

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.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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

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

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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, July 2, 10:30 A.M. – *One Small Thing*

The Rev. Georgeanne Greene

The Rev. Greene, minister at All Souls Unitarian in Greenfield, returns to our pulpit this morning. Her topic is Compassion: Our relations to it as UUs – and its role in our common life.

Sunday, July 9, 10:30 A.M. – *Improving the Lives of Small Farmers in Africa*

Roger Bird

Roger Bird, husband of **Rachel Peterson**, has been a leader in agricultural lending and international development, and in banking, for more than 35 years. Manual labor keeps smallholder farmers – who have fewer than five acres of land – trapped in a life of drudgery and poverty. In 2017, he founded CoolCap. Its goal is to provide modern equipment that can free them from that burden.

Sunday, July 16, 10:30 A.M. – *Values that Led Me to Serve in the State House*

Solomon Goldstein-Rose

State Rep. Solomon Goldstein-Rose (D-Amherst) serves the Third Hampshire District seat in Massachusetts.

Sunday, July 23, 10:30 A.M. – *Teaching with our UU Values*

Jenn Chylack, Tom Fricke and Elliott Kelly

Three members who teach in our local schools will speak this morning.

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

Peter Lacey will 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.

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.

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.

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.

We received, the recipient of our May Dedicated Offering: **a letter of thanks from the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture:**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for choosing CISA! We received your gift of \$693.20 on June 15, 2017. Thank you for having me on a day of such celebration!

We've been busy putting your support of CISA to incredible uses:

The Emergency Farm Fund was opened twice this year! Over \$95,000 in zero-interest loans were distributed to stone-fruit farmers affected by the unstable winter weather and farmers in need of aid to recover from losses due to this summer's drought.

We are expanding to offer even more assistance to beginning farmers in the region. Less than 50% of farms last past the ten-year mark – and we aim to make a difference in assisting this important group of farms and farmers!

Connecting farmers and wholesale buyers: This year, we've worked to gain a greater understanding of the needs of farms, wholesale buyers, institutions, and partner businesses to build stronger relationships and connections in the local food economy.

Your investment in CISA makes this work possible. Community support has made CISA – and retention of our local farms – a success since 1993. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Philip Korman, Executive Director



Religious Education Ministry

It is incredible how fast a year seems to pass when looking backwards. Thank you again to everyone who helped to make the RE program wonderful. If you would like to volunteer in the coming year, even for just one Sunday, send me an email and we can discuss how to get you involved.

It is not too late to take the RE Survey! The RE Ministry and I are very eager to hear from you about how your year with us has been. Follow this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/BqLcjEvsqHuPbsjr1>

On Sundays when we offer **RE with Jacy Armenti**, 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.

Please see the information below for our Summer RE schedule.

YoUUrs,

Rebecca Fricke
DRE

7/02—Busy Bag Provided in Sanctuary

7/09—RE with Jacy

7/16—RE with Jacy

7/23—RE with Jacy

7/30—Whole-Congregation Pancake Breakfast

8/06—Busy Bag Provided in Sanctuary

8/13—RE with Jacy

8/20—RE with Jacy

8/27—RE with Jacy

9/03— RE with Jacy

Mindfulness Group: UUSA member **Jessica Murphy** offers mindfulness classes to our UUSA congregation. This month the dates and times are Tuesday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 25, 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.

Results of June 4 Congregational Meetings

At a Special Congregational Meeting before the service on June 4, our members voted unanimously to bestow the title of Minister Emerita on **The Rev. Alison Wohler**. We were pleased to see her once again on our chancel during the service led by our Interim Minister, **The Rev. Cynthia A. Frado**.



At our Annual Congregational Meeting after the service, we elected the following members to a new Ministerial Search Committee:

Carolyn Cave
Jenn Chylack
Lisa Cyr
Mary Herman
Anne Perkins
Steve Rice
Chas Stevenson

We also approved a budget, and elected a slate of nominees to the Board of Trustees for FY 2017-2018:

Bo Mack, President
Karen Fisk, Vice President
Elliott Kelly, Treasurer
Lynne Latham, Clerk
Kelly Aiken, At Large
Jack Dinsmore, At Large
Darcy Dumont, At Large
Carol Johnson, At Large
Molly Moss, At Large
Fran Plumer, At Large
Emily Shankle, At Large
Sonya Teter, At Large
Joe Flueckiger, President Emeritus

All board meetings are open to any members or friends who wish to attend!

Membership

We are pleased to welcome **Lynne Latham** as an official member! She signed the Membership Book on May 21. No stranger to our UU Society (and in fact, now Clerk of our incoming Board of Trustees!), Lynne makes her home in Hadley.

Fundraising



An easy UUSA Fundraiser! Calling all those who grocery shop! Here's a way to help the UUSA earn money just by buying your groceries. We have been selling Big Y and Stop & Shop gift cards during Social Hour, and will continue to do so following many of our services this summer. The grocery stores sell gift cards to the Society at a small discount and then we sell them to you at face value. Because we buy the cards at a discount we earn the difference between what we buy them for and what we sell them for.

The hardest part for you will be forming the habit of bringing your checkbook to services! There you can buy \$50 or \$100 gift cards for either store and use them like cash. You don't have to use the whole value at once.

Please plan to participate in this painless fundraiser. Get in the habit of buying all your Stop & Shop and Big Y purchases using gift cards you buy at the UUSA.

Thanks!

Social Action



Volunteering at Not Bread Alone Shifts of UUs are needed on Sunday, July 29 to help with lunch at Not Bread Alone, the soup kitchen at First Congregational Church. Meal preparation is 9:30 A.M. -12:00 P.M.; serving 11:15 A.M.-1:15 P.M and clean-up 12:00-about 2:30 P.M. If you can help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894. No experience necessary! 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!

Our Caring Ministries



When giving thanks comes hard for you,
And things are grim,
And hopes run thin,
Reflect.

Despair's a door to pass on through,
And not a home for living in.
When thanksgiving fills your cup,
And those you love are all about,
Cherish your blessings, count them up,
and give back something to the world
without.

For all who seek God,
May God be with you.

For all who embrace life,
May life return your affection.

For all who seek a better path,
May a way be found.

And the courage to take it
Step by step by step.

Amen

*Rev. Robert Mabry Doss
(adapted)*

Our Minister, Caring Circle, and Pastoral Care Team are available to help during difficult times. Caring Circle Coordinators are **Clare Bertrand**, and **Catharine Porter**. Please contact one of them or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Other Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, 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.

With loving, healing, peaceful thoughts to all those who are ill, bereaved, or struggling in some way, and to their loved ones and caregivers, in particular to **John Barbaro, Cynthia Brown, Jan Cole-Stryker, Vicki Hinson-Smith, Ann Howard** (who is now recovering at home from her broken hip), **Paul Rothery, and Ed Tick**.

Social Events

The Women's Lunch Group meets every other Thursday at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Part of our mission is to support new local restaurants. Our first July luncheon (July 5) 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 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 for details.



Following our June 11 Flower Communion service, Anne Perkins led a group of members and friends of UUSA down Kellogg Avenue to the Ann Whalen House, where they gathered in the parking lot below the fourth-floor window of Vicki Hinson-Smith, who has been apartment-bound due to poor health. They surprised her with a bouquet of her favorite hymns: "Come, Sing a Song with Me," "Spirit of Life," and "This Little Light of Mine." When they learned from Anne (listening with Vicki from above) that Vicki's birthday was the next day, the group responded with a boisterous rendition of "Happy Birthday to You!" (Photo by Janis Gray)