

# THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

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## Important Information

**STREET ADDRESS:** 121 North Pleasant Street,  
Amherst, MA 01002

**MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA  
01004-0502

**INTERIM MINISTER (through July 31):**

**Rev. Stephen Cook**

[minister@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:minister@uusocietyamherst.org) or leave a message with Lea  
Douville, below.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Lea Douville**

413-253-2848 (office) or [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org)

**Summer hours:** Monday through Friday, 1:00-4:00 P.M.

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

**Rebecca Fricke** 413-687-8722 or [dre@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:dre@uusocietyamherst.org)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Brenda Miller**

413-253-7855 or [bmmiller.music@gmail.com](mailto:bmmiller.music@gmail.com)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

President: Karen Fisk

[karenmargaretfisk@gmail.com](mailto:karenmargaretfisk@gmail.com)

413-210-0960

Vice President: Susan Rice

[scarewrice@gmail.com](mailto:scarewrice@gmail.com)

413-253-4485

Clerk: Emily Shankle

[eshankle13@gmail.com](mailto:eshankle13@gmail.com)

509-551-4950

Treasurer: Peter Lacey

[placey1@comcast.net](mailto:placey1@comcast.net)

413-665-3198

## 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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**July 7, 10:30 A.M. – Rev. J. Campbell: “Personality not Pigmentation”**

**Roy and Laurie Goodman, and Harry Purkhiser**

In collaboration with the Rev. Allison Palm, the UU Church of Nashua Jeffrey Campbell Study Group created and led a service on Jeffrey and Marguerite Campbell on February 11, 2018. Since then, our guest speakers have presented this service to six more UU Churches in New Hampshire and Vermont. Their intent has been to bring this story out of obscurity and to center the efforts of Black Unitarian Universalists in our faith.

Jeffrey and Marguerite Campbell were mid-twentieth century Black Unitarian Universalists leaders whose ministry to our faith was repeatedly undermined by the racism of their fellow Unitarian Universalists. The Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, despite having been ordained, having excellent credentials and glowing references, never obtained the full-time ministry he sought. He did serve as a part-time Minister for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst from 1967 to 1974. Marguerite Campbell worked for the central offices of her faith for 30 years, despite her marriage to Francis Davis being the target of a racist attack by a high-profile Universalist leader.

Lay Leader: **Steve Rice**

**July 14, 10:30 A.M. – *Being Refuge***

**The Rev. Georganne Greene**

What might these times in which we live be asking of you, the people of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst?

Lay Leader: **Steve Rice**

**Sunday, July 21, 10:30 A.M. – *Emily Dickinson***

**Bruce Penniman**

Lay Leader: **Mary Latham**

**Sunday, July 28, 10:30 - 11:30 A.M. – *Unexpected Blessings***

Several members will share with us a time when something good happened that they are grateful for.

Lay Leader: **Carol Rothery**

*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.*

*Texts of other sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to: [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org)*

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## Along the Way

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Dear Friends,

In our lives there are times when a day or a night can seem endless, when we look at the clock again and again only to be surprised at how little time has passed. Then there are times when we wonder where the month or even the year has gone, when it seems as if we had just gotten started only to find ourselves suddenly at an end.

Such has been my time of service to UUSA. I cannot say where our eleven months have disappeared and yet they have. When I think of it though, of course I do remember the details: the almost 40 Sundays when I was privileged to lead worship, a double child dedication, much great music, various meetings and projects and most of all, the great members and friends of this exciting congregation. I especially remember the many smiling faces, young and old, at social hour, the Wednesday Community Breakfast and especially the guys around the table at Kelly’s which, along with worship, has been the highlight of my week.

I cannot say that I will miss my weekly stay at the Econo Lodge (although it is a perfectly nice place) nor the four trips to and from Quincy every week. (As I move into my three-year developmental ministry with Hopedale Unitarian Parish, it will be refreshing not to spend the equivalent of a full day’s work each week behind the wheel.)

I look forward with pleasure to following you from afar via Facebook, as I do all the churches I’ve served.

While our social media-saturated world can, at times, be too much, the capacity to do this has been a boon to interim ministers. While we support fully the protocol that keeps appropriate boundaries, we care very much about the churches we've served, and it's nice to be able to see how they're doing.

UUSA is a dynamic congregation with lots of talented, hard-working people; you will have plenty of scope for that talent and work as you and Rachael co-create the next chapter in your institutional life. As we go our separate ways, I thought of this poem about relaxation and enjoyment that I'd like to share with you, for that too, is how we make it through this life together.

May the Holy bless and keep you in the time ahead.

As ever in respect and affection,

Reverend Steve

### **Judges in Summer**

by Barry Spacks

Sometimes people who judge and judge  
turn lovely in summer, with gin & tonics.

They shop at little roadside stands;  
brood in a trance over silks of corn.

Lounging around, still starched from swimming,  
they speak mild words in the evening air

and leave the work of keeping up standards  
to bickering children, questions of worth

to the waves. In town, in handkerchief dresses,  
rumpled white suits, they smile, they visit—

they water the garden; hum with the cat.

In shirt and jeans they climb the rocks  
with wine in a thermos, a bag of bread  
to throw to those ravenous muscles the gulls—

and there they offer a round of applause  
(of the gentle sort once used watching tennis)

to see the fat sun dip away

through its showy orange time.

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## **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.

### **We raised \$7,456.74 this past year for the following organizations:**

September \$732.71 - Picture Book Theatre

October \$1,023.60 - The Care Center in Holyoke

November \$990.85 - Friends of the Soldiers' Home

December \$896.00 - The Literacy Project

January \$610.00 - Nueva Esperanza

February \$763.53 - The Treehouse Foundation

March \$980.30 - DIAL.SELF

April \$671.50 - ABC House

May \$788.25 - Nuestra Raices.

## Our 2019-2020 Board of Trustees, elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting June 2:

**Karen Fisk**, President (term ends 2020)

**Susan Rice**, Vice President (term 2020)

**Emily Shankle**, Clerk (term ends 2021)

**Peter Lacey**, Treasurer (term ends 2020)

**Jeanne Ballantine**, at large (term ends 2020)

**Rosie Cowell**, at large (term ends 2020)

**Casey Flueckiger**, at large, youth representative (term ends 2020)

**Rob Fuderich**, at large (term ends 2020)

**Ben Brau**, at large (term ends 2021)

**Joe Flueckiger**, Leadership Development Consultant (ex officio)

Please note, the [Annual Report is available online](#).

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## Message from the President

“When I told my congregation that I was traveling to New York City, to give our intern her charge as a new minister, one said, ‘That is easy, just tell her to keep on doing all that she is doing here with us!’” – Rev. Harris Riordan of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, Rev. Rachael Hayes’s internship congregation.

I was so excited to participate with Ministerial Search Committee representatives **Carol Johnson** and **Janis Gray** in the Ordination of Rachael Hayes June 9 at the Fourth Universalist Society in New York City, Rev. Rachael’s home church.

The ceremony of ordination included Rev. Rachael’s friend and co-ministerial student, also from the Fourth Universalist Society, Shari Halliday-Quan.

I joined Julē Sanchez from the First Unitarian Society of Rochester in welcoming our two new settled ministers to our congregations. These were our lines:

Karen: In this room, there are people both from your past and your future. Some have watched you and encouraged you as you worked and prepared for this day; others will reap the fruits of harvest for what we hope will be many years ahead.

Julē: Remember you are never alone; all the people who have formed you and all the people you will serve journey alongside you in this work. Will all others—family, friends, and colleagues within and beyond our tradition—please rise in body or spirit, to add their love and encouragement to this ordination?

Then Carol and Janis placed the stole that the Fellowship in Boca Raton had made for Rachael around her shoulders. And I told her “You look good!” And she really did—she glowed with excitement and—goodwill, yes, I think that is a good way to describe it. I also told her on our behalf, per my script, “we look forward to welcoming you to Amherst this fall.”

And a member of the Rochester congregation also placed a stole over the shoulders of its new settled minister, Shari.

A stole is the physical symbol of ministry. A minister who was once the intern at my home church became famous at the UUA General Assembly for doing a speech in which he named all the things ministers are responsible for while putting on his stole, and finding himself so weighted he was gradually pushed to the ground—and yet he kept talking.

We expect a lot of our ministers. And that is as it should be. However, we also are asked by our principles and sources and our adherence to right relationship to also exercise patience, respect, and personal responsibility in our relationships with all others—including our ministers.

I am so excited about welcoming Rev. Rachael to minister *together* with us. And I am eager to give the time needed to get to know each other, learn about each other’s styles, and help, help, help as well as lead as we strive for our goals.

What goals? Well, we need to define those goals together. But the greatest and most important goal is to continue to embody this thriving and beloved faith community shored up by the principles and sources of a remarkable and reasonable faith: Unitarian Universalism.

Yours in faith, Karen



The Rev. Rachael Hayes kneels at front left in black robes and a pale green stole.

### ***White Fragility: Book Chosen for Summer Reading***

Here’s why the Dismantling White Supremacy group chose the book and why they invite us to go deeper in sharing this fall, exploring in lightly facilitated conversations how the book impacted each of us personally.

In what NPR describes as a “groundbreaking book,” sociologist and anti-racism educator Robin DiAngelo explores the phenomenon of “white fragility” — the defensive moves white people engage in when challenged racially. As DiAngelo notes,

“These moves include the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving or removing the stress-inducing situation. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial identity and equilibrium.”

Profoundly interwoven within the fabric of white culture, this fragile impulse not only prevents any meaningful cross-racial dialogue from taking place, but it also induces a kind of blindness in even the best-intentioned, well-meaning people.

“I believe white progressives cause the most daily damage to people of color. I define a white progressive as any white person who thinks he or she is not racist, or is less racist, or in the ‘choir,’ or already ‘gets it.’ White progressives can be the most difficult for people of color because, to the degree that we think we have arrived, we will put our energy into making sure that others see us as having arrived. None of our energy will go into what we need to be doing for the rest of our lives: engaging in ongoing self-awareness, continuing education, relationship building, and actual anti-racist practice. White progressives do indeed uphold and perpetrate racism, but our defensiveness and certitude make it virtually impossible to explain to us how we do so.”

— excerpt from *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*

As you can see from DiAngelo’s list of essential to-dos — “ongoing self-awareness, continuing education, relationship building” — this is soul work, a dive into the essence and spirit of our being. With that noble task in mind, we warmly invite you to join us in this communal journey, understanding that, alas, none of us has “arrived;” we are all in process. Our dialogue and conversation will be guided by trust, candor, non-judgment and love. With open minds, compassionate hearts, and a spirit of humility, we look forward to learning and growing together along the way.

Videos featuring Robin DiAngelo:

**Why “I’m not racist” is only half the story** <https://youtu.be/kzLT54QjclA>

**C-SPAN2 BookTV lecture** <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4758751/robin-diangelo-white-fragility>

You can order a copy of New York Times' bestseller *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo from your public library, local bookstore, or online. Share your thoughts and feelings about the book in the fall.

## Religious Education Ministry



Below, a letter written by our Religious Education group:

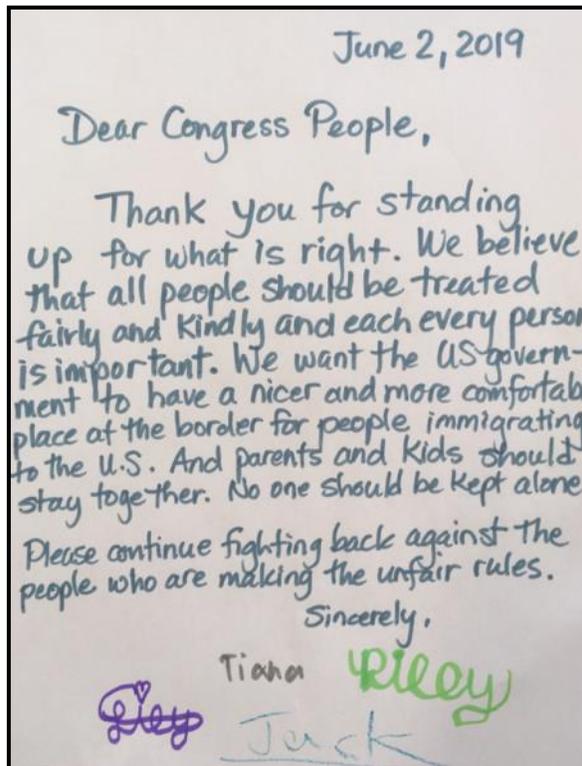
Summer is here at relaxing, remember the every Sunday. During fun and varied games *for the last Sunday of*

People wonder what I would take a moment to months. I have 25 supplies and plan cur-work with **Jenn Chy** which we will be offer-ber - May. **Lesley** lining a book that RE lessons and mind-working with **Rev.** help her settle in.

Please talk to me if you stairs. The children at of the reasons families to know a community meaningful when adults the RE group, and I 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



last! In between vacations, camp and UUSA continues to provide worship the summer **Jacy Armenti** provides and activities every Sunday, *except the month.*

do during the summer, and I thought I describe my goals for the coming hours to clean up our RE space, order rriculum. This summer I am excited to **lack** on our Coming of Age program, ing to 7th - 9th graders from Septem-**Smith** and I also have a plan for out-would focus on merging stand-alone fulness. I am also looking forward to **Rachael**, and I will do my best to

are interested in volunteering down-the UUSA are OUR children, and one come is so that their children can get of people of all different ages. It is from upstairs come down to be with think you will find working with RE

[dre@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:dre@uusocietyamherst.org) or 413-687-8722.

## 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 July 11 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 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](mailto:msussma@music.umass.edu) for details.

# 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, and – when possible – avoided other Western tourists by staying in local homes and tiny hotels.

## Narrated Slide Show with Snacks

7-8:30 P.M., Saturday, July 27, 2019

Willie Eaton Social Hall

Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst

121 N. Pleasant St., Amherst

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OPTIONAL DONATION TO UUSA

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## Social Action



**Sanctuary** – Can you help provide supper for Lucio Perez and his family on one night during the week of August 12? Our Society is responsible for bringing suppers for Lucio and three of his children on Monday, August 12 and Thursday, August 16 and for only Lucio on Tuesday, August 13. Two people are needed both Monday and Thursday and one on Tuesday. Lucio's and his family's spirits are lifted by the generous help so many people are providing. It helps lessen the stress the family lives with.

Please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, [mbsem@comcast.net](mailto:mbsem@comcast.net), 413-253-0894, if you can help. THANK YOU!!

**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 five 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](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.

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## Our Caring Ministries

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I would like to believe when I die that I have given myself away like a tree that sows seeds every spring and never counts the loss, because it is not loss, it is adding to future life. It is the tree's way of being. Strongly rooted perhaps, but spilling out its treasure on the wind.

May Sarton

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, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Lynn Sussman, Gordon Wyse** and **Naomi Yanis**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Pete Rogers** and **Mary Wyse**. Other members are **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.