

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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!

Printed on recycled paper



Schedule of Services

Sunday, August 4, 10:30 A.M. – *Poetry and Spirituality*

Ed Tick and Kate Dahlstedt

Poetry is the language of the heart and soul. We will present poetry as sacred text. We will share original poetry and selections from world literature that guide us into the deepest dimensions of human life and nature and reveal the hidden spirit at our common core.

Sunday, August 11, 10:30 A.M. – *“I am a Bitter Enemy to Slavery”*

Robert Romer

A Story of Dedication, Love, and Loss.

Christopher Pennell (1842-1864)

Sunday, August 18, 10:30 A.M. – *Freedom of Conscience*

Polly Peterson

Let’s celebrate the life and legacy of Theodore Parker, whose radical ideas about freedom of conscience have become central to our UU faith.

Sunday, August 25, 10:30 A.M. – *How War Humanized Me*

Pete Rogers

Pete was a Captain and career military intelligence Army officer when he went to Vietnam in 1968. He will talk about how his journey since then transformed him.

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.

Texts of other sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to:

office@uusocietyamherst.org

Lunch with the Minister

Bring your lunch and your curiosity. For three Wednesdays in August (August 6, 13, 20), from 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. in the Social Hall, Rev. Rachael is hosting Lunch with the Minister. Whether you’ve been waiting for an occasion to show off your new Toy Story lunchbox (or your vintage Holly Hobbie lunchbox, for that matter), or you picked something up at Pita Pockets, join Rev. Rachael for conversation over lunch.

Dedicated Offerings

Suggestions for 2019-2020 Worship Season The Dedicated Offering (DO) has been an important part of our Society for the last nine years. A DO is held every month from September through May, usually on the third Sunday of the month. For the last few years, the DO has given to local nonprofit human service agencies, plus a local arts agency.

The DO Committee consists of five Society members, plus the Minister and President of the Board of Trustees – we welcome suggestions from members of the congregation. If you have an organization for our consideration, please submit this form: <https://forms.gle/5pfkVuUZDauXMQwM8> (or contact Lea for a pdf or a hard copy).

We’d like to hear from you!

Sincerely,
The DO Committee

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Allen (1924 - 2019)

Longtime member Alice Allen died peacefully at Hospice of the Fisher Home on June 28, two weeks after celebrating her 95th birthday. A memorial service is planned for 2:00 P.M. Saturday, August 10 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst. Donations can be made in her memory to the Northampton Parents Center, Hospice of the Fisher Home or to Planned Parenthood.

Born Alice Loring Huntington on June 16, 1924 in Scarsdale, NY, she had three brothers and two sisters. The older sister died before Alice was born; the younger, Mary, was born with developmental disability. Alice's role as caregiver to her younger sister proved to be a formative experience which shaped her life.

She attended Smith College, graduating in 1945 with a degree in music. During her college years Alice attended a USO dance for young servicemen in Princeton, NJ, and there she met Dean Allen on a blind date. They married in 1948 and enjoyed nearly 60 years of a happy, fulfilling marriage, complimenting each other both personally and professionally. Dean died in 2005.

Alice and Dean lived in Istanbul, Turkey (1956-1959), and Brunswick, Maine (1960-1963) before moving to Amherst in 1963, where Dean became chief psychologist for the UMass Mental Health Services and Alice began her career working with young children. Over the next 25 years Alice established an integrated nursery school program for children with disabilities at the People's Institute in Northampton. It became the Community Clinical Nursery School – a collaboration between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and UMass Education Department which provided early schooling for children with special needs, a training program for special education teachers, and promoted the integration of special-needs children into mainstream classrooms. Later, she had many fulfilling years working for the REACH early intervention program in Northampton. In addition to her pioneering work with young children in home and nursery school settings, she completed a Master's in Education at UMass in 1984.

After Dean's and her retirement she took up another project in the service of her passion. She was a founder of the Parents Center in Northampton at the Edwards Church, providing support for new parents and their babies and toddlers. At the Center's 30th anniversary in 2016, Alice was celebrated for her contributions. She was also recently recognized by Motherwoman with an award for her significant contributions to maternal-child health in our area.

Alice and Dean's three children are Rebecca Phelps (Ann Michaels) of Hatfield; Jane Allen (Dan Levy) of Northampton; and Chris Allen (Anita Carlson-Allen) of Brownsville, VT. She was much beloved by her seven grandchildren, four step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren in whose lives she played a substantial and steady role —at times as caretaker and always as someone to turn to for a listening ear. She was the last living sibling of her generation and was a beloved presence in the annual extended Huntington family reunion on Cape Cod.

Later in her life she became an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst. An agnostic, she took great pleasure in the services (her father had been a Congregational minister), the music, the exploration of the spiritual questions that we all confront, and most of all, the fellowship, including a long-lived Small Group Ministry which has met twice a month for many years. The qualities of unguarded openness, intelligent, genuine interest in the person in front of her, and simple joy in human contact were expressed in her work and in every relationship she had. She will be sorely missed by many!

Fundraising



Auction Events with Openings – Join the fun!

Please send check to the UUSA office, P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA 01004-0502. **Please RSVP to your hosts a few days in advance of the event.**

Lunch and Swimming Party

Saturday, August 17, noon (Rain date, Sunday, August 18)

Hosts: Maura and Riley Whalen

Enjoy a simple but delicious lunch of burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs and then jump in the pool for an afternoon of swimming! Fun for the whole family!

Adults - \$10; Child under age 5 - \$5; \$25/family

New England's Best Texas BBQ!

Saturday, August 24, Games begin 2:00 P.M.; Dinner at 4:00 P.M.

Hosts: Steve and Susan Rice

Everyone welcome regardless of age! This event will feature a traditional Texas BBQ and a vegetarian alternative. Activities will include line dancing (cotton-eyed Joe) and the Texas 2-step. We will also offer croquet (sure it's English, but we'll put a little Texas into the game) and other activities for young and old alike. Don't miss this fun end-of-summer event.

Adults - \$10; Children ages 3-12- \$5; Under age 3, free

A Walk in the Woods!

Monday, Sept. 2

Host: Rev. Rachael

Join our new minister, Rachael Hayes, for a walk in the woods. We'll pick a trail with an easy/gentle rating and keep a pace appropriate for little legs. Come get excited about trees and chat about what we see, hear, and smell. Rachael will bring cookies to enjoy at the end of our walk.

JOIN US FOR A PAINTING PARTY!

Come even if you can just stay for an hour. We'll be downstairs in the cool R.E. rooms at the Meetinghouse from **MONDAY, AUGUST 19 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**, from **NOON - 4:00 P.M.** The task will be painting the toddlers' chairs. They are very sturdy and well constructed, but the metal frames are quite scratched up. Good conversation and tasty refreshments provided. Call or email **Carol Rothery** to let her know when you can help or if you can come at another time during that week. Or just show up! Thanks.



Religious Education Ministry

August RE News Bring your children to be with **Jacy** and **Anna** downstairs (10:30-11:30 A.M.) while you enjoy summer worship upstairs. Children can choose from activities at different stations, play active games with a teacher, or participate in a more structured craft. Please join us!

We will have childcare every Sunday but the last Sunday of August (August 25). September 1 will be RE Sidewalk Sunday — come play games and do chalk art and bubbles!

Thank you,

Rebecca Fricke

Director of Religious Education

Social Events

The Women's Lunch Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Our luncheon August 8 will be at The Monkey Bar, 63 North Pleasant Street, Amherst — if the weather is nice, look for us on the porch in back! 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 **Janis Gray**.

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant (314 College Street, Amherst). Contact **Michael Sussman** for details.

Membership

New Members Profile: A Vibrant Family

Sophie Hermann and **Owen Gwilliam** fell in love as undergraduates at Harvard (think French literature meets mathematics), and since then have been on a wonderful adventure of travel, serious advanced study in medicine and math, and two charming boys, **Laszlo**, 6, and **Hadrian**, 2.

Sophie hails from Portland, Oregon, the daughter of parents of Catholic and Lutheran heritage. That created some interesting discussions at home, but eventually her parents found a spiritual home for their family at First

Unitarian Portland, a congregation of nearly 1,000 members. “I grew up as a UU,” Sophie said, “and liked the OWL and RE programs that the denomination offers to youth.”

She mentioned that at UUSA she was particularly impressed by the attentiveness shown to each of their children in the RE program. “There is a level of discernment and caring that both Owen and I noticed and we’re grateful for that,” she added. “UUSA has also provided us with some volunteer opportunities that we value.”

Owen teaches on the faculty of the mathematics department at UMass. Since Owen’s father served in the U.S. military, there is no single place in the country that Owen describes as his hometown. Some of the places he has studied and worked in include Chicago; Cambridge, MA; Tacoma, WA; and four years in Germany.

Owen reflected on how busy life is for two working parents, saying he and Sophie are “fixed on the practical. We are still new enough here that we are still trying to put our family infrastructure in place,” he said, “like finding a dentist.” He noted that Sunday services offer a bit of a reprieve from the hubbub and create a “huge reprieve” for the couple, allowing them some quiet time to reflect and think about big-picture matters, things like “what keeps you going when times are tough.”

**Help keep the Connecticut River clean at the annual
Source to Sea Clean Up with the Connecticut River Conservancy**

Saturday, Sept 28, 9:30 A.M. to noon

This is a project for UUSA congregants of all ages, the Green Sanctuary Committee, and the UUSA Youth Group. Please bring work gloves, rain boots, shovels, and rakes. We'll be working in steep and muddy areas, and on the lookout for ticks and poison ivy. Sounds rough, yes? But there are lots of jobs, not all of which require great agility.

The UUSA has participated in the Source to Sea Clean Up for many years – and it is making a difference. The Source to Sea Connecticut River Clean Up is a great way to be outside, in the water, and with friends doing good work. Please join us.

Sign up at a Sunday service, or email:

Ron Grosslein

Karen Fisk

Rebecca Fricke dre@uusocietyamherst.org

We'll email you the location(s), weather issues, etc. as the date approaches.

For a look at the larger effort, follow this link:

<https://www.ctriver.org/our-work/source-to-sea-cleanup/>.

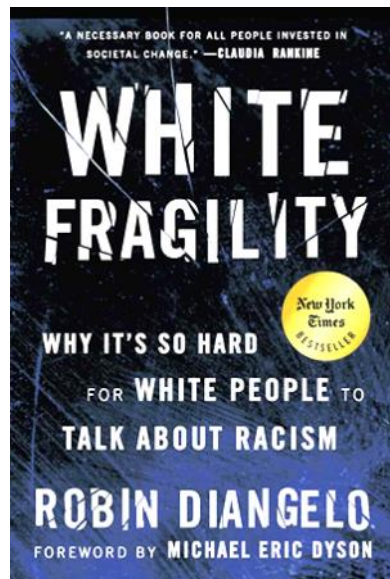
See you at the river!

Social Action



Summer Book Read The Dismantling White Supremacy Task Force invites you to join the UUSA summer read. In the fall, the group intends to offer several de-briefing conversations. *More details to follow.*

For now, decide if you can join soon as possible.



us and get your hands on this book as

Not Bread Alone On Saturday, August 31, seven UUs are needed to prepare and serve a noontime meal at the soup kitchen at First Congregational Church, Amherst. **Can you help for a few hours?** We work in shifts. Cooks are needed from 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. chopping loads of veggies for salads, stir-frys and stews. Servers are needed from 11:45 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. and clean-up help from 12:00 - @ 2:30 P.M. No experience is needed as we work under the direction of the kitchen manager. Meet new people and have fun while doing good. NBA is located in the lower rear of First Congregational Church with access through the Spring St. parking lot. If you can help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**. THANK YOU!!

Green Sanctuary

An Interview with Fred Small

by Pat Rector

In association with UUSA's Green Sanctuary Committee, I agreed in May to talk with the Rev. Fred Small, Minister for Climate Justice of Arlington Street Church UU Church of Boston. Small had preached a powerful sermon on climate issues early in the spring [at UUSA] and had led a workshop on the emotional and psychological aspects of climate threats to our world, its peoples and species. About 60 people attended from several UU congregations in the Valley.

The purpose of my inquiry was frankly two-fold.

First, I wanted to explore, as requested, several questions his visit had generated as "next steps." What is one's moral responsibility in the face of the desecration of the one and only planet we inhabit? More importantly, how can individual acts of personal responsibility (no plastic straws, celebrating Earth Day, and solarizing our dwellings) be transformed into collective and direct political action that responds urgently and radically to our planet's unprecedented crisis as the clock ticks?

My other purpose was admittedly more personal. I had just read Wen Stephenson's book *What We're Fighting for Now is Each Other*, a book described as "fiercely urgent and profound spiritual journey into the climate-justice movement—in search of what climate justice, at this late hour, might yet mean."

No other book that I've read so far better captured my own sentiments as a call to action different in character than the Big Green mainstream "climate environment" movement that has tried but failed to stop climate desecration.

Stephenson's opening prologue is a shimmering meditation on Henry David Thoreau, one of Unitarian Universalism's spiritual forefathers. The opener captured my attention but mostly my heart, since I had made a trip to Walden Pond early this spring. In truth, my little pilgrimage, I see in retrospect, was preparation for what I knew I was headed for: civil disobedience.

Fred and I talked for an hour and six minutes on both these matters, and the conversation was mutually nourishing. What follows is a summary of key points of our conversation:

- **Courage**—I had mentioned to Fred that what really got me about his sermon and workshop was the courage he exhibited in tackling these issues. "I don't feel particularly courageous," he said, "so could you unpack for me more about what you mean?" I explained that many of my dearest, smartest, progressive friends had disclosed to me that climate predictions were just so scary that they didn't want to hear anything more about them, it was just too uncomfortable and they just needed to pretend that life was normal. "Your sermon came along, Fred, and many of these good people sat in front of you," I said. "Despite the discomfort your message carried, you ploughed ahead. You did not offer false assurances. You did, however, offer some pathways of witness and even a vision of what love requires in existential situations. That required courage."
- **Privilege and the Generation Gap**—"It is largely true that many people in our generation, even progressives, choose simply to walk away from uncomfortable topics like this, and it is even understandable," Fred explained. He had a point. After all, who wants to trouble themselves with thoughts of mass extinction, rising oceans, desertification, wildfires, heatwaves and storms? "The generation now in their 60s or 70s can walk away or numb up because most of them are still insulated from the effects of these disasters," he said. "That's not true for people in their 20s through their 50s. Because the pace of these global catastrophes is accelerating," he continued, "they understand that they will not be exempt. They have more skin in the game." In short, in the next few decades or even sooner, no one on the planet will be insulated from these relentless calamities.
- **Mission**—"You asked me about what might be next steps after the introductory workshop I offered. As a minister who is devoting myself full-time to climate issues, I think UUs need to get beyond the walls of their

houses of worship and into the streets, and into the corridors of power.” Small said a lot of congregations, so far, have focused on the micro level; in other words, trying to shrink a personal or congregational carbon footprint. These are not bad things to do, he stressed, but if they distract or exhaust us from working at the macro level (that is, challenging the forces of greed and obliteration that are root causes), our efforts will continue to be (as they have already been so far) heartbreakingly ineffective.

- **Other possible next steps** — Fred is willing and able to return for a Round Two sermon and/or workshop. He has vastly more workshop content and more sermons available. He is also open to speaking within the context of a much larger venue, say as a speaker at an interfaith gathering, or a major speaker series at any of the Five Colleges. He also urges that making a connection with Johanna Macy’s Work That Reconnects may be useful in future moral/spiritual work on the emotional and psychological impacts. Such grounding helps provide the discipline, moral imagination, and nonviolent practice that will carry people forward as times get increasing difficult. Finally, he mentioned that addressing the climate crisis and sustaining work on it sometimes triggers some “dark nights of the soul,” and we might consider what forms of solace we might offer.
- Other resources—He listed a variety of websites that represent organizations that he considers particularly effective in mobilizing and sustaining the kind of “intensive care” our feverish planet requires. Here are some of them:

UUMassAction.org; tsmookler@uumasaction. She is a community organizer; first name is Tali. Unitarian Universalist action group that includes climate justice work among its issues.

ClimateDisobedience.org. Founded by UU Tim DeChristopher, a UU who committed civil disobedience against the fossil fuel industry and spent 22 months in a federal prison. Featured in an interview with Bill Moyers, and in a documentary called Bidder 70.

ExtinctionRebellion.org is developing a new presence in Boston that he says is worth keeping our eyes on and learning more about. It is an international grassroots movement that began in Great Britain in 2018.

He also highly recommended Varshini Prakash, who happens to be a UMass/Amherst graduate, who has become a fossil fuel dissident “rock star,” and is affiliated with Sunrise, the wonderfully fierce and fiery youth and young adult led-group. Fred explained that older folks are welcome to help in subsidiary roles only (providing housing, transportation, funds, meeting spaces) and he routinely works with them to lift his soul. “They get it. They’re really serious. And they’re unstoppable.”

Our Caring Ministries



Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.

All is healed.
All is health.
High summer holds the earth!
Hearts

all

whole!

Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder
Wand’ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

On

This

Shining night!

from “Permit Me Voyage?”
by James Agee

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

Our Caring Circle coordinator is **Catharine Porter**. Please contact her or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Other Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, Carolyn Holstein, Gabriela Horvay, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Lynn Sussman, Gordon Wyse** and **Naomi Yanis**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Pete Rogers** and **Mary Wyse**. Other members are **Charlie Atwood, the Rev. Rachael Hayes, Rob Fuderich, Mary Herman, Carol Johnson, and Fran Plumer**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

We send love and support to all who are struggling with illness, bereavement, or difficulties of any kind in your lives or the lives of your loved ones.