

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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Important Information

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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 consistent style. Thank you!

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Schedule of Services

May 5, 10:30 A.M. – *The Angel Points Up*
Rachael Hayes, Ministerial Candidate

A Special Congregational Meeting to vote on whether to call Rachael Hayes as our new settled minister will take place immediately after the service.

May 12, 10:30 A.M. – *Mother’s Peace Day*
The Rev. Cook

Our contemporary observation of Mother’s Day as a somewhat sentimental celebration of family and motherhood has its origins in deeper concerns of war and peace.

May 19, 10:30 A.M. – *Mostly Madrigals*
The Choir

This year, Music Director Brenda Miller and the choir are working toward some really fun music to present to you. It will include vocal music from many parts of the world, including England, South Africa, Hungary and Spain. Also, we will be honored to have back with us guitarist Joseph Ricker, a local treasure, who played with us two years ago at our Orlando di Lassus extravaganza on Choir Sunday 2017.

Today is our Dedicated Offering Sunday.

May 26, 10:30 A.M. – *Find the Cost of Freedom*
The Rev. Cook

Memorial Day is more than the “unofficial start of summer.”

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.

Texts of other sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to: office@uusocietyamherst.org

Along the Way

New England winters are not Arctic but certainly long enough and cold enough to make us welcome spring in all of its warmth and beauty. I’ll bet we all have our favorite spring flowers and plants; mine are lilacs. We had them in our back yard—the light purple shade—and I looked forward to their heady scent and blossoms every year.

Here is a poem I wrote about lilacs.

Lilacs

What can be the reason for this extravagant waste,
This tower on tower of blossom,
This delirium of scent?

For biology’s purpose
Even a particle will serve
To call pollinators
Now and then.

Surely this would be enough.

Yet like the careless sun
Radiating in all directions its prodigal heat
(And who will use it but us?)
The lilac spends itself utterly,
And who will care?

Not bees surely
But the occasional human
Who will,
Like Moses,
Turn aside to see this thing
And receive
No less than from the bush that burned but was not consumed,
A certain revelation.

Rev. Steve

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. 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.

The March Dedicated Offering raised \$980.30 for **DIAL/SELF**

The April Dedicated Offering raised had \$671.50 for **Amherst A Better Chance** by press time.

The May Dedicated Offering will be for **Nuestras Raices**, a grassroots urban agriculture organization based on Holyoke, MA. Its mission is to create healthy environments, celebrate “agri-culture,” harness its members’ collective energy, and advance their vision of a just and sustainable future.

Ministerial Search Committee

Dear UUSA members and friends,

By the time you read this, many of you will have already met our Ministerial Candidate, Rachael Hayes, who will be with us during April 28-May 5. Our Interim take a break that week and official minister. See **Karen** President on the next page to dating Week.

Rachael grew up in mixture of Catholic and school, she got involved with hooked, leading her to earn a drama at Bennington College discovered a love of Ann Arbor MI and Washington DC, she moved to where she gained experience in the managerial for-profit organization.



our Candidating Week, Minister, **Rev. Steve**, will Rachael will serve as our **Fisk’s** Message from the learn more about Candi-

Kentucky and attended a public schools. In high the drama club and was Bachelor of Arts degree in in Vermont, where she directing. After stints in ton DC, she moved to where she gained experience aspects of running a not-

But as years passed, Rachael realized her true calling was UU ministry. She went on to receive a Master of Di-

vinity degree at Union Theological Seminary. While there, she served as a chapel minister in the seminary worship office, developed a collaborative worship community, and completed an internship as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for the UU Metro New York District. Most recently, she served the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, FL, first as Ministerial Intern, and then as Summer Minister while she completed



her Clinical Pastoral Education as a chaplain intern in a hospice inpatient unit.

In addition to worship and social justice, Rachael’s passions include farming, chanting, visiting national parks, and finding the best local food everywhere she goes.

When contacted by the UU Society of Amherst’s Ministerial Search Committee, Rachael’s references described her with such phrases as “quite remarkable,” “gifted,” “wonderful,” “accepting,” “authentic,” “speaks from the heart,” and “one of the best!”

On June 9, 2019, Rachael will be ordained at her home congregation, Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York.



We invite you to peruse [Rachael’s website](#), and to talk to Search Committee members and your friends as you spend time getting to know Rachael. Think about your hopes and dreams for our Society and consider how Rachael might help us realize them. Think also about how you might welcome her and help her learn more about all of us. Both she and the congregation will be doing our best to discern whether we would be a good fit for each other.

Let the conversation begin!!

Carol Johnson, Charlie Atwood, Janis Gray, Kiana Diggs, Sue Kelly, Jess Murphy and Louise Grosslein (co-chairs)

Families and Pride Marchers
Come meet our Ministerial Candidate Rachael Hayes
May 3, 2019
5:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Come paint signs and banners for UUSA members to hold during the Pride March the next day **and** meet Rachael and get to know her! If you aren’t marching — no worries — you’re welcome to join us anyway!

Pizza, dessert and art supplies will be provided.

Message from the President

Our wonderful Ministerial Search Committee — with the support of the Negotiating Team and the prior awesome Ministerial Search Committee — have announced our candidate for settled minister: Rachael Hayes! The Congregation will decide whether to call Rachael as our settled minister at a special congregational meeting following the service May 5.

We will all have opportunities to get to know Rachael during Candidate Week, April 28-May 5, when Rachael will embody the ministry of this Congregation for the week. This special week will be bookended by Rachael offering worship Sunday April 28 and May 5. On May 5, following the service, the Congregation will meet to take a vote about whether to call Rachael as our minister.

In order to call Rachael, in accord with our bylaws for calling a minister, 50% of our membership must attend the meeting and 90% of those attending the meeting must say yes. We currently have a membership of 144 people.

While proxy votes are allowed, and we encourage those who cannot attend May 5 to offer a proxy vote, they cannot be counted toward the call because you have to actually be present.

The Board extends deep gratitude to all of you, who have remained in covenant with us and contributed to the ministerial search process in faith and love. We are filled with hope and joy for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst.

Yours in Faith, Karen

Fundraising



Mark Your Calendars!!! May 18th...Talents and Treasures Service Auction

We are hoping *everyone and all of us* will be a part of this **fun and purposeful event**.

A focus of this year's auction is to provide offerings that appeal to **families with young children**. And to honor that focus, there will be a children's party downstairs with some very special activities during the auction.

Mary Herman, Lisa Cyr, Carolyn Cave, Fran Plumer, Susan Rice, Rachel Peterson and Polly Peterson

TRAVELING THROUGH INDIA

Come share Sophie and Pete Rogers

2½-month journey this past winter through South India and Rajasthan state in western India.

They traveled light, followed no itinerary, took local transport, avoided other western tourists, and stayed in local homes & tiny hotels when possible.

Narrated Slide Show with Snacks

- Monday, June 17, 2019, 7-8:30 P.M.
- Willie Eaton Social Hall

Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst

121 N. Pleasant St., Amherst

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OPTIONAL DONATION TO UUSA

Membership

Please welcome Abe and Joan Gelbein of Northampton, and Susan and Jeff Clark of Amherst, who recently signed our venerable Membership Book in the presence of two witnesses from our Board of Trustees. If you are also interested in joining our UU Society as an official member, contact **Rev. Steve** or any of the UUs waiting behind the Welcome Table during Social Hour on Sundays.

A New Member Recognition Ceremony for people who have joined us since last fall is being planned for June 9.

To help us get to know them, **Pat Rector** of the new Outreach, Integration and Retention Task Force interviewed the Gelbeins for this newsletter. She shares what she learned below. We look forward to upcoming articles by Pat about some of our new (and even longer-term) members!

Meet Abe and Joan Gelbein, formerly of Brooklyn, New York. The two met while at Cooper Union when Abe was studying chemical engineering and Joan was a student in the fine arts program, with a special interest in oil painting. The couple has been married for 61 years, “and we still love each other,” says Joan. They will be moving soon to the Lathrop Community in Easthampton. They have two adult daughters, Martha Woodard (who lives and works in the Valley) and Eve Zuber, from Raleigh, NC. They also dote on their cat, Pippy, a flame point Siamese.

Abe retired from a career in chemical engineering research and development. He has been an inventor, a consultant to small and large enterprises, and was editor of *ChemTech*, a journal published by the American Chemical Society. He loves reading, bowling and music, and immediately joined the choir as a baritone. Originally from an Orthodox Jewish background, he has anchored much of his religious life in the UU seven principles, and has loved the congregations he’s been a part of. He says playfully, “Joan and I like to call ourselves Jew-nitarians.”

Joan loved her first career in the arts, but felt a deep call to the UU ministry. After ordination, Rev. Joan served a UU congregation in Arlington, VA for 14 years, during which the congregation grew from 650 to 1100 members. “While I love the Jewishness in me,” she said, “I felt such a strong emotion of belonging” to the UU faith. “I loved the people in my congregation and always felt such a strong commitment to them.” Joan is touched by the warm reception the couple has received at UUSA. In retirement she hopes to re-ignite her interest in oil painting and is sure that she’ll find spiritual and artistic kinship here.

Religious Education Ministry



May is full of special dates!

May 3 – 5:30 – 7 P.M. Meet our Ministerial Candidate Rachael Hayes and help paint signs for UUSA people to carry at the Pride March! Pizza and dessert provided.

May 4 – Families please walk with the UUSA in the Northampton Pride Parade! Look for the details in the separate announcement in this newsletter.

May 12 – Whole-Congregation Mother’s Day Service

May 26 – Memorial Day Walk to the Park

This year the UUSA Religious Education Ministry has revised their mission statement. It reads: *The mission of the Religious Education program is to foster a nurturing community, to honor the worth of religious thinking, and to celebrate the joy of spiritual exploration. Each person is encouraged to develop personal values based on Unitarian Universalist principles and to incorporate those values in daily living.* As Director of the Religious Education program, I fully support this mission and all that it encapsulates. For this newsletter I want to focus on just one part and that is what a “nurturing community” looks and feels like. I am not saying this is easy, but I think the first step is for people – young and old and in-between – to take the time to know each other’s names and faces. Many parents in the congregation like to think of our community as the one place where their children are able to interact with multiple generations. These interactions can be as simple as a friendly smile or as meaningful as a heart to heart. Community building takes place in the foyer at the beginning of the morning, during the service – sharing hymnals and sharing joys and concerns, and after the service during social

hour and at special events. So, I encourage everyone to take the first step. Learn a name and then offer the seat next to you.

Nurturing also takes place when adults volunteer in the RE classrooms. Community is a central part of being a UU and a member of the UUSA. Do you have a Sunday or two to spare? During the regular church year and in the summer, RE is offered during worship service. Please consider helping the UUSA Religious Education program by volunteering from 10:30-11:30 A.M. During this time you will participate in the children's hour – crafts, songs and special activities, and no preparation is necessary.

YoUUrS,
Rebecca Fricke
Director of Religious Education
(dre@uusocietyamherst.org)

Music Notes

SAVE THE DATE!! SUNDAY MAY 19 is CHOIR SUNDAY!! It is the most exciting music day of the year for us in the choir, and we hope for you as well.

THIS YEAR, Brenda and the choir are working toward some really fun music to present to you.

We're calling it MOSTLY MADRIGALS! It will include vocal music from many parts of the world, including England, South Africa, Hungary and Spain. Also, we will be honored to have back with us guitarist Joseph Ricker, a local treasure, who played with us two years ago at our Orlando di Lassus extravaganza on Choir Sunday 2017.

We know you will all be dazzled and razzled after the auction the night before, but what a way to cap off the weekend, with a chance to sit back and be entertained and educated by this fabulous music.

See you there!!

Social Events

The Women's Lunch Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Our luncheon May 9 will be at Crazy Noodles, 36 Main St., 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 sophiesailing@gmail.com or call her at 413-772-9814.

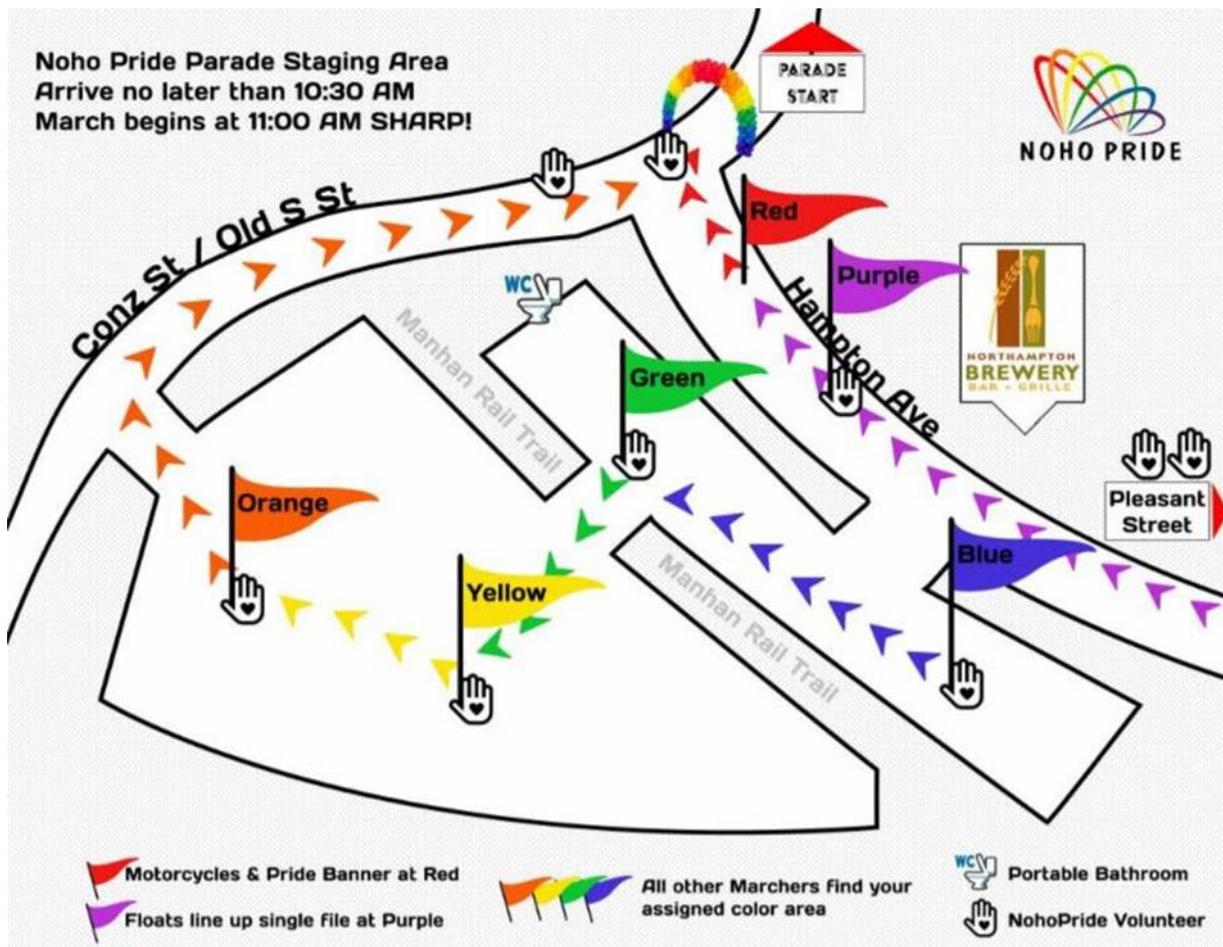
The Men's Breakfast Group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant (314 College Street, Amherst). Contact **Michael Sussman** at msussma@music.umass.edu for details.

Below: scenes from another social event, our lively Contra Dance on April 13. (Photos by Anne Perkins)



UUSA to Participate in the Northampton Pride March — May 4, 2019

From 10:00 -10:45 A.M. we are invited to meet up with the Northampton UU for a potluck baked goods and fruit share in the purple flag location. **By 10:45 A.M. we will need to be in the area indicated with a blue flag.**



Bring water and sunscreen. Parade route is approx. 1.1 miles and may take up to an hour and half to march depending on number of contingents and gaps. The organizers try very hard to keep the parade moving at a steady pace so please help by keeping our group moving.

At the end of the parade the UUSA and Northampton UU are sharing a table on the fairgrounds. We are looking for people who don't mind sitting and answering questions. The more volunteers we have, the shorter the shifts we need. We will have a tent with two chairs and table. We will have pamphlets which will help to introduce our congregations to marchers. Please let **Rebecca** know if you would like to take a shift. All shifts will be shared with the Noho UU so this is also a great chance to meet and chat with UUs from across the bridge who

Social Action

One Minute Social Justice A member of our congregation, **Jill Sherman**, is alive today because she is the recipient of a deceased donor's kidney. She would like you to consider being an organ donor. She writes, "You can register to be an organ donor on your driver's license at the Registry of Motor Vehicles or if you are not one on your current license, you can go to <https://www.organdonor.gov> and select your state, Massachusetts.

"Many senior citizens including people in their eighties and possibly in their nineties do not know they can still be organ donors. If you have medical problems or diabetes, please just register. At least 114,000 people in the United States are waiting for organs; 3,000 people a month are added to the kidney transplant list. "Kidney pa-

tients are very sick on dialysis and 13 kidney patients die a day. If you are a donor, you can still have a funeral and a burial in a cemetery.”

Just One Thing On **May 12**, the second Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the Survival Center. **UNDERWEAR** for all ages is **desperately needed**. We don't talk about underwear, but some people can't afford to buy any. Can you buy a package of new undies? A basket will be placed in the foyer for your collections. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net.

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. Dishwashers and cleanup crew are especially difficult positions to fill, but many other jobs are also available. Contact **Clare Bertrand** at 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.

Meetinghouse



Many thanks to UUs whose hands made light work on April 13 while we spring-cleaned the Meetinghouse and grounds! Photos by **Anne Perkins**.



Our Caring Ministries



You might see an angel anytime and anywhere. Of course you have to open your eyes to a kind of second level, but it's not really hard. The whole business of what's reality and what isn't has never been solved and probably never will be. So I don't care to be too definite about anything. I have a lot of edges called Perhaps and almost nothing you can call Certainty. For myself, but not for other people. That's a place you just can't get into, not entirely anyway, other people's heads.

I'll just leave you with this. I don't care how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. It's enough to know that for some people they exist, and that they dance.

Angels, by Mary Oliver

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 **Linda Callahan, Carolyn Holstein, Gabriela Horvay, Mary Latham, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Lynn Sussman, Gordon Wyse** and **Naomi Yanis**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Pete Rogers** and **Mary Wyse**. Other members are **Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide, Charlie Atwood, Rev. Stephen Cook, Rob Fuderich, Mary Herman, Carol Johnson**, and **Fran Plumer**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

We send love and support to all who are struggling with illness, bereavement, or difficulties of any kind in your lives or the lives of your loved ones.