

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.
Email them to jsgray@crocker.com.

Please understand we cannot cut and paste PDF files into the newsletter, so submissions should either be Word documents, rich text files or written in the body of the email. 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

We are holding our Sunday Services online to help protect the health of our community. We will continue to do so through June 2021, or until a vaccine or reliable treatment is found for COVID-19.

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. on Sundays at the bit.ly link provided.

If you would like help getting to know Zoom for use as a meeting participant, or if you would like help setting up a Zoom meeting for your congregational event, committee meeting, or small group, please reach out to Lea in the office: office@uusocietyamherst.org

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 A.M. – *A Playful Spirit*

Tom Fricke

Reflections on the importance of games, play, and fun for spiritual and community health. In addition to leading the service, Tom will also provide the music!

Join us at <https://bit.ly/2Wy1aHg> Password: 811005 or call in at +1 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 965 1965 7002 when prompted.

Sunday, August 9, 10:30 A.M. – *A Deep, Abiding Promise*

Karen Fisk

Unitarian Universalists are all in on it—the deep, abiding promise, the covenant—because there is no magic without rules. Ron and Louise Grosslein will share their lovely music to complement the service.

Join us at <https://bit.ly/2Wy1aHg> Password: 811005 or call in at +1 646 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 965 1965 7002 when prompted.

Sunday, August 16, 10:30 A.M. – *Home*

Betsey Johnson and Carol Rothery

The word *home* can evoke a place of comfort and joy, or a more complicated vision that resonates with sadness. We will explore the meaning of home in its many ramifications. Violinist Jesse Holstein will enrich our service with his beautiful music.

Join us at <https://bit.ly/2Wy1aHg> Password: 811005 or call in at +1 646 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 965 1965 7002 when prompted.

Sunday, August 23, 10:30 A.M. – *The Feminine and You: How the Archetypal Feminine Flows Through Our Lives*

Kate Dahlstedt

This service will be an evocative look at different aspects of the feminine archetype as it appears in our daily lives and throughout the life cycle. Maura and Riley Whalen will lead us in song today.

Join us at <https://bit.ly/2Wy1aHg> Password: 811005 or call in at +1 646 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 965 1965 7002 when prompted.

Sunday, August 29, 10:30 A.M.. – *Rooted, Inspired, and Ready!*

Sue Alexander, Janis Gray, Steve Rice, Susan Rice, and Naomi Yanis

The UUSA members who attended the UUA's General Assembly will reflect on the meaning and inspiration they derived from attending the services and workshops. Be ready to be inspired; and together, let us take action!

Join us at <https://bit.ly/2Wy1aHg> Password: 811005 or call in at +1 646 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID 965 1965 7002 when prompted.

Texts of some sermons are available to members and friends of UUSA by request. Send email to office@uussocietyamherst.org Many older sermons and readings are posted on www.uusocietyamherst.org. Click on the "SERMON ARCHIVE" button on the right side of the home page.

In Memoriam
Joanne Mary Rella

Joanne Mary Rella died July 22, 2020 at age 69. She is not quite sure where her journey will now take her.



Joanne leaves behind her intimate loved ones, her husband Robert Brooks of Amherst, daughters Shubhada Rella-Brooks of Hadley and Ketaki Rella-Brooks of Springfield, grandsons Ravi Drake and Theodore Oakes-Rooney of Hadley, siblings John Rella and his wife Pat of Hadley and Elizabeth Mirra and her partner John of Yonkers, NY, and close friends in the Valley and across the United States. She was predeceased by her parents, Maria and Onofrio Rella, and siblings Vincent, Charles, James and Lucia Rella.

Joanne valued her relationships with people more than anything. Sharing a story, appreciating nature together, and feeling the oneness of spirit was her sometimes elusive but ever satisfying experience. She touched many people's lives through both her personal and professional life as a mother, friend, special education teacher, counselor, and neighbor. Joanne felt enriched by the lives of those around her. Her life embraced an awareness and involvement in the world and in her community to strive towards a higher quality existence for all.

Joanne loved gardening, hiking and camping, listening to music, art museums and galleries, and being with family and friends. She knew that her soul could resonate during these activities when her mind would become still. She sought truth and oneness in her life. She lived each day trying to remember her commitment to being in the moment. Needless to say, she started her day over many times.

Joanne will be cremated. Family and friends will gather at future dates to share their memories of Joanne and to spread her ashes in favored natural areas. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution in Joanne's name should consider the Alzheimer's Association, Cooley Dickenson Hospital, or Hospice at the Fisher Home.

Message from the President

Our new board met for the first time in July. Much of our meeting focused on developing a covenant, pondering by-laws and policy, and learning how we work together to be an effective and transparent board.

Because we currently have no Vice President, **Susanne Personette** has agreed to coordinate the Council of Chairs. I am very appreciative that she is willing to take on this important task.

Our congregation was well represented at this year's UUA General Assembly. Five members of our congregation attended this virtual conference (**Sue Alexander, Janis Gray, Naomi Yanis, Steve Rice** and myself). It was five days of workshops, worship services, general sessions (business meetings), and guest speakers. **Ready, Rooted, Inspired** was a perfect title for this particular Assembly.

I felt endlessly proud to be **rooted** in this religious community. UUs have always been a prophetic voice for justice, and that was very clear at this assembly. The pandemic, systemic white supremacy, and the deep concern about the upcoming election provided an overlay to everything I attended.

I was **inspired** by the many younger adults and people of color in leadership roles....facilitating workshops, leading worship services, providing music, and conducting the business of the organization. Our UUA is no longer a sea of white and gray.

And we are no longer a religion made up of refugees from other religious traditions. People visiting our UU churches are primarily unchurched, and are looking for spiritual engagement. Our important task is how to engage them.

I left the Assembly **ready** to embrace the many obstacles facing our spiritual community in these unpredictable times. Please be willing to hold my hand through the coming year.

In Community,
Susan Rice



RE Summer Sundays – via Zoom on from 9:45-10:10 A.M. August 2, 9, 16, 23 and September 6. Please email **Rebecca Fricke** at dre@uusocietyamherst.org for the Zoom link.

Jacy Armenti will be singing songs, playing games and doing activities suitable for children of all ages. It will definitely be a learning experience for everyone. At the beginning of the session she will ask the parents to help their children find some basic materials for the morning's activity.

Social Events

Women's Circle meets via Zoom at noon on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at noon. It's an opportunity to connect with friends and become better acquainted with other women in the congregation whom you may not know as well. Join Zoom meeting by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/35nW8jB> Meeting ID: 983 8988 5674; Password: 135383 or call in at +1 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID: 983 8988 5674.

ION Corner

“Standing Up for Racial Justice” Weekly Vigil

Stand with us on Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 P.M. at the center of Amherst at the corner of Amity & S. Pleasant Street.

For releasing the children/immigrants/refugees from the detention camps. For undoing white privilege. Bring big signs, wear masks, continue social distancing.

Sponsored by Interfaith Opportunities Network.

For information. contact info@interfaithamherst.org

Our Caring Ministries



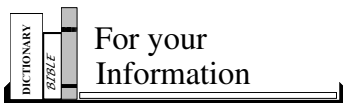
May this house be truly
a place of Meeting—meeting one with another
in warmth and joy and openness:
meeting one with another
in courage and love and trust.

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, Kate Dahlstedt, Gabriela Horvay, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse**.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Fran Plumer** and **Charlie Atwood**. Other members are the **Rob Fuderich, Gene Herman, 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.



For your
Information

Rental Assistance The Town of Amherst and the Amherst Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund announce the availability of short-term emergency rental assistance for Amherst renters experiencing a loss or reduction of income due to COVID-19. Rental assistance is available for up to three months. For more information, call 413-475-1570 or visit Community Action Pioneer Valley's website: www.communityaction.us/amherstrentalassistance

A new role for Pat Rector UUSA member Pat Rector was elected in July to service as chair of the Amherst Council on Aging (ACOA), a nine-member advisory board appointed by the Town Manager. The Council advises Director of Senior Services Mary Beth Ogulewicz, and advocates for the interests of Amherst's older adults.

Pat tells us her interest and experience in anti-racist work, particularly around income and health disparities, will shape the direction of her activities, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis.

“ACOA is more diverse racially this year than ever before and that’s a breath of fresh air,” she said, “but it isn’t enough. With the help and leadership of people of color and other marginalized communities of elders, we are looking to remove barriers and create new opportunities. Robust advocacy requires that folks speak up.”

She invites thoughts from all seniors, as well as from sons or daughters of aging parents, about how programs and services for elders can be improved. “We want to know where there are barriers, gaps or blind spots, especially those that put people’s health at risk,” she said. She may be reached at pat.rector@gmail.com or at (360) 932-4960.