

# 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 Street,  
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*See message at the end of page 5.*

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Contact for an appointment.

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Lea Douville

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**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Brenda Miller**

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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 consistent style. Thank you!

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## Schedule of Services

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**Sunday, July 1, 10:30 A.M. – *Little House . . . Grateful Hearts: How we came to be***  
Janis Gray

Come explore the history of our UU Society from its earliest days -- long before the Meetinghouse -- to the present, through archival images, ancient accounts, and the very hymns sung at our building's dedication in 1893.

**Sunday, July 8, 10:30 A.M. – *Reflections on the UUA General Assembly: 2018***  
Steve Rice and Susan Rice

After attending four days of workshops on Social Justice, Worship, and Unitarian Universalism polity, the Rices are eager to share our experiences and new ideas.

**Sunday, July 15, 10:30 A.M. – *Grief and Transitions in Music***  
Stephen Gottlieb

Stephen Gottlieb, Professor Emeritus, English Literature, writes: I'd like to discuss the extreme life events often presented in Western classical music, especially opera. This music strips away what is nonessential in our lives, and concentrates on the essentials: birth, love, death, and transitions. Special emphasis is on the interrelationship of grief and transcendence. Examples are selected from Gustav Mahler, Giacomo Puccini, and Richard Wagner.

**Sunday, July 22, 10:30 A.M. – *Hands Across the Hills***  
Kip Fonsh

Kip Fonsh will speak about his experiences as a member of "Hands Across the Hills," a cultural exchange/dialogue project that brought together two rural communities with differing cultural, social, and political profiles: Leverett in western Mass, and Letcher County in southeastern Kentucky coal country. The first exchange in Leverett was in October, 2017 and the second was in Whitesburg, Kentucky, on April, 2018.

**Sunday, July 29, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. – *Congregational Pancake Breakfast***

Some of the men of our UU Society will prepare and serve 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. A donation is requested at the door to cover expenses.

*Many sermons and readings are posted on our website, [www.uusocietyamherst.org](http://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.*

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW INTERIM MINISTER

As we announced in the June 3 service, we are thrilled that the Rev. Stephen Cook will be joining us as our interim minister for the 2018-19 year. Rev. Cook is a highly experienced interim and he has made it his ministry to work specifically with congregations in transition. So, we will be in good hands. Please see his greeting below and prepare to welcome him following our season of summer services!

Signing off... Your "old" Search Committee,  
Carolyn, Jenn, Lisa, Mary, Anne, & Steve

Dear Members and Friends of the UU Society of Amherst:

Greetings! I'm very happy to be invited to serve as your interim minister for the 2018-19 church year! You will be my ninth interim placement, in addition to a nine-year settlement in Hudson, MA, and I look forward to getting to know and work with many of you in the year ahead.

All churches in transition are energized in a special way, with a particular forward-looking vision. I've found a ministry in helping churches shape and use that vision in preparation for calling a new minister who, with the congregation, will co-create a new chapter in the church's history. I hope we will have a fruitful and exciting year preparing for that new chapter. In the meantime, we will also share the weekly and monthly elements of church life: worship, education, rites of passage, nurturing the next generation, work toward greater justice in the community, fellowship and—I feel sure—fun.

I live in Quincy, MA with my wife, Eileen Kelly, so my four days a week with you will be something of a “stretch commute.” However, this is something I’m quite used to. I’m just finishing two years of service to the churches of Sanford and Saco/Biddeford, ME, which happen to be within a few miles and few minutes of my commute to you. In a similar journey some years ago, I was the interim minister of your sibling congregation across the river, the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence. This affords me some “alone time” and the chance to listen to books on CD. It works out very well.

If you care to, I invite you to visit my new website, <[revstephencook.com](http://revstephencook.com)>. There you will find some sermons, photographs and other materials by way of introduction.

I very much look forward to our year together.

Yours in Unitarian Universalism,

Rev. Steve Cook



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## Religious Education Ministry

Summer is an important time to absorb sunlight, eat fresh and local, rest, be with family, schedule less, enjoy the outdoors and have some fun. It is also a time to contemplate how the UUSA is an important part of your life. Think about what it is that brings you through the doors on a Sunday, to a committee meeting or to a justice event. What is it that you want our children to learn in the building and with the community? You can do this on your own, or while sitting through a summer service. I have to say the few summer services I went to last summer were some of my favorites. They were pared down, quiet and meaningful. Childcare will be offered on most Sundays and you can count on **Jacy** having something fun and engaging for them to do and talk about.

This summer I would also like for our congregational friends and members to think about volunteering to help out with RE whether it is for one Sunday morning, or several. Come be with us to provide a second adult – no preparation necessary – or talk to me about sharing an activity, a story or a social service project. I am happy to help you prepare for leading a morning. The children at the UUSA are OUR children and one of the reasons families come is so that their children can get to know a community of people of all different ages. It is meaningful when adults from upstairs come down to be with the RE group and I think you will find working with RE is a different form of worship. Please contact me for more information: [dre@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:dre@uusocietyamherst.org) or 413-687-8722.

YoUUrs,

Rebecca Fricke

Director of Religious Education

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## Fundraising



This is a quick note to express deepest gratitude for the generosity of everyone – the art donors, the helpful volunteers, and the committed art buyers – who contributed to the success of the UUSA Gala Fine Art Sale on June 8. I wanted to reach out on behalf of the whole Art Team, as well as the larger UUSA congregation, and let you know that you helped create a very successful event!

More than 125 pieces of art were donated and then displayed during the Friday night Gala, the end-of-sale auction, and the Sunday social hour sale. The display included information about the artists, the item, and/or the story of the art’s arrival in our hands. Our guests enjoyed wine, cheese, chocolates, and some terrific live music – it was as hoped, an evening of good fellowship, music, and fine art!

Once the dust settles, we believe we will have raised nearly \$4,000 after expenses, a significant addition to UUSA’s operations coffers for the coming year. Many thanks to everyone who had a hand in making this a truly successful fundraiser!

Warm regards,

Susanne Personette and the rest of the UUSA Art Team: Anne Cohen, Anne Moore, Rachel Peterson, Fran Plumer, Susan Rice

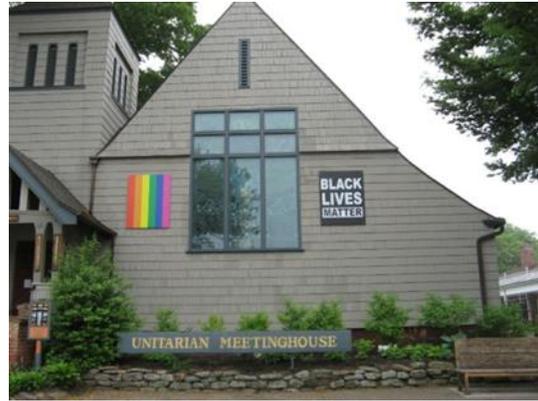


*Scenes from the Art Sale, June 8*

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## Social Action

Many thanks to **Anne Perkins** for leading the effort to acquire new Rainbow Flag and Black Lives Matter “banners” for the front of our meetinghouse, and to **Steve Rice** and **Mark Gamble** for getting them installed!



**UUSA COMMUNITY BREAKFAST NEEDS YOU!** The UUSA has been providing volunteers for the free Community Breakfast in the Willie Eaton Social Hall every Wednesday for three years. We serve 80-120 guests a freshly cooked hot meal of eggs, home fries, sausages, pastries, cereal, toast, juice and coffee or tea – all provided by Amherst’s Craig’s Doors. Our breakfast is important as the Amherst Survival Center, which is open other days, is closed on Wednesday. Our breakfast team works closely with Craig’s Doors, which helps people find ways to become empowered and improve the quality of their lives through the creation of safe, respectful shelter and housing. We regularly experience a shortage of volunteers both in the summer and the church year. Dishwashers and cleanup crew are especially difficult positions to fill, but many other jobs are also available. Contact Clare Bertrand at [clarebertrand@gmail.com](mailto:clarebertrand@gmail.com). She will send you a weekly email reminder with a link where you can see what positions are available for each week. For questions or more information contact Clare, or **Sophie Rogers**, [sophiesailing@gmail.com](mailto:sophiesailing@gmail.com).

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## Social Events

**The Women’s Lunch Group** meets every other Thursday at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Our first July luncheon (July 12) will be at a place still to be determined. 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 [sophiesailing@gmail.com](mailto:sophiesailing@gmail.com) or 413-772-9814.

**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](mailto:msussma@music.umass.edu) for details.

**Congregational Pancake Breakfast** On Sunday, July 29, some of the men of our UU Society will 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.

## Our Caring Ministries



What a beautiful benediction our choir sang at the end of our June 10 worship service, a blessing for Reverend Cindy and her family as they go forth into a new chapter in their lives:

May the longtime sun  
shine upon you  
All love surround you  
And the pure light  
that lighteth every human being  
that cometh into the world--  
That holy light--  
guide you now  
And all your way home.

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

Our Caring Circle coordinator is **Catharine Porter**. Please **contact her or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs**. Other Caring Circle members are **Sue Alexander, Linda Callahan, Sue Kelly, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman and Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Pete Rogers** and **Mary Wyse**. Other members are **The Reverend Elizabeth Alcaide, Charlie Atwood, Rob Fuderich, and Fran Plumer**. Please contact one of them for your more complex or personal needs. Our new interim minister, **Reverend Stephen Cook**, will join our team in August.

We send love and support to **John and Susan Barbaro, Paula Costain, Courtney Gordon, Janis Gray, Gene Herman, Vicki Hinson-Smith, Carolyn Holstein, Lois Kackley, Elizabeth Lindquist-Cock, Cindy and John McClean, Fran Plumer and George Sulzner, and Warren LaRoche**.

During the month of July, before Rev. Cook arrives, there will be no pastoral presence, but the Pastoral Care Team will be available. Please contact **Pete Rogers** (413-588-7740) or **Mary Wyse** (413-549-5406)."