

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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The Rev. Rachael Hayes

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Lea Douville, below.

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Lea Douville

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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, October 6, 10:30 A.M. – *Inherent Worth and Dignity*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

A potluck lunch will follow the service. See page 3!

Sunday, October 13, 10:30 A.M. – *You are on Native Land*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 20, 10:30 A.M. – *United Nations Sunday: Gender in an Intersecting World*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes and Allison Brau

Today is our Dedicated Offering Sunday.

Sunday, October 27, 10:30 A.M. – *The Wellsprings of Our Faith*

The Rev. Nancy Arnold

Unitarian Universalists often have difficulty with the traditional understanding of words like faith. With no creed to bind us as a community, we must rely on something else to keep us true to our liberal religious tradition, and to each other. What is it that keeps us faithful?

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 some sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to office@uusocietyamherst.org

Dedicated Offerings

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.

Thank you for showing your support for the Dedicated Offering program, not only with your contributions to the DO recipients themselves, but also with your contributions to the Society on other Sundays when our budget counts on those receipts. Remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients – this is a voluntary initiative

We collected \$951 during our September Dedicated Offering for **Tapestry Health**.

On October 20, in commemoration of United Nations Day, UUSA will hold a Dedicated Offering to benefit the **Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office**. The UU-UNO has a unique position in bringing Unitarian Universalist values to the global community and a global perspective to Unitarian Universalism. Youth from our congregation have participated in the UU-UNO Spring Seminar, which brings Unitarian Universalist youth and adults together to study the issues the UN is addressing.

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) is engaged in international advocacy work at the UN based on Unitarian Universalist values. From involvement in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the UU-UNO has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level through UN consultative status. <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un>. Here are some of the program areas the UU-UNO works on year-round:

EVERY CHILD IS OUR CHILD

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER (LGBTQ) AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION/
GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) HUMAN RIGHTS

WOMEN’S RIGHTS INITIATIVE

CLIMATE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Participate in the Intergenerational Spring Seminar: Every April, youth and adults gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deeper understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun. Past seminars have focused on indigenous peoples' rights, criminal justice, economic inequality, disarmament, migration, and gender equity. The 2020 Intergenerational Spring Seminar will address the issue of climate justice. Both youth and adults attending the Spring Seminar take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. www.uua.org/unspringseminar

IN MEMORIAM

Joel Halpern

Joel Halpern, the devoted partner of **June Guild**, passed away on July 4, 2019, at the age of 90. He was a cultural anthropologist, author of many books, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts. He is survived by June, his former wife Barbara Kerewsky-Halpern, sister Helen Lerner, daughters Kay Halpern, Susannah Halpern and Carla Halpern, and seven grandchildren. Those wishing to make a donation in Joel's memory are encouraged to donate books or funds to www.readertoreader.org.

Membership

During our Sunday Service on October 6, the congregation will recognize the individuals who signed our Membership Book last spring or summer, but who were unable to participate in the ceremony held in June. Immediately after the October 6 service, the Membership Book will be available by the pulpit for those wishing to join our UU Society now. If you are interested in becoming a member at that time, please let **Rev. Rachael** (revrachael@uusocietyamherst.org), **Anne Cohen** or **Janis Gray** know! The next celebration of new members is planned for November.

Where do I get my Order of Service? Your Membership Committee is trying to smooth the flow of people from our foyer into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and make it easier for visitors to approach a greeter by the big literature table when they have questions, want to sign the guest book, or fill out a paper name tag. So instead of having a greeter hand you an Order of Service in the foyer, which we have done for years, you will find them offered by a greeter just inside the sanctuary. Please look for your Order of Service there!

Anyone is welcome to a "permanent" name tag. If you would like our office administrator, **Lea Douville**, to print one up for you, ask someone at the Welcome Table after the service, or just stick your "temporary" name tag on a 3x 5 card in the little green pot that you can find on the narrow table under the name tag "wall" in the entry way. **The next Sunday, check that same table** – your shiny new tag will likely be ready and waiting.

New addresses **Courtney Gordon** and **Felicia Barber** have both moved from town. They can receive mail at their new apartments at 4 Forge Hill Rd., Franklin MA 02038.

UUSA's History/ Herstory/ Theirstory/ Yourstory

As part of our process of getting to know Rev. Rachael and bringing her into our community, the Transition Team has set up a "timeline activity." This is meant to give us a chance to share our past with each other and with her, and to begin the process of thinking about where we will go next as a congregation. The Transition Team put together a lot of our past story already. You may have seen it during Social Hour. It will stay up until October 6. We hope you enjoy finding out things like: When and where did the first Vietnam War protest happen in Amherst? When was the stained glass angel installed? When did we become a Welcoming Congregation or Green Sanctuary? But we couldn't include everything! We invite you to add your own memories. For example: what do you know about Jeffrey Campbell, an African-American minister at UUSA? When did Shelter Sunday begin? When did we add a flaming chalice to our services? When was the first Connecticut River clean-up? When did you first suspect you were a UU'er? When did you first begin attending UUSA services? When did you become a member, get married here or have a child dedicated at UUSA? We also invite you to begin thinking about our future. What do you love about UUSA now and want to keep? What changes would you like to see? Please check out the timeline and add your own ideas to it. **On Sunday, October 6**, we will come together for a potluck lunch and share our findings. Suggested potluck contributions by last name:

A-E Salads F-K Main Dishes L-Q Desserts R-X Main Dishes

Notes from the President

Hello friends,

September began for the Board with time set aside at our monthly meeting to learn more about and strategize for a new way of helping our congregation understand and participate in yearlong stewardship. We are very excited about integrating conversations about sustainability, responsibility, and spirituality into all facets of our life together as a congregation with a beautiful meetinghouse, a dedicated and talented staff, and a mission to make a difference not only in the lives of our congregants but also in the lives of people throughout the region. We are also excited about continuing to lift the work of the board from task to mission.

To that end we set aside a Saturday for a retreat with **Rev. Rachael**. Our goals were:

- Deepening relationships between members of the Board and our newly settled minister, so that we understand one another's gifts and expectations.
- Sharing an understanding of the elements of Spiritual Leadership.
- Sharing an understanding of the purpose and role of the Board during our time of transition with our newly settled minister, which includes:
 - Being mission oriented vs. task oriented
 - Being faithful risk takers
 - Standing steady with our congregation as we experience change.

I want to take a moment in this letter to focus on change. There will be a lot of change as we settle into a new ministry. Change is inevitable and it is filled with possibility. It is also not always easy.

The change that we are experiencing and will experience at the UUSA is not random or whimsical or meant to disrupt or upset. In fact it is meant to help us stretch. Freshness and surprise and wonder can open us up to seeing and feeling in different ways that help us grow.

Honoring tradition also helps ground us even as we make new discoveries. Honestly, the changes of a congregational system make me think most of a favorite Girl Scout song from my youth: "Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold." The old and the new together are the key to the future.

There are lots of old friends here at the UUSA (and lots of traditions we love), and—wonderfully—there are lots of potential new friends (and new ways of doing things), as people arrive searching for a place that meets their spiritual needs. We grow and change together as we blend a variety of practices to embodying our Unitarian Universalism, and together we continue to expand the embrace of life-changing acceptance and love and most important HOPE.

Yours in faith, Karen



Amherst UUs turned out in great numbers at UMass (shown here) and in Boston, Northampton and other "walkout" locations on September 20, the first day of the Global Climate Strike.

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. The luncheon October 10 will be at Miss Saigon, across the street from our Meetinghouse next to CVS. 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**.

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.

MEETINGHOUSE AND LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

Once again, many hands make light work! Please join the Meetinghouse and Landscaping Committee for our semi-annual building and grounds work day. Build camaraderie and share your energy. We will take on some maintenance and repair tasks like window washing, light painting, refinishing the outdoor benches and removing roof debris. We'll meet at **9:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 19** and stay until noon at the latest. Wear grubby work clothes and bring tools for bench refinishing if you have any. Send your questions to **Tom Fricke**.

Our committee is looking for a few new members to join our team. Helping with our maintenance and facilities management agenda is a great way to contribute to the Society and build community with a few other task-oriented UUs. We expect to meet monthly and take care of hands-on tasks and to craft a long-term plan for keeping our building healthy. If you think you might be interested or want to recommend a pal, let **Tom Fricke** know.



Religious Education Ministry

Thank you to all of you who attended the UU Fall Picnic! Like with many potlucks, we had a moment where we thought we might have too many desserts and appetizers, but patience and time and more people brought more food. Children took advantage of the toys **Tom Fricke** brought from home and we all took advantage of the shade of the pavilion.

The RE program is off to a wonderful start. Our preschool teacher **Jacy Armenti** and her assistant **Casey Flueckiger** have a room full of children who are taking full advantage of the sensory table, the snack table and who are learning how to be together. As in the past, I am running the K-5 program like a one-room schoolhouse. We will be doing art, science, reading literature and having conversations to learn about our UU Principles and our sources. To all of you who feel comfortable, please welcome our new families and help them get acclimated to our faith traditions. Thank you in advance to **Lesley Smith** for dedicating her mindfulness talents to the elementary program once a month, to **Kate Rice** for helping me to facilitate the Youth Group, to **Jenn Chylack** who is helping me facilitate Coming of Age for our 7th-9th graders, and last but not least, I want to thank the **RE Ministry** who helps to keep me on track and volunteers on an as-needed basis.

If you work with or know of a community organization that the children could support in some active way, please let me know. If you are interested in sharing yourself or a talent or interest that you think the children would appreciate, please talk to me. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

Thank you for sharing and caring,

Rebecca Fricke, Director of Religious Education
(dre@uusocietyamherst.org or 413-687-8722)

ADULT PROGRAMMING

What's Doing with OÍR? OÍR stands for Outreach, Integration, and Retention and it's a task force convened earlier this year by UUSA's board of trustees. OÍR a Spanish word that means "to hear," and we spend much of our time hearing the voices and stories that awaken energy in our congregation . . . and not just on Sunday mornings.

Lately, we've been focused on enriching adult programming opportunities and launching a new series of (mostly) monthly programs designed to add a bit more sparkle to weeknights and jazz up those late fall and winter afternoons when the weather is raw and the walls are closing in.

The series is called "One-Night Stands" but it's not what you think. What the phrase means to us is something like dipping your toes in, exploring something cool without a major time commitment, and well, being playful, curious and alive to the full spectrum of our lives at this moment. Some of these could even turn into small group ministries.

Here are the programs we've been working on, in various stages of development:

Our first, **How Buddhist Practice Impacts Our Lives**, was held on September 24 at 7:00 P.M. We were curious about how various UU members and friends integrate another religious tradition into the values and ways of being in the world. Who says a blended faith is not possible? Seventeen people turned out, plus three presenters and one moderator; most attendees were UUs, but three or four people were not members of the congregation (including two college students). Presentations were both informative and open-hearted and appeared to engage the audience deeply.

Up next:

Wednesday, October 23 AT 7:00 P.M. New Perspectives on Aging in the Valley: An Evening with the Amherst Senior Center's New Director

Free and open to the public, but free-will donations will help offset expenses.

Mary Beth Ogulewicz, JD, LCSW, brings an impressive skill set to her new job at the helm of the Amherst Senior Center. There's no doubt that her professional training and experience as a licensed clinical social worker and attorney offer solid grounding to her work.

It is, however, her personal warmth, inclusive values and bold vision that animate her, with a discerning eye to what works (and could work better), and who's at the table (and who is not). Hear more about key issues:

Transportation Challenges

Concerns of the Newly Retired

Caregivers: Their Dignity and Struggles

Honest Conversations

Programming that Respects Abilities, Talents and Interests of the "Whole Person."

Winter/Spring 2019-20 Program Topics:

Interfaith Climate Vespers: Cultivating Active Hope with Clear Eyes

Ask Not What Your Country Can Do for You: Reflections on the Peace Corps for a New Generation

New Frontiers in LGBTQ+ Understandings: Talking Pronouns and Beyond

If any or all of these programs call to you, let us know: Contact **Catharine Porter, Jeanne Ballantine, Bob Romer or Pat Rector**. You could help with one event, or help us plan and implement these programs by joining the OIR task force. We also welcome program suggestions, speaker recommendations, and brute strength. Newcomers are especially welcome.

Another Exciting Volunteer Opportunity: We are looking for a person with journalism or PR skills to think through and development a publicity infrastructure that reaches into the larger community with a warm welcome. Skills needed: passion for accuracy, strong writing skills, discerning eye and ear, computer skills. This person would look at what we have and bring it to another level. If interested, email **Pat Rector** or call her at 360-932-4960.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Help us share the stained glass! The Amherst Arts Night volunteers are looking for a few more people to help host visitors to our sanctuary. Once a month, October – April, we join other downtown venues on the Amherst Arts Night circuit and show off the Tiffany window in all its sunset glory. UUSA volunteers are there to answer questions about the origins, design and restoration of the window. **Janis Gray** has been our guide and curator for years, and **Jay Stryker** takes the opportunity to set a musical mood and introduce visitors to our historic organ. If you would enjoy learning the window story and sharing hosting duties with Janis and other volunteers, please contact **Tom Fricke**.



For our service auction last May, **Rev. Rachael** (center, above) offered “A Walk in the Woods.” On September 2, the auction bidders enjoyed time (and figs, and cookies!) with her at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Hadley. Not pictured: our photographer, **Anne Perkins**.



Room for 4 more players!

“CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY” EVENING WITH SOUP!

Date: Sunday, **October 13, 2019, 4:00-7:00 P.M.**
Host: **Naomi Yanis**

Come play a hilarious game of “Cards Against Humanity” (warning: It can get raunchy) – and sup on Moroccan Root Vegetable Soup with Charmoula, with bread and dessert.

You’ll get to see Naomi’s incredible apartment and gallery (she has a mask collection as well as other art works) on the fourth (and fifth) floor of the old Elks building in the Center of Northampton (yes, there is an elevator). Details: Please send/bring check to the UUSA office (\$30/person), with “Auction” in the memo line. Please RSVP to Naomi or to Lea in the office, a few days in advance of the event office@uusocietyamherst.org | 413-253-2848

Join the fun! Room for 60!



TEA, TREATS & TRIVIA!

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 3:00-5:00 P.M.

Hosts: **Polly Peterson, Catharine Porter** and **Jon Solins** at the Amherst Woman’s Club
No need to cross the Atlantic to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in the British style. Join us at the Amherst Woman’s Club for a yummy buffet of teatime treats (hot chocolate, too!), and a chance to match wits with friends and neighbors in a lively mash-up of trivia questions about British culture from Beowulf to the Beatles, Macbeth to Monte Python, the Mad Hatter to Meghan Markle. . . costumes optional! All ages welcome! Room for 60 guests!

Details: Please send/bring check to the UUSA office (\$20/person), with “Auction” in the memo line. Please RSVP to Lea in the office, a few days in advance of the event office@uusocietyamherst.org | 413-253-2848



Mark Your Calendars !!

Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst

Sunday, December 8, 5:00-8:00 pm

\$15/Adults; \$5/Children 3-17

**Bring your family and friends and join the fun
at our family-friendly Winter party & fun(d)raiser.**

concert & sing-a-long with Brenda and friends

bonanza of themed gift baskets

yummy soup & salad dinner

cookie walk 🍪 leave with a box of holiday cookies!

50/50 raffle



UUSA Discussion of White Fragility
Following the November 3 Service; 12:00 – 1:30 P.M. Downstairs

You're invited to join the discussion even if you haven't read the book with this title. We will be focused on issues raised both by this best-selling book and related topics that Rev. Rachael will explore in her sermon on November 3.

Facilitated Discussions Prompted By:

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism

By Robin DiAngelo

“whites are operating under the false assumption that we can't simultaneously be good people and participate in racism” (p.49)

And also by the November 3 Sermon:

“White People Have Work To Do”

Please sign up at Social Hours in October or by signing up here: <https://tinyurl.com/y59hjbeq> or by contacting the office.

The book is available at bookstores and libraries or you can seek a loaner copy from the office.

Did you know the author has a local connection? She was once a tenured professor at Westfield State University and mentions a very local example of racist talk in her book.

Sponsored by the Dismantling Systemic White Supremacy Ministry

Green Sanctuary

What is Green Burial?

by Mary Wyse

I recently attended a small interment service at Wildwood Cemetery. It was a beautiful summer morning. The guests surrounded the body, which was clad in just a shroud. The minister spoke briefly, and we sang while lowering the body into the grave and scattering it with flowers. What distinguished the service, apart from its simplicity and intimacy, was the fact that it was a green burial.

In a green burial, the body is not embalmed or cremated. It is buried as is, in either a simple compostable pine box or just a shroud. Such a burial is green because it doesn't use toxic embalming fluids or a metal or other non-compostable casket, nor is the body cremated, which uses a large amount of energy. It takes up less cemetery space and can be more cost-effective than a conventional burial. It is more natural and eco-friendly. Green burial is a return to the way many people have been buried throughout history.

Douglas Funeral Home in Amherst and Graham Funeral Home in Easthampton are both supportive of green burial, and there may be others in the area as well. For more information, visit www.greenburialma.org.

Social Action



Just One Thing On **October 13**, the **second Sunday of the month**, a collection for the **Survival Center** will occur. A basket is placed in the foyer for these donations. The Survival Center serves thousands of people from many communities by providing meals, food, clothing, dental, medical, social services as well as an opportunity for social interaction. The food we give helps struggling families provide a nutritious meal for themselves. Two weeks before the collection, a notice appears in the weekly announcements detailing food needed. For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**.

Sanctuary The **week of October 28** our Society is responsible for providing suppers for Lucio Perez and his children. Lucio has been in Sanctuary at First Congregational Church for almost two years. We are among the 200+ people supporting this very humble man who believes he represents all immigrants in his daily struggle. Five people are needed for three meals. Two different people are needed on Monday (October 28) and Thursday (October 31) to make a meal for Lucio and three children. On Tuesday one person is needed to cook for Lucio. If you can help, please contact **Mary Beth Seminario**. Thank you.

ION Corner

On **Saturday October 26** the Interfaith Opportunity Network (ION) is sponsoring a fundraising dinner and a concert for **Goodwin Memorial AME Zion Church**. That small historic black church needs a new boiler for heat as well as substantial repairs and restoration costing @ \$50,000. **Harvest dinner at Grace Episcopal Church at 5:00 P.M.** (\$15 - \$20.) and a **concert at 7:00 P.M. at First Church** with many local talented musicians – including **Anne Louise White**, Annie Patterson and the Amherst Gospel Choir (\$15 - \$20.) Pay more or less as you can. Separate tickets are needed for each event. Tickets available from **Mary Beth Seminario** as well as A.J. Hastings. For further information contact Mary Beth, the UUSA's ION representative.

Our Caring Ministries



Peace in the world starts with peace in oneself. If everyone lives mindfully, everyone will be more healthy, feel more fulfilled in their daily lives and there will be more peace.

Thich Nhat Hanh

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 **Fran Plumer** and **Charlie Atwood**. Other members are **Rob Fuderich, Gene Herman, the Rev. Rachael Hayes, Carol Johnson, Pete Rogers, and Mary Wyse**. 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.