

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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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

Sunday, November 5, 10:30 A.M. – *Walking the Line Between Yin and Yang: The Year That Changed Our Lives*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

Join us for a little Chinese Philosophy as we contemplate how we have changed over the past year since that fateful election, and how we can re-establish some equanimity moving forward.

Sunday, November 12, 10:30 A.M. – *A Tribute to Pete Seeger*

Folksinger and activist Pete Seeger became a UU later in life because he was looking for a group with which to sing, and he liked the community his local UU church gathered together. Our all-congregation worship will take the form of singing together, in community, familiar Seeger songs about issues of importance and beauty.

Sunday, November 19, 10:30 A.M. – *The Search for Home*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

This week is the busiest travel week of the entire year. Nothing says “let’s go home” like Thanksgiving. Yet, there are millions of people around the world who do not have a home where they can celebrate the blessings of life. Today we will explore the many meanings of home with the Co-Executive Directors of Craig’s Doors, as they join Rev. Cindy for this special service. We will be collecting food for the Survival Center today, and then celebrating the holiday with a Cider and Pie Social Hour.

Today is our Dedicated Offering Sunday

Sunday, November 26, 10:30 A.M. – *Harvesting Hope in Perplexing Times*

The Rev. Dr. Adele Smith-Penniman

Our litany of woes may be substantial: a world which knows war more than peace; a loved one facing serious illness; a neighbor fearing eviction.... How might we approach challenge with grace? How might we cultivate hope in the tiny plot of earth we each tend?

The Rev. Dr. Adele Smith-Penniman is delighted to return to Amherst. A retired UU minister, Adele has worked in parish, social justice and educational settings. She lives in the woods of Wendell and enjoys her cello, weaving, and (above all) her grandchildren.

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.

Musings from the Interim Minister’s Inkwell

Prayer, Praise and Parking

A few weeks ago, I started a GoFundMe page to help the good people from the Hampshire Mosque raise the required funds they need in order to complete their parking lot project and move into their new worship space. We are going to dedicate our December Dedicated Offering to their goal.

I thought you might want to read the letter that I sent to the local papers. If you could pass along the GoFundMe link to friends, that would be most appreciated! <https://www.gofundme.com/2q2fzjw>

Here’s the letter: As a member of the Amherst Area Clergy Group, I have been very aware of the efforts of the local Muslim community to raise funds to establish a permanent home in the Pioneer valley. Their faith tradition does not allow for them to take out interest-bearing loans, so they had to pay cash for each part of the Hampshire Mosque building project. It cost over a million dollars, and after much hard work doing internal and external fundraising, they were able to finally finish the building renovation.

Unfortunately, the Town of Hadley cannot give them an occupancy permit until their parking lot is paved. As you can see in the pictures that I put on the GoFundMe page (which I have copied below), it desperately needs to be graded and paved. The cost is \$85,000. They have managed to secure \$40,000, but their resources are

drained and they need help traversing the gulf. It could take them many months or even years to accumulate the remaining \$45,000.

I have been in touch with Naz Mohamed, their community liaison, and she and members of her Board have provided me with all the information that is in the GoFundMe page to ensure the accuracy of my presentation.

Why do I think it is important to get involved? I start with the question, "Who is my neighbor?" I have been a student of world religions my whole life, and they all teach compassion and kindness toward others. There is so much xenophobia in the world today, in large part because of ISIS and other Islamic extremist groups. Too often our fears compel us to paint with a broad brush and disperse our judgment across an entire people. As an American who cherishes religious freedom and as a person of faith who respects our Muslim brothers and sisters' right to pray in their own spiritual home, I am compelled to help them make manifest their dream. We are all made stronger when we support one another in our diversity. It is only then that we are better able to see more clearly the holy that dwells within everyone.

It also seemed heartbreaking to me, knowing how hard they have worked to complete work on the Hampshire Mosque, only to be shut out for an indeterminate amount of time because the cost of a parking lot is so enormous. Sometimes we all need a little (or a lot) of help from our friends.

Besides the GoFundMe page, there will also be a Silent Auction fundraiser at the Wesley Methodist Church in Hadley on Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 P.M. , where proceeds will also go to the parking lot project.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. It would be wonderful to get this information out into the general public.



Peace and goodwill,
Rev. Cindy

[Editor's note: In February 2016, our UU Society raised \$722.29 in a Dedicated Offering to assist the Hampshire Mosque's construction project. Let us again share what we can so these neighbors may manifest their dream!]

A Memorial Service celebrating the life of **Paul Rothery** will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 18 at the Meetinghouse. The reception will take place in the Willie Eaton Social Hall immediately following the Service. All are welcome.

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. Recipients for FY18 have been chosen. Forms for suggesting recipients for next year are available in the Meetinghouse office.

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 October Dedicated Offering raised \$707 for the new **Breast Center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital**.

On Sunday, November 19, the UUSA will receive a dedicated offering for the **Amherst Survival Center**. Now in its 41st year, this non-profit organization has been a model for helping people in need in an effective and dignified way. Families and individuals struggling to make ends meet are welcome not only to partake of services, but also to find companionship and relief from isolation. People are there to share their material resources, information, concerns, and frustrations. No one is turned away.

The Amherst Survival Center serves close to 6,000 people each year. Their services, all of which are free, include groceries distributed from a well-stocked pantry; a freshly cooked meal four days a week; a breakfast bar; drop-in health clinic; a “free store” with clothing and other items; yoga and exercise classes; assistance from social service workers; computers and a washer and dryer to use; free sewing classes, field trips, live music performances and movie nights; job readiness workshops, job fairs, information & referral; as well as a variety of other support services.

At a time when our country’s leadership is threatening the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens — children without enough to eat, struggling seniors, homeless teenagers, new immigrants, the uninsured — here is a place where all who come for help are welcomed, cared for, and valued in a safe environment. Funding for its many offerings is critically needed. The Dedicated Offering Committee urges you to please be generous in giving to this very important local program.

Ministerial Search Committee

October was a busy month for our congregation in its search for a new minister. We’ve asked a lot of you these past few months — to complete a lengthy survey, participate in cottage meetings, and attend the Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) workshop. The Committee has also interviewed individual members of the staff and our youth. The Ministerial Search Committee thanks all of you for your enthusiastic participation. Thanks to your valuable and thoughtful insights, we are proceeding with confidence in finalizing the Congregational Record (CR) profile, one that should give a true picture of who we are as a congregation and what kind of minister we are looking for.

The CR is a multi-page form which includes descriptive, financial, and historical information about the UUSA and the surrounding Amherst community. It is the first thing potential ministers see about us when they are considering congregations. Our CR, along with those of all other congregations in search, will be available for all UUA ministers in good standing seeking a new congregation to see on a private UUA website in early December.

While the CR represents our responses to questions posed by the UUA, we have another comprehensive profile to prepare, the Congregational Packet. The Congregational Packet is a longer, more creative, individualized document, with photos, samples of past newsletters, Sunday orders of service, the ministerial agreement and compensation packet, letters from our Board President, Interim and Minister Emerita, and much more. It will be up to us to make our Congregational Packet stand out among the many Packets the ministers will review. We are pleased to say that all of this is coming along very well, and we are excited to share our story with potential candidates.

We appreciate all of the feedback from you about who we are and your desires in a new minister. Although we haven’t heard whether “SuperMinister” will be on the market, we will be putting our best foot forward in the preparation of our search materials.

With deep gratitude for your participation and investment in our community!

Members of the Ministerial Search Team: Carolyn Cave, Jenn Chylack, Lisa Cyr, Mary Herman, Anne Perkins, and Steve Rice.

Membership

We welcome our newest member! Joshua F. Lombard signed our venerable Membership Book on Sunday, October 22. He resides in Amherst.

Getting to Know UU

Are you new to us this fall and curious about who we are? Come join us downstairs in the Conference Room on Sunday, November 19 at noon for light refreshments and a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the UU Society of Amherst.

Bring your questions! What are you looking for — and what might we have to offer?



UUSA Thanksgiving Potluck Feast

Are your friends and family all too far away on Thanksgiving? Would you like to share Thanksgiving with UUSA friends right here at home? If so, come to the UUSA Social Hall Thanksgiving Potluck Feast on Thursday, November 23. All ages are welcome!

Susanne Personette is organizing a very easy potluck Thanksgiving for UUSA members to share this holiday of gratitude. Volunteers can decorate the Social Hall and others can help roast a couple of turkeys in the church kitchen. Everyone can chip in to cover the cost of the turkeys. Then we can each bring a favorite holiday side dish, appetizer, or pie – and wine! – to share. We can all offer our gratitude at the table. And of course, we'll all clean up, too.

Please let her know by email or phone ASAP if you would like to join the feast.

Susanne Personette, susannepersonette@gmail.com 413-835-5229



Religious Education

Dear Congregation,

Welcome to the darkness and swirling leaves, apples and pumpkins and the upcoming holidays! Here's a quick snapshot of what is going on in RE.

Preschool: Fall is a good time to explore family and friends and talk about our UU 7 Principles. **Jacy** is a font of good ideas for our littlest members.

Elementary: Every Sunday I work with K-5th graders to tackle a different UU topic through art, drama, and other kinds of activities. In November we will also be doing a Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Neighboring Faiths: This year 6th - 8th graders will visit a different faith every month and then they will get together the following Sunday to talk about their visit and attend a UU service. In October the youth visited the Catholic Newman Center. This month the youth will be visiting the Jewish Community of Amherst. Thank you to the facilitators: **Tom Fricke, Polly Peterson, Libby Walton-Stanforth** and **Kelly Aiken**, who will be subbing. Our middle school group will be combining with the Northampton middle school off and on throughout the year.

Youth Group: Last month the youth climbed Bare Mountain just for fun and the Senior Youth helped out at the N. Amherst Habitat for Humanity building site on October 15. This month the Youth Group will participate in a gleaning with youth from Northampton and Springfield. The food that is gleaned will be donated to one of the local food distribution services. More news on that in the next issue. Thank you to **Kate Rice** for helping to facilitate our gatherings.

Our Whole Lives (OWL): Last month the 9th and 10th grade youth and their parents started a year-long program on human sexuality. Some would say this is the most important RE program the UU has and that we offer. We have four new families joining us for this experience. Welcome. Thank you to **Mary Cornell** and **Karen Fisk** for facilitating the youth discussions.

Finally, thank you to the 50 children and their parents who are signed up for our RE programming! If you know of families who would like to join us — the more the merrier!

Rebecca, Director of Religious Education



Senior Youth Group Builds for Habitat for Humanity On October 15, the Senior Youth Group went to help build a duplex with Habitat for Humanity. After we got our safety gear on, we started to put vinyl siding around the outside of one of the sheds.

It's very rewarding to see that all of the work that you put into something pays off. We have learned that we aren't scared of heights except when we're on ladders. Make sure that you really pay attention in math class, because there will be moments when you will definitely need that information in your life. Our helping hands wholeheartedly hammered happily.

Thank you to the Nancy Foster Memorial Fund for Social Justice for helping to make this experience possible.

Mindfulness Group UUSA member **Jessica Murphy** offers a mindfulness group to our UUSA congregation. The next dates and times are Tuesday, November 14 and Tuesday, November 28, 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.

Crafting for Connections at the UUSA

Beads of Gratitude—January 20
Traveling Table-Top Altars—April 7
Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Create Simple Projects and Learn Practices for Creativity and Contemplation—led by Kelly Aiken and Rebecca Fricke

Please RSVP for each craft gathering two weeks prior to the event—
FrickeDRE@gmail.com or 413-687-8722

Separate material fee for each activity.

For ages 14—100

****Part of the UUSA Lifespan Education Program****



A Thanksgiving Meditation

Who is worthy to be present at the constant unfolding of time? Amidst the meditation of mountains, the humility of flowers and leaves—wiser than all alphabets—clouds that form and change constantly...we are hating, hunting, hurting...How strange we are in this world, and how presumptuous our doings! Only one response can maintain us: GRATEFULNESS for witnessing the wonder, even amidst pain and sorrow, for the gift of our unearned right to serve, to adore, and to fulfill. It is gratefulness which makes the soul great.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel
I Asked for Wonder

With love from our Caring Circle, Pastoral Care Team, Small Groups and Minister, and wishes for this wondrous season of Autumn and Thanksgiving to you and yours.

Our Caring Circle coordinators are **Catherine Porter** and **Clare Bertrand**. Please contact one of them or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, Carolyn Cave, Sue Kelly, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman** and **Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Mary Wyse** and **Pete Rogers**. Other members are **The Reverend Elizabeth Alcaide, Charlie Atwood, The Reverend Cindy Frado, Bo Mack, Fran Plumer,** and **Libby Walton-Stanforth**. Please contact one of them for your more complex or personal needs.

We send loving thoughts to **Sophie Rogers** on the death of her mother, to **Charlie and Judy Atwood** on the death of Judy's mother, to **Debby Davis** on the loss of her husband **Robert**, and to **Vicki Hinson-Smith, Ann Howard, John and Susan Barbaro, Carol Rothery,** and **Millis Mershon** and her family.

Fundraising



Tag Sale Wrap-up

Many thanks to all of you who helped make the Big BIG Tag Sale a success. We raised approximately \$1,600 for the UUSA. It would not have been possible without the help of our set-up crew, day-of helpers and the clean-up crew who swept in at the end and made all the leftovers disappear!

STONE SOUP BAZAAR & CAFE – December 2 – DON'T MISS IT!

Back by popular demand, we will be hosting this fundraising event again on Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M.. Save some of your holiday shopping and enjoy the many artisans and craftspeople who will be present. And don't forget the yummy homemade soups, breads and baked goods available for breakfast and lunch.

There are more than 20 vendors who will be participating, including potters, fabric artists, jewelers, painters and more. Parents, grandparents and people of all ages are sure to find that special something for the people on their lists. And wait until you see the quilt made by members of our congregation (including **Carol Johnson**, whose name was omitted in last month's article about the quilt). The quilt and the famous UU gift baskets will be displayed during November and raffle tickets will be available for purchase. New this year will be a special tag sale section of select items.

And soon it will be time to get busy in the UUSA kitchen! Once again we will be looking for our teams of soup makers and muffin bakers. If you are willing to gather a team to make one of the four delicious soups or trays of muffins for sale in the Café, please let **Sue Kelly** know.

So save the date and join in the fun. I'll be looking for volunteers for day-of jobs such as helping vendors, staffing the kitchen and café and hosting kids' activities.

Sue Kelly, spahrkellys@gmail.com, 413-559-9934

HEALING THE MORAL INJURIES OF WAR

The UUSA Veterans and Families Committee is holding an event on Monday, November 20 from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. in the Willie Eaton Social Hall. Explore with us the costs that “moral injuries” can have on our active duty soldiers, veterans, their families, community and society.

Moral injury occurs when we participate – to any degree – in actions that transgress our deeply held moral beliefs and expectations. It affects combatants and also their families, friends, community, and society.

There will be a brief presentation about “moral injury,” after which we will form a talking circle. This will be an opportunity to share experiences, feelings and thoughts in a safe and confidential space.

Call **Gene Herman** at 240-472-7288 or **Pete Rogers** at 413-588-7740 for more information or your willingness to assist.

Social Events

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.

Women’s Lunch The Women’s Lunch Group meets every other Thursday for conversation and local, inexpensive cuisine. The next luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, November 2 at The Amherst Pub (15 East Pleasant Street, Amherst). We welcome every woman, whether new to our Society or a longer-time member or friend. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you have questions, need help finding a ride, or want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Sophie Rogers** at 413-772-9814 or sophiesailing@gmail.com.

Rhythms of Life: Evenings of Drumming, Rattling and Merriment, Saturday, November 18, and December 16, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. in the Willie Eaton Social Hall. Bring drums and rattles for yourself and to share. This will be an evening of free-form letting loose through rhythm. No experience necessary!

Finance Committee

Greetings from the Finance Committee!

Last year’s 2016-17 finances ended well with a surplus of about \$2,800, about \$3,000 short of the \$5,800 expected surplus. You are reading that correctly, a surplus! The real news is that our income came in on budget while our expenses were over budget, mostly because of unexpected elevator repairs and higher-than-budgeted electricity bills. Our financial health continues to depend on us all and the generosity of our pledges and plate offerings and to our volunteering at fundraisers. We can also thank **Judy Mitrolka** for the management of our building and the renters who use it. One more simple way to help our bottom line is to purchase gift cards after services for shopping at Big Y or Stop & Shop. We raised over \$1,000 last year in this way and could raise much more with more shoppers.

Our building committee in charge of overseeing our addition and renovation has been overseeing a small surplus from our capital campaign. That committee was officially retired by the board and the surplus funds went to begin a capital expenses fund that was immediately put to use to pay for a burned-out compressor in our fire suppression system. We now have \$8,600 in the capital expenses fund for future capital expenses.

Finally, the Finance Committee completed their first-ever internal review of our own books. We checked a year’s worth of bank statements and matched them with our own internal documents, looking at every deposit slip and check written for the year. We found that everything was in order. We all can continue to do our part by always having two people count and sign for any cash from any event. These slips can be found with the cash boxes in Judy’s office.

The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 8, at 7:15 P.M. at the Meetinghouse, in Judy’s office.

UUSA Open Studio



Are you a painter? Once in a while, would you enjoy some company while you paint and appreciate getting helpful feedback on your work? If so, this is for you!

UUSA will be holding Open Studio for painters of all media and all levels in our beautiful Social Hall on ten Fridays this winter. You can paint or draw whatever you'd like: bring photo references to paint from, finish something you started elsewhere such as plein air pieces, or just make up something. You can come to one or come to all sessions— it's up to you!

We will paint from 9am to 12pm, then share a bag lunch and friendly critique from 12:00 -1:00 PM on the following 10 Fridays:

Nov. 10	Dec. 15	Jan. 12	Feb. 9	Mar. 9
Nov. 17	Dec. 29	Jan. 26	Feb. 23	Mar.23

There are just four things you need to do:

Let us know each week when you are coming by emailing SusannePersonette@gmail.com so we know how many people to expect.

Bring \$5 cash each time to help offset the expenses of opening the space.

Bring your own cheap **plastic shower curtain** to protect the floors and tables around your work area.

Bring all **your own paints, brushes, canvases, portable easel**, etc.

Email me with any questions. Hope to paint with you this winter!

Susanne Personette

Green Sanctuary

Look for the Green Sanctuary Committee's Action Table in the Social Hall on the second Sunday of every month. We will provide information on an environmental issue and a way for members of the congregation to contact legislators or other key people. We want to make it easy for you to take action on critical issues. Please visit us!

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet on Thursday, November 30, 7:00 P.M. at the home of Gordon and Mary Wyse, 219 Lincoln Ave., Amherst.

Social Action

Just One Thing On November 12, the 2nd Sunday of the month, a collection will occur for the Survival Center. Hearty soups and stews, pasta, peanut butter, diapers and feminine hygiene products are needed. As always, anything you can give is most appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support of community members in need. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894.

Human Rights Documentary Series Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 P.M. in the Willie Eaton Social Hall: "Crosstalk" by John J. Gumperz (1982), 30 minutes. This event is free and open to the public.

A pioneering effort in applied sociolinguistics, "Crosstalk" was one in a BBC series entitled Multi-Racial Britain. Crosstalk confronts the issue of miscommunication in the workplace that comes from racial and ethnic stratification. It shows how linguistic verbal and non-verbal differences can lead to communication breakdown, reinforcing already existing misconceptions, stereotypes and distrust.

The screening will be followed by a moderated discussion and guidelines for avoiding and overcoming miscommunication in the context of diversity and inequality.

The human rights series focuses on issues such as refugees and immigrants, children's rights, human trafficking, hunger, racism and mass incarceration, and explores ways in which we can make a difference as Unitarian Universalists and as concerned citizens. Other events will be held February 21, March 23, and April 25. Specific topics TBD. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to **Maria Lydia Spinelli** – spinelliml@gmail.com – 708-567-1759

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. 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** at sophiesailing@gmail.com.

We hope you consider joining our wonderful fun-loving team.

UUSA topic of lunchtime presentation on November 17

History Bites is a series of 30-minute lectures hosted by the Amherst Historical Society and Museum to inform and entertain, covering various aspects of the history of Amherst and the lives of those who once lived here. Listeners may bring their lunches with them to the Strong House, 67 Amity Street. Coffee, tea and cider will be provided. The programs begin promptly at 12:15 P.M. with seating and beverages ready just before noon.

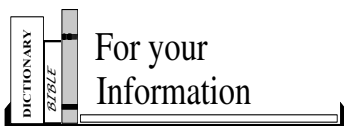
The lectures are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

UUSA member **Janis Gray** has been invited by the series organizers to speak on the history of our UU Society. Her multimedia talk, “‘This little house, with grateful hearts’ — How the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst came to be” will be presented on Friday, November 17. She found it fitting that it will be exactly 130 years to the day from November 17, 1887, when the Universalist Convention of Massachusetts granted a charter to a new Universalist parish in Amherst. Starting with about 40 families, the parish met in Grand Army Hall and other rented spaces until 1893, when it opened the doors to a modest meetinghouse build on the corner of North Pleasant Street and Kellogg Avenue. Janis suspects the original parishioners would be amazed by the transformation of their “little house” and its membership today.

ION (Interfaith Opportunity Network) Our October 4 meeting was a very exciting meeting. Our guest speaker, Laura Reichsman, Director of Family Outreach of Amherst (FOA), described the very important work they do for and with low-income families in the Amherst area. FOA believes that the families they work with are experts in their own lives and should be active participants in creating change in their lives. They seek to address all the issues struggling families face, the whole family becomes the “client.”

At that same meeting, a proposal for a fundraiser to raise money needed to help pay for paving the parking lot for the Hampshire Mosque was discussed. The Mosque has already raised and spent \$1.5 million and needs only \$45,000 more. A silent auction called “Neighbors Together Help — Open Hampshire Mosque” is planned for Sunday, November 19, 4:00-7:00 P.M. at Wesley Methodist Church, Hadley, with information about the new building, interfaith program and food. Tickets will be \$10 - \$25. In addition a gofundme page developed by our own interim minister **Cindy** has been established at www.gofundme.com/2q2fzjw.

For information about ION, contact our representative, **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net, 413-253-0894.



Benefit Concert: Protecting Indigenous Sacred Sites With an Introduction by Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Sunday, October 29, 5:00-4:30 P.M., Shea Theater, Turners Falls, MA. Featured musicians: Joe Graveline & Nina Gross; Pat & Tex LaMountain; Cathy Sylvester & Joe Pod; Orlen & Gabriel; Kate O'Connor & Rico from Blue Rendezvous. Tickets \$15 Sheatheater.org, \$18 at door.

Seeking Justice in Healthcare: A Forum on Medicare for All Sunday November 5, 2017 2:00-4:30 P.M.,
Jewish Community Center of Amherst Social Hall. Everybody Welcome. Sponsored by JCA CAN!

You will come away with information and an action plan. Presenters: Senator Jamie Eldridge, sponsor of the MA Medicare For All Bill; Dr. Gerald Friedman, Healthcare Economist; Jackie Wolf, ALWV, Mass Care; Jon Weissman, WM Jobs with Justice Healthcare Action.

Non-Violent Direct Action for Social Change: Stepping Up Our Game One Year Later Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2:00 - 4:30 P.M., Jewish Community of Amherst. All Welcome. On this anniversary of the presidential election, the use of non-violent direct action (NVDA) to resist corporate greed, environmental destruction, racial injustice, and all violations of human rights appears more essential than ever. NVDA is more than risking arrest. Come explore all the myriad ways we can be engaged in working together for meaningful change.

Join us for this timely presentation about the historical context and core principles of NVDA as it has leveraged change in the US and around the world, highlighted by local, national, and international examples. We will engage in community conversation about how we can apply NVDA to our own work around the pressing issues of environmental justice, white supremacy, electoral politics, and more.

Presenter: Stellan Vinthagen, Professor of Sociology and Inaugural Chair in The Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance at the University of Massachusetts.

Panel: Micah Lott, a Northern Arapaho man from who spent seven months at Standing Rock and is now resisting fossil fuel expansion in Massachusetts; Vivienne Simon, long-time activist who is now legal advisor for the Sugar Shack Alliance resisting the pipeline in Otis State Forest; Paki Wieland, currently with CODEPINK in Washington D.C.

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Sponsors : Rising Together affinity group, Resistance Studies Initiative - UMass.