

# 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 St.,  
Amherst, MA 01002

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

**INTERIM MINISTER:**

The Rev. Cynthia Frado  
Office hours: TBA

**CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Judy Mitrolka**

413-253-2848 (office) or [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org)  
No set office hours during the summer months. Call and  
leave a message or email her and she will get back to you.

**INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

**Rebecca Fricke** 413-687-8722 or [rebfricke@gmail.com](mailto:rebfricke@gmail.com)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

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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 con-  
sistent style. Thank you!

Printed on recycled paper



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## Schedule of Services

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### **Sunday, July 3, 10:30 A.M. – *Slavery in the Valley – Five Heroes Who Resisted***

**Bob Romer**

Bob is an active participant in our UU Society. He notes slavery was widespread in the Connecticut Valley in Colonial Times, when most of the “important people” (including almost all the ministers) owned two or three black slaves. Not all those who were enslaved accepted their condition. Bob will discuss five of those who, in one way or another, resisted, including Jenny (born in Africa, who lived most of her life as the property of the Deerfield minister), and Amos Newport (also born in Africa who lived most of his life as the property of a Hatfield farmer). Amos was the great-great- ... great-grandfather of a new friend of Bob’s, Alyssia Bailey of Atlanta, who attended a UU service this past February.

### **Sunday, July 10, 10:30 A.M. – *A Direct Experience of Oneness***

**Terry Mollner**

Terry is a recent friend of UUSA and has experience conducting experiential spiritual services. This service will bring the flavors of drumming, singing moving songs, heartfelt invocations, movement and sharing to discover the oneness of nature. If you have a drum and want to participate, please come 15 minutes early.

### **Sunday, July 18, 10:30 A.M. – *Shall We Gather***

**The Rev. Georganne Green**

The Rev. Green is the part-time minister at All Souls UU in Greenfield. Her service with us will be an exploration of how theology is revealed through personal story.

### **Sunday, July 24, 10:30 A.M. – *The Power of Poetry***

**Polly Peterson**

Polly is a member of our UU Society. Let’s explore ways in which poetry deepens and strengthens our non-creedal UU faith.

### **Sunday, July 31, 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. – *Congregational Pancake Breakfast***

A crew of men from 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.

*Please note that childcare will not be available during the services of July 3 and 10. Two “busy bags” with items to help keep small ones entertained will be available in the foyer.*

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## Musings From the Interim Minister’s Inkwell.....

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Let the Story Begin

Greetings to the good people of the UU Society of Amherst! My name is Rev. Cindy Frado, and I have the privilege of being your Interim Minister for the next two years. While the Interim Task Force gave you a glimpse of some of my ministerial positions over the past 25 years, let me fill-you-in on some of the details.

I am of Portuguese Azorian descent and grew up on our family farm in Somerset, Massachusetts. One could say that my parents cultivated more than vegetables on that farm, and instilled within my siblings and me an insatiable thirst for knowledge, nature, the arts, reading, history, people, travel and the spiritual journey. I received my BA in Theology from Boston College, studied in an Ecumenical Institute in Heidelberg, Germany, did an internship at the Commission on the Bible at the Vatican, attended workshops at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, and went on to study Spiritual Direction at the Religious Education Institute at Boston College. I was a Roman Catholic CCD Director for 700 7th thru 12th graders, sewed liturgical vestments for the Director of Special Needs Ministries for the ArchDiocese of Boston and later became Chair of the Religion Department at St. Gregory’s High School in Dorchester, MA (now defunct, but hopefully not because of me!). I married a former Jesuit who taught Confirmation classes for me and we went on to have two children. The latter grew up strong and healthy, but alas that marriage did not do the same.

When my youngest child was in the womb 32 years ago, I discovered Unitarian Universalism...a tale unto itself. My life was changed forever and for the better, I might add! I went on to spend five life-altering years at Harvard Divinity School and graduated with a Divinity degree and a passion for parish ministry. I was ordained at First Parish of Concord, MA on May 19, 1991.

At the beginning of my second year as the called minister of the Mendon/Uxbridge UU congregation, I sustained a head injury when a 12-foot steeple that was part of a replica of the Mendon church on a parade float (on which I was planted behind a pulpit) caught a low-hanging power line. The steeple was ripped from its base and cracked me on the head. The pulpit saved me from being further crushed by the weight of the hardwood structure. (Not many ministers can say that a pulpit ever saved their life!) The steeple had been secured with several 4-inch screws to "prevent it from falling" and the resistance made the impact all the greater. The profound force crashed down upon my head and consequently shattered my world (and that of my family and congregation). After seven months in full-time rehab and another two years in part-time rehab with a total of 14 different therapists working on my body, mind and spirit, I gradually re-entered life and ministry. I am filled with enormous gratitude for the patience, compassion and perseverance of those who put me back together again. I think you can expect a sermon on what I learned from that experience!

During my transition back toward full-time ministry, I worked for Deepak Chopra and ran 700 study groups in 120 countries. It was an incredibly rich and healing time for me, and I am grateful for having had that experience. Parish ministry, however, was my true calling. So I eventually accepted the call to serve a very spunky but incredibly wounded congregation in Westborough (that reminded me of me). I am very proud of all that we accomplished together over the 16 years of my ministry there, as we both proved our resiliency and grew and blossomed in untold ways. I became the President of the Interfaith Clergy Association and loved all the work/worship/social justice ministry that we did together in the larger community. I also started a World Religion Symposium in the Westborough School system that is still going strong nearly 20 years after its launch.

A new marriage brought me here, to the Valley. My husband, James Walker, is an evolutionary biologist (the last Chair of the Botany Dept. at UMass), and while he is an Emeritus, he still teaches Cosmic Evolution in the Honors College every fall along with the Chair of Astronomy. Together, we have four children and five grandchildren, with another one due in October! I have been busy with a 1/4 time ministry in Northfield, recently completed a sabbatical ministry in Northampton, and I have a very part-time Clinical Hypnotherapy practice in North Amherst.

It is said that life is lived in the details, and I have offered you a few of the more poignant ones from my life. However, if you were to ask me where the greatest sources of wisdom have come from over the past 25 years of ministry, I'd have to say from the people I've had the privilege to walk alongside. Their stories of love and loss, struggle and triumph, doubt and faith, fear and courage, strength in adversity, hope and dreams, compassion and humility have left a profound imprint upon my mind and heart, and I give thanks every day for being entrusted with such precious threads that have become part of the tapestry of my life and ministry.

Needless to say, I am honored to be walking this part of the journey with you. I am very much looking forward to our time together. There are so many stories to be heard, new ones to be lived, and old ones to be honored. There is much to be accomplished in the next two years, as together we prepare the Society for a new settled ministry to take root and flourish. In the meantime, come the fall, I will make sure that the kettle is always hot, the tea cups are ever ready, and a listening ear along with an attentive heart are always there to welcome you wherever you are in *your own becoming*. Now, let us write a new chapter in the story that is the UU Society of Amherst, Massachusetts. The ink well is full and the quill is ready. I can't wait to begin!

In peace, gratitude, and joyful expectation...

Cindy

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## Dedicated Offerings

Dedicated Offerings are a way for our UUSA community to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian Universalist principles.

One Sunday every month we meet (except June), we schedule a Dedicated Offering (DO), allowing that our Society also needs our support on the other Sundays of the month. On occasion, we hold an additional Dedicated Offering during a given month in response to an unanticipated crisis somewhere in the world.

Through the amazing and continuing generosity of our congregation members, we raised total of \$9,142.00 in FY 2016 to help 11 different organizations.

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 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. Please remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients. This is a voluntary initiative.

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## Fundraising



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### **Big BIG Tag Sale a HUGE success!**

Our final fundraising event of the year, the Big BIG Tag Sale, was a huge success on all counts. Our teams of volunteers representing various ministries did a fabulous job of collecting donations, setting up, selling and cleaning up. We easily had 40-50 volunteers involved in making the Tag Sale a success. Thanks to the following groups that participated: Board of Trustees, Choir, Sunday Services, Caring Circle, Religious Education, and two Small Group Ministries. Special thanks also to **Helen Blatz** and **Lauren Croce** who set up outside and helped steer people inside, **Rachel Peterson** who hosted her own table, donated morning goodies for volunteers and counted all the money, and a very special thanks to **Sue Hanley**, who also set up a lovely display outside with new children's clothes and shoes from her former store. This was a big draw, and income from Sue's merchandise alone accounted for about 1/4 of our total income for this event.

While our fund-raising goal was \$2000, we actually raised a gross total of \$3013.75! After minimal expenses of \$129.66 for signage and advertising, our net income was \$2884.09.

Finally, a very informal survey of some shoppers revealed that people learned about our tag sale from a variety of sources, including friends and neighbors (the most frequent answer), signs, Gazette ad, and Facebook postings (read more about Facebook on page 8!).

Sandy Sladen

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## Religious Education Ministry



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### **RE Child Care Available During Most Summer Services**

**Jacy Armenti** will be providing child care during the hours of the following services:

July 17, 24

August 7, 14, 21, 28

September 4

There will be activities and games available for all ages, including structured investigations and questions to solve every week. Every child will have his or her voice heard, be part of the community and have fun!

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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 next gathering is July 7 at Gohyang Korean Restaurant, 113 Russell Street (Route 9), Hadley (a bit west of Hopkins Academy). 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 413-835-0644 or [sophiesailing@gmail.com](mailto:sophiesailing@gmail.com).

**The Men's Breakfast Group** meets every Wednesday 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.

## FLOWER COMMUNION AND CELEBRATION

After the service and party for Alison, several people inquired about “Sunrise over the Quabbin Reservoir,” a large, framed photograph given to Alison through **Mary Beth Seminario** and her husband, photographer **Stephen Gingold**. Interested people can view and order the photo, cards, etc., through Fine Arts America, [www.fineartamerica.com/profiles/stephen-gingold.html](http://www.fineartamerica.com/profiles/stephen-gingold.html) (it is the first photo in his gallery “Quabbin Land and Water” at top left). Or, contact Stephen directly at [sgingold@comcast.net](mailto:sgingold@comcast.net). The image is not yet posted on his own website. Meanwhile, here are a few photos by **Ben Brau and Julie Cavacco** of the events of the day.



Alison greets a very full sanctuary.



The Choir's view of Flower Communion (Alison's daughter and son sat beside their mom in the chancel).



Raising flowers high in our UUSA bouquet!



Alison models a stole created for her by the children and youth in our Religious Education program.



Willie Eaton presents Alison with a plaque from the congregation — noting that it must stay here!



Lunch in the Willie Eaton Social Hall.



"UU Funk" backup singers and Bruno Mars (aka Janis Gray) "get down."



The surprise performance is well received.

We've had a number of requests to print the lyrics to **Janis Gray's** parody of "Uptown Funk!" by Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, Jeffrey Bhasker, Phil Lawrence, Devon Gallaspy and Nicholas Williams. If you are not familiar with the original song (and were wondering why, during the performance at our party on June 12, **Brenda Miller** was strutting around in high heels, a miniskirt and furs, and **Janis** appeared in a pink jacket, dark sunglasses, gold chains and white hat), you might want to take a look at the YouTube video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPf0YbXqDm0> Also, please know that "give it up!" in our parody's context is a showbiz request by a Master of Ceremonies for the audience to applaud a performer!

### UPTOWN FUNK (the original)

(Backing vocals repeated here and there:  
*Doh, doh doh doh, doh doh doh, doh doh . . .*)

This hit, that ice cold, Michelle Pfeiffer,  
that white gold. This one for them hood girls,  
them good girls, straight masterpieces,  
stylin', while in, livin' it up in the city.  
Got chucks on with Saint Laurent,  
gotta kiss myself, I'm so pretty.

I'm too hot (Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Call the police and a fireman. I'm too hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Make a dragon want to retire, man. I'm too hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Say my name, you know who I am. I'm too hot!  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
And I'm bad about that money.  
(Chorus: *Break it down!*)

Girls, hit your hallelujah, Girls, hit your hallelujah,  
Girls, hit your hallelujah.  
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to ya,  
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to ya,  
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to ya,  
Saturday night and we in the spot,  
Don't believe me, just watch!  
*Come on!*

[Dance music]

Don't believe me, just watch! [*Repeat four more times*]  
Hey! Hey! Hey! Oh!

Stop! Wait a minute.  
Fill my cup; put some liquor in it.  
Take a sip, sign the check.

*Julio! Get the stretch!*

Ride to Harlem, Hollywood, Jackson, Mississippi.  
If we show up, we gon' show out,  
smoother than a fresh jar o' Skippy.

I'm too hot. (Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Call the police and a fireman. I'm too hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Make a dragon want to retire, man. I'm too hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Say my name, you know who I am. I'm too hot!

### UU FUNK (the parody)

(Backing vocals repeated here and there:  
*Doh, doh doh doh, doh doh doh, doh doh . . .*)

This be the truth told, with Alison  
we struck gold. This one for them sermons,  
them sermons, straight masterpieces,  
stylin', smilin,' there in the Sanctuary,  
with seats filled with fine UUS,  
gotta kiss them all, they're so pretty.

We're so hot (Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Tell the District and the UUA. We're so hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Makes the new folks Sundays want to stay. We're so hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Say our name, you know who we are. We're so hot!  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
With Alison, we've come far!  
(Chorus: *Break it down!*)

Religious Ed., hallelujah, Green Sanctuary, hallelujah,  
Pas'trol Care Team. hallelujah.  
'Cause UU Amherst gon' give it to ya,  
'Cause UU Amherst gon' give it to ya,  
'Cause UU Amherst gon' give it to ya,  
And on Sunday morning this is the spot,  
Don't believe us, just watch!  
*Come on!*

[Dance music]

Don't believe us, just watch! [*Repeat four more times*]  
Hey! Hey! Hey! Oh!

Stop! Take a minute.  
Fill your cup; put some coffee in it.  
Fellowship: it's so grand.

*Then Applewood sends the van!*

In Amherst, Sunderland, Hadley, Shutesbury.  
When Alison came, we all knew we'd grow  
through outstanding ministry.

We're so hot. (Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Tell the District and the UUA. We're so hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Makes the new folks Sundays want to stay. We're so hot.  
(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
Say our name, you know who we are. We're so hot!

(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
And I'm bad about that money.  
(Chorus: *Break it down!*)

Girls, hit your hallelujah, Girls, hit your hallelujah,  
Girls, hit your hallelujah.  
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to ya,  
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to ya,  
'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to ya,  
Saturday night and we in the spot,  
Don't believe me, just watch!  
*Come on!*

[Dance music]

Don't believe me, just watch! [*Five times*]  
Hey! Hey! Hey! Oh!  
Before we leave  
I'm-a tell y'all a little something.  
Uptown, funk you up,  
uptown funk you up [*Three times*]

Come on dance, jump on it,  
if you sexy, then flaunt it,  
If you freaky, then own it, don't brag about it,  
come show me.  
Come on dance, jump on it, if you sexy, then flaunt it,  
Well, it's Saturday night and we in the spot,  
Don't believe me, just watch!

*Come on!*

[Dance music]

Don't believe me, just watch! [*Four times*]  
Hey! Hey! Hey! Oh!  
Uptown, funk you up,  
uptown funk you up. [*Seven times*]  
*Aaaaaow!*

(Chorus: *Hot damn!*)  
With Alison, we've come far!  
(Chorus: *Break it down!*)

Ded'cated Offerings, hallelujah, Bigger building,  
hallelujah, Community Breakfasts, hallelujah.  
'Cause UU Amherst gon' give it to ya,  
And on Sunday morning this is the spot,  
Don't believe us, just watch!  
*Come on!*

[Dance music]

Don't believe us, just watch! [*Five times*]  
Hey! Hey! Hey! Oh!  
Before we leave  
I'm-a tell y'all a little something.  
Alison's done lift us up,  
She's done lift us up [*Three times*]

Come on dance, jump on it,  
if you agnostic, then flaunt it,  
If you a mystic, then own it, don't brag about it,  
come show me.  
Come on dance, jump on it, if you theist, just say it,  
Well, on Sunday morning this is the spot,  
Amherst UUs, let's rock!

*Come on!*

[Dance music]

Amherst UUs, let's rock! [*Four times*]  
Hey! Hey! Hey! Oh!  
Let's all give it up,  
for Alison give it up! [*Seven times*]  
*Aaaaaow!*

#### PASTORAL CARE DURING JULY AND AUGUST

With the summer months upon us, life still "happens" even during these lazy hazy days of barbecues, baseball, and watching the grass grow. With this in mind, I want to encourage you to contact members of the Pastoral Care Team if you have a crisis with which you need some support during July and August. While I will officially become your interim minister as of July 1st, I will be out of the country for three weeks this summer, and then I will be attending a week-long program for interim ministry in Minneapolis later in August. I am very grateful for the wide net of resources and congregational outreach that The Reverend Alison Wohler has helped to put in place at UUSA, and I trust that we will continue with that deep level of active concern and presence throughout my ministry among you. It gives me great comfort to know that you have a qualified and attentive Pastoral Care Team to serve you while I am away (and beyond). I will be kept "in the loop" in the event of any serious event.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer hiatus. I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.  
With gratitude and joyful expectation,  
Cindy



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True religion cares for you in your depth,  
challenges you to live  
in that depth,  
and demands that you respect others  
in their depth...

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For every word spoken in truth,  
may there be a listening in truth;  
for every sound, a silence;  
for every approach, a welcome;  
for everyone's truth, struggle for  
knowledge and acceptance, longing for God,  
may there be a response  
of love and peace.

The Rev. Wallace Robbins  
For Everything There Is A Season

Adapted

At our last Pastoral Care Team meeting in early June, we shared the meditation above by Wallace Robbins, (longtime UU minister in Worcester, MA), and tried to reflect to Alison that her ministry among us has embodied these high ideals. "To care for each other in our depth...to speak and to listen in truth...to respond in love and peace" - what high ideals for all of us – Caring Circle, Pastoral Care Team, Congregation, All!

We send Alison off with love and thanks for her 11 years of loving ministry among us.

**ALERT** – Our UUSA will be sponsoring discussion circles based on the outstanding book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, MD, on issues we all face as life inevitably draws to a close. "Riveting, honest, humane" and full of true stories, this is a hard book to lay down. Copies are available in local libraries and at the UUSA in the conference room/library. With thanks to **Molly Moss**, **Mary Wyse** and **Jessica Murphy** for organizing these upcoming discussions – see page 8 for details. Get a head start on reading and stay tuned!

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**Our Caring Circle** meets monthly to review the needs of our UUSA friends. Want to learn more about what the Caring Circle does? Find our informational table at Social Hour and sign up to be a volunteer driver, etc. **Susan Rice** (413-253-4485) and **Margaret Manson** (413-230-3038) are covering as coordinators for the Caring Circle. If you are unable to get in touch with your Caring Circle person for contact, rides, food, and simple needs, please call Susan or Margaret for assistance.

Warmly, **Clare Bertrand**, **Linda Callahan**, **Carolyn Cave**, **Sue Kelly**, **Karen Mack**, **Margaret Manson**, **Martha Nelson**, **Susan Rice**, **Chas Stevenson**, **Lynn Sussman** and **Gordon Wyse**.

**Call someone on our Pastoral Care Team**, which also meets monthly, for more complex or personal needs: **The Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide**, **Bo Mack**, **Jessica Murphy**, **Fran Plumer**, **Pete Rogers**, **Michael Sussman**, **Libby Walton-Stanforth** or **Mary Wyse**. For all who are traveling on life's journey, through the good times full of grace, or through the rocky valleys we experience along the way, know that you never need to walk on your path alone.

A blessed summer to each and all.

E. Alcaide, for the Pastoral Care Team

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## Social Action



**On Saturday, July 30, eight UUs are needed** at **NOT BREAD ALONE** to create a meal never before made from donated food. We start with loads of veggies, protein and starch products and produce very tasty food. No experience is needed as we simply follow the directions of an experienced kitchen leader. **We need cooks from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.; servers from 11:45 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.; and people to clean up from 12:- @ 2:30 P.M.** Meet new people and have fun while you work. NBA is located in the lower rear of First Congregational Church, 165 Main St, Amherst with access off Spring Street. If you can help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, 413-253-0894; [mbsem@comcast.net](mailto:mbsem@comcast.net). THANK YOU!!

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## Green Sanctuary

***Being Mortal* at UUSA** Molly Moss, Reference Librarian at Forbes Library and a member of the UUSA board, is working with the Pastoral Care Team and the Green Sanctuary Committee to bring to the UUSA this fall a discussion series centered around Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal*. Molly was part of an initiative organized with 20 public libraries and Cooley Dickinson Hospital to bring conversation around this book and topic to the Pioneer Valley in the spring, and had such an uplifting and rewarding experience, she wanted to share it with the UUSA.

Jeffrey Zesiger, MD, director of Palliative Care at Cooley Dickinson Hospital and an event organizer, said the goal of the initiative was to help community members prepare for the later stages of life, as well as better understand the aging process, death and dying, and advanced care planning.

"Our society is neither comfortable with, nor used to, discussing serious illness or dying," Zesiger said. "It is my hope that by offering book reads and local discussion groups throughout Hampshire and Franklin counties that we will begin to have meaningful, sustained dialogue about our wishes regarding end-of-life care."

The series will begin this fall. We will have discussions around the topics brought up in this book, and discussions with representatives from Cooley Dickinson to help answer our more specialized questions. Thanks to the generosity of Jones Library, Amherst, **there are copies of the book in the UUSA library** for people to borrow. This book is also available from your local public library in regular, large print, audio, e-book and e-audio formats.

*Being Mortal* tells a thought-provoking story that is sure to reach readers on both intellectual and emotional levels as Dr. Gawande reminds readers that "endings matter."

If you have any questions, contact Molly Moss at [mossbrau@gmail.com](mailto:mossbrau@gmail.com) or **Jessica Murphy** at [jessica.mindfulness@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.mindfulness@gmail.com)

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## Denominational Affairs



**Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans Convocation 2016: Awakening Our Tribe** First Church Unitarian Universalist in historic Salem, MA August 26-28. This year's Convocation is the first in a decade and it is time to awaken the spirit of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, Nature and Earth-Centered UUs. Join us for this special gathering as we return to the roots for inspiration. Special guests include the Rev. Shirley Ranck, Unitarian Universalist minister and author of the popular curriculum and book, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*. For more information about the program and fees, and to register online, visit [CUUPS.org](http://CUUPS.org).

### FACEBOOK REMINDER

UUSA continues to build its presence on Facebook. We currently have 219 "friends." If you have not already done so and you are a Facebook follower, please visit our page (<https://www.facebook.com/UUSocietyAmherst/>), or search Facebook for "Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst (UUSA)," and "like" it. More important, as you see UUSA posts that appear every day, PLEASE like, comment or share them. The more activity we have on our page, the more traffic to our site is generated among a broader circle. This is one more way to reach the broader community and attract them to our Society. We are heartened to hear more frequently that people have learned about us on Facebook, so we know it works. Thank you.