Built as a gift for us by **Mark Ledwell**, president of Wright Builders, from one of the pin oak trees on Kellogg Street that had to be removed to make way for our addition, they have graced the exterior of our building for three years now. **Peter Lacey** had re-oiled them once or twice, but they had darkened from moisture and become scratched from snow shovels.

Jerry Gates is a member of First Baptist Church, which houses Craig's Doors, the winter homeless shelter in Amherst and co-sponsor of the UU Wednesday Community Breakfasts. He orchestrated the refinishing. When he offered to do this, I gave him the can of penetrating oil Peter had used, which he in turn gave to **Becky Hobbs**, who he knew from the shelter. Becky sanded each of the four benches and then finished them with the oil. They look bright and beautiful again. The carvings on the benches by architect **Scott Donovan** are now prominent again. Thank you to Jerry and Becky!

As our UU Society prepared to dedicate the benches after they were installed outdoors in October 2014, Mark Ledwell wrote, "My inspiration [in creating the benches] was to honor and preserve something of the great trees that had to come down to build the addition. While one was rotted the other was not and was certainly majestic, an important Urban landscape. I thought it would be a fitting tribute and gift to use wood from the tree to fabricate benches for all.

"Scott Donovan was a UUSA member at the time, since returned, however, to Canada. He offered help with the design, primarily the carved-out designs on the backs of the benches. One is a huge Pin Oak leaf, another is growth rings, the third is of a stylized nut and branch pattern, and the fourth bench back shows a pattern of branches copied from a photo of the actual tree."

Anne Perkins

Social Action



Wednesday Community Breakfast Our Wednesday Community Breakfast is three years old! **Jade Lovett**, Shelter Director for Craig's Doors, makes sure we have the supplies, and we appreciate **Jerry Gates** bringing the eggs every week. **Karen** and **Andy Fisk** get things started early at 6:00 A.M. most every week, joined by **Sophie Rogers** and **Charlie Atwood**. **Darcy Dumont** has been serving our guests this summer while **Fran Plumer** is away. **Anne Perkins** has taken over greeter duties and our guests enjoy saying hello to her cute dog **Willa**.

Can you volunteer with them for a few hours on a Wednesday? Shifts start at 7:00 A.M. but you can come any time. The community that appreciates this hearty meal will thank you. Sign up online <http://signup.com/go/83M6sv> or email clarebertrand@gmail.com and join us.

Clare Bertrand

Looking ahead . . .

Just One Thing On Sunday, September 10, there will be a food collection for the Survival Center. A basket will be placed in the foyer for these items. Our usual collection is part of other food collections for Hunger Action Month through other houses of worship. In our seemingly well-off community, many people depend on the Survival Center for food. Let's start our new congregational year with a HUGE collection. Foods with protein are especially needed. Can you give Just One Thing? Thank you as always for your continued support of our neighbors in need. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894.

Not Bread Alone On Saturday, September 30, 8 UUs are needed to help cook, serve and clean up at Not Bread Alone (NBA). Under the direction of the kitchen leader, we create new dishes for an appreciative lunch crowd. No experience needed as we are told what to do. Meet new people and have fun! People are needed to cook from 9:30 A.M.- @ Noon; serve Noon - 1:30 P.M.; clean up Noon - @2:30 P.M. NBA is located in the

Finance Committee

The Committee will meet on Thursday, August 3, at 7:15 P.M. at the meetinghouse, in **Judy's** office.

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, July 27 at 12:00 Noon** at Bertucci's (51 East Pleasant St., Amherst). The first August gathering on August 10 will be at a place to be determined. 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.

Dedicated Offerings

Dedicated Offerings provide a way for our Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst community to recognize and financially support projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles. Each month from September through May, we donate the proceeds from our collection basket to a worthy organization engaged in this work.

Through the amazing and continued generosity of our congregation, we raised \$9,068.49 to help fund nine different organizations:

- Family Outreach of Amherst
- New England Learning Center for Women in Transition
- Oceto Sakowin Camp (at Standing Rock)
- ABC (A Better Chance) Amherst program
- ARISE for Social Justice
- Kestrel Land Trust
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA).

Our Dedicated Offering Committee asks congregants to provide it with names and contact information for worthy recipients. Forms for suggesting organizations are available in the meetinghouse office.