

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, May 6, 10:30 A.M. – *Beyond the Partisan Divide: The Unheard Voices of Unitarian Universalist Conservatives*

The Sunday Services Committee

This staged reading, written by the Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, is based on Marjorie Bowen-Wheatley's prized litany, Reading 575, in *Singing the Living Tradition: A Litany of Restoration*. Notes Sammler-Michael, "Unitarian Universalists too often sacrifice the opportunity to go deeper and investigate understanding as well as collaboration with their UU brothers and sisters with different political perspectives. This play is one attempt to heal what has been broken and must be restored if we are indeed going to be a religion for our time."

Sunday, May 13, 10:30 A.M. – *The Women Who Have Mothered Us*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

Sunday, May 20, 10:30 A.M. – *Neighboring Faiths*

Our Middle School Youth

During this service our UU 6th, 7th and 8th graders will share their experiences and thoughts about the visits they took to six different faiths in our community.

Today is our Dedicated Offering Sunday

Sunday, May 27, 10:30 A.M. – *The Imperative of Peace*

The Reverend Cynthia A. Frado preaching

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.

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 April Dedicated Offering raised \$791.36 for **Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services.**

This month's Dedicated Offering on May 20 will help support the Sanctuary Fund at First Congregational Church of Amherst. Lucio Perez of Springfield, an undocumented Guatemalan immigrant facing deportation, currently resides at the First Congregational Church of Amherst, which is providing him sanctuary while he waits for his case to be reopened after Immigration and Customs Enforcement denied his stay of removal. Providing housing and meals as well as funding a Legal Defense to fight his deportation is costly. Money donated to the Sanctuary Fund of First Congregational Church during the Dedicated Offering will be used to support this effort.



Religious Education Ministry

Program Updates:

Pre-K - Jacy is working with the children on Pride month which involves rainbow flags, respect for differences and celebrating families.

Elementary - Children will continue to work on the theme "Love will Guide Us." May includes a special Mother's Day activity, a whole-congregation service planned by the middle school children and a walk to Memorial Park on Memorial Day weekend.

Neighboring Faiths - The group will be busy planning their service for May 20.

High School Youth Group - There is talk of a special expedition to somewhere outdoors.

Request for Volunteers:

Do you have a Sunday or two to spare? Help the UUSA Religious Education program by volunteering from 10:30-11:30. Participate in the children's hour - crafts, songs and special activities. No preparation necessary. Please talk to Rebecca Fricke (413-687-8722 or dre@uusocietyamherst.org).

Thank yoUU,

Rebecca Fricke,

Director of Religious Education



Thank you to the youth who led worship on April 8.

Social Events

UUSA Social Supper The last social supper of the season will be a musical social supper at the home of **Howard Apley**, 470 Montague Road in Sunderland, on Saturday, May 26. (413-665-2995) (Please note this is the 4th Saturday of the month, not the 3rd as usual!) We will start at 5:30 P.M. with appetizers and refreshments, and then Howard and **Sue Kelsey** will perform The Brahms "Variations on a theme of Haydn" on two large studio grand pianos. Brahms wrote two versions of this marvelous work for either symphony orchestra or two pianos. The combined time for this and possibly some very short Bach two-piano organ transcriptions is about a half hour. Dinner, of course, will follow.

There could possibly be some more informal music later on in the evening.

Please phone Sue at 413-536-2676 to coordinate what food you wish to bring. Although it's by no means a requirement, consider using one local ingredient in whatever dish you prepare. And if you bring a dish containing shellfish, please label your dish, as we have some folks with severe allergies to shellfish.

Directions to Howard Apley's at 470 Montague Road (RT 47) Sunderland

From Amherst Center: Go north on North Pleasant Street and continue on Rt. 63 through Leverett, a small bit of Sunderland, and into Montague. Turn left on Rt. 47 (south) and when you re-enter Sunderland turn left at the first driveway (only one mile from the intersection of 63 and 47) identified by three mailboxes near a tree. The driveway forks; go to the house on the right.

From Hadley: From Rt. 9, go north on Rt. 116 to Sunderland Center, turn right or north at Rt. 47 and go a shade less than four miles. Turn right at the last driveway in Sunderland, identified by three mailboxes near a tree. The driveway forks; go to the house on the right. (Before you turn you can see the bus turnaround and "entering Montague signs" which are ahead of you).

Balloons will be on the 470 mailbox.

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.

The Women's Lunch Group now meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month (note change!) at noon for conversation and local, inexpensive cuisine. The next luncheon is May 10 at Ichiban Asian Bistro (106 North 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 want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Sophie Rogers** at 413-772-9814 or sophiesailing@gmail.com.



OUR GALA ART AUCTION



Are you thinking about donating?

The Art Auction Committee is hard at work collecting art for the gala event! **Now is the time to let us know if you have a piece of art that you would like to donate.**

The next step:

Stop by the Art Auction portion of the Welcome Table after the service on Sundays. A member of the committee ("Ask Me About Art") will be there to answer your questions.

OR

Sign up at the Welcome Table to have someone come to your home and help you decide which items would fit best in the Auction.

OR

Call or email anyone on the committee and we will help you make donation decisions.

Why now, when the event isn't until June?

We will be creating a catalog of the art, noting points of interest about each piece. This takes time.

This is our big fund-raiser for the year, how can I help?

There are so many ways to help! We are all part of this effort. You might:

1. Contact any artists you know who have art they might donate.
2. Contact friends or relatives who have works of art that, though loved, are no longer displayed. Tell them how their donation will help to fund the good works of the UUSA.
3. Consider donating some wine for the event.
4. Volunteer to help us on the day of the auction. We will be needing many people before, during, and after this event.

Good news!

We are excited to announce that we have three art experts from the community who have agreed to help us "gently jury" our event. They will help us determine what to ask for each item, and help us with displaying the works for maximum impact. It's going to be great!

It's time to be getting excited! Put it on your calendars and tell your friends!

***It's the Gala Art Auction
June 8th, 4:00-8:00***

Membership

Welcome to our newest members! Four individuals joined UUSA in April: **Jason Threlfall** of Amherst; **John McLean** of Hadley; and **Becky** and **Hal Lockwood** of Amherst. This brings our official membership to 141 (another 75 or so adults regularly participate as “friends”).

New mailing addresses **Debby Davis** now receives mail at 71 West Pomeroy Lane, Amherst, rather than at her former P.O. Box. **Gabriela Horvay** now receives mail at P.O. Box 159, Hadley MA 01035-0159.

Our Caring Ministries



There is no better way to give thanks for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone in the dark.

Our minister, Caring Circle, and Pastoral Care Team are all available to help during difficult times. *Helen Keller*

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

OUR PASTORAL CARE TEAM co-coordinators are **Mary Wyse** and **Pete Rogers**. Other members are **The Reverend Elizabeth Alcaide**, **Charlie Atwood**, **The Reverend Cindy Frado**, **Rob Fuderich**, **Bo Mack**, **Fran Plumer**, and **Libby Walton-Stanforth**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

We send our joyful thoughts to **Charlie** and **Judy Atwood** as Charlie gains strength after major surgery, and on-going wishes to **Casey Atteberry**, **John** and **Susan Barbaro**, **Vicki Hinson-Smith**, **Carolyn Holstein**, **Lois Kackley**, **Warren LaRoche**, **Becky** and **Hal Lockwood**, **John** and **Cindy McLean**, **Millis Mershon**, and **Fran Plumer** and family for healing, wholeness, and peace.

From your minister, Caring Circle, Pastoral Care Team, and Small Groups.

Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary Committee recommends that congregation members concerned about climate change join the Mass Power Forward unified Monday Climate Actions, promoting bold action on state climate change legislation. Following is a description of the recommended action. (Which you can also find on the [Climate Action Now Take Action Page](#)).

A summary of the omnibus energy bill referenced below is [here](#).

Call the House Speaker and your Representative to Demand Passage of Clean Energy Legislation

From now through the end of the two year state legislative session on July 31, we need to be escalating the pressure on our legislators in order to ensure that the bills we want will pass. **We have 5-7 weeks to help influence what the House will do. That's why every Monday we are encouraging you to make two calls. We're calling the Speaker directly because he controls what comes up on the House agenda.**

1. Your state representative (617-722-2000 and ask for your rep.)
2. The Speaker of the House (617-722-2500)

You can find that contact information here: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

Here's what you do for each call:

First: Contact the office, identify yourself as a constituent and identify the reason you are calling:

My name is ___ and I'd like to ask [the representative to urge leadership] or [Speaker DeLeo] to implement the clean energy policies found in the Senate's new omnibus energy bill, S.2302, which I strongly support. S.2302 contains many of the same bills and policies being considered in the House. Let's keep the momentum rolling at this critical moment – including, but not limited to:

1. (H. 2700) Increasing the renewable portfolio standard to 3% per year
2. (H.3400) Reforming the Department of Public Utilities
3. (H.3396) Implementing solar policies to benefit low-income communities
4. (H.2913) Codifying Environmental Justice regulations from the Patrick administration
5. (H.2149) Setting new emission standards for 2030 and 2040 under the Global Warming Solutions Act for curbing emissions.

Next, give your personal reason for why you are supporting these policies. Thank the staffer for their time.

Then log your response [here](#).



Social Action

Not Bread Alone On Saturday, March 31, members of our **Youth Group** gave up their afternoon to serve food and clean up at Not Bread Alone. **Anna Stanforth's, Jack and Rosie Dinsmores'** and **Casey Flueckiger's** help was invaluable. Clean up is the least favorite task. **Mary Beth Seminario** also helped by organizing donated produce which was distributed to guests after the meal. The next time our help will be needed is Saturday, June 30. If you can help please contact Mary Beth at MBSem@comcast.net. Thank you!

Interfaith Sanctuary and Solidarity Network The week of April 9 our congregation provided evening meals for Lucio Perez who has been in sanctuary at First Congregational Church Amherst since mid October. **Maria Lydia Spinelli, Alyson Miller, Susan Wells and family, Lucy Blakeley, Mary Latham, and Gabriella Horvay** were humbled to cook varied foods for Lucio and three of his children. The children were driven from their Springfield home by other volunteers. Our help will again be needed the week of June 25. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net.

On April 12, 1,000 letters were delivered to Immigration officials in support of Lucio, who still awaits a hearing date concerning his deportation.

Just One Thing On May 13 there will be a collection of food and personal care items for the Amherst Survival Center. Items needed this month include: canned fruits (low sugar), canned vegetables, canned beans, canned or boxed meat and chicken soups, peanut butter, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, shampoo, soap and feminine hygiene products. As always, anything you give is most appreciated. Thank you very much for helping less fortunate community members. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net.

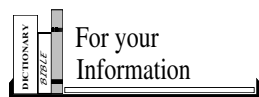
UUSA COMMUNITY BREAKFAST NEEDS YOU!

The UUSA has been providing volunteers for the free Community Breakfast in the Willie Eaton Social Hall every Wednesday for three years. We serve 80-120 guests a freshly cooked hot meal of eggs, home fries, sausages, pastries, cereal, toast, juice and coffee or tea – all provided by Amherst's Craig's Doors. Our breakfast is important as the Amherst Survival Center, which is open other days, is closed on Wednesday.

Our breakfast team works closely with Craig's Doors, which helps people find ways to become empowered and improve the quality of their lives through the creation of safe, respectful shelter and housing. We regularly experience a shortage of volunteers 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**.

ION CORNER

The Interfaith Opportunity Network (ION) has decided to give the First Congregational Church Youth Group the Joan Lindeman award for its study of world religions. From October to May various youth study and lead a discussion about a particular religion and attend that service. They believe that it is important to study and understand their own religion in the context of an appreciation and respect for other religions. The Lindeman award is given to individuals and groups who educate themselves and others about other faiths. For information contact our UUSA representative to ION, **Mary Beth Seminario**, mbsem@comcast.net.



Soldier's Heart retreat — Restoring the Soul After War: Annual Memorial Day Retreat

Friday May 25th – Monday May 28th, 2018

Rowe Conference Center, Rowe, MA

Ed Tick and Kate Dahlstedt

At this retreat we will practice ancient warrior traditions of annual sacred gatherings for restoring spirit. We will bring back the true meaning of Memorial Day by healing our relationships to all the fallen and transforming trauma, bringing meaning to tragedy and blessings to our losses.

Scholarships are available to veterans.

For more information and to register, visit <http://rowecenter.org/wp/events/memorial-day-retreat/>