

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

Copy Editor: Janis Gray

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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!

Printed on recycled paper



Schedule of Services

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

Please check the weekly announcements sent by email, on our website, uusocietyamherst.org, or on our Facebook page – Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst (UUSA) – for links to join our virtual Sunday services.

Sunday, October 4, 10:30 A.M. – *Informed, Enthusiastic, Ongoing*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 11, 10:30 A.M. – *Land Back*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 A.M. – *Of Pigeons and Buses*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, October 25, 10:30 A.M. – *Teaching in Black Colleges in the 1960s*
Jim Lee and Bob Romer

Four members of our congregation taught at black colleges in the South in the 1960s: Hardy and Jeanne Balantine at Miles College in (or very near) Birmingham; Jim Lee at Le Moyne College in Memphis; and Bob Romer at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina. (There may be other Amherst UUs whom we don't yet know about who did likewise.) In this service, Jim Lee and Bob Romer will talk about some of their 1960s experiences.

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

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

Dedicated Offerings

One Sunday every month (except for June, July, and August), we have traditionally scheduled a Dedicated Offering to recognize and financially support worthy organizations engaged in projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles.

This fall, the Dedicated Offering (DO) Committee has decided to have just one major offering. An offering for Craig's Doors, the homeless shelter, will be collected in November.

Craig's Doors is open during the winter months only. Many of the guests are attendees at our Wednesday community breakfasts (now served outside). The COVID virus miraculously has not hit the homeless in the Amherst area yet, but the possibilities are real that this group may be hit hard this fall and winter. The DO Committee would like to offer the UUSA the opportunity to be as generous as possible to our homeless friends. Thank you.



It was so good to see those who turned up on September 20 to borrow hymnals, take home RE materials, and have a chance to chat with the Rev. Rachael Hayes, Director of Religious Education Rebecca Fricke and RE volunteer Anne Moore, Music Director Brenda Miller, and of course, UUSA First Dog Yuly! We will continue to have in-person outdoor gatherings from time to time as it is safe to do so.

The Big Big FUNdraiser for UUSA our MAJOR fundraising event for the year

What: Let's raise money for our congregation and let's have some fun doing it!

Why: What can we count on to nourish and sustain us? Family, friends ... the UUSA! ... the amazing Rev. Rachael, the oh-so-competent Lea, our wonderful Rebecca and Jacy keeping RE ticking, Brenda's lovely music, and David keeping the meetinghouse in shape. These people and our meetinghouse need to be sustained and we need a successful fundraiser to have a balanced budget this year.

How: With COVID-19 in the picture, we will not have in-person fundraisers **and** we will not need to do the work! We do want to celebrate, so we will gather for a Zoom Variety Show.

When: How about **sending a donation right now or at least by October 10**. We know not everyone can make a donation in these times, but this will be our major fundraiser for the year, so please **write a generous check**, if you are able. You can **pay on-line with PayPal** at www.uusocietyamherst.org (*this costs the UUSA 3% of your donation*) or simply **write a check payable to UUSA and send it to:**

UUSA
P. O. Box 502
Amherst, MA 01004-0502
(Write **FUNdraiser** in the memo line)

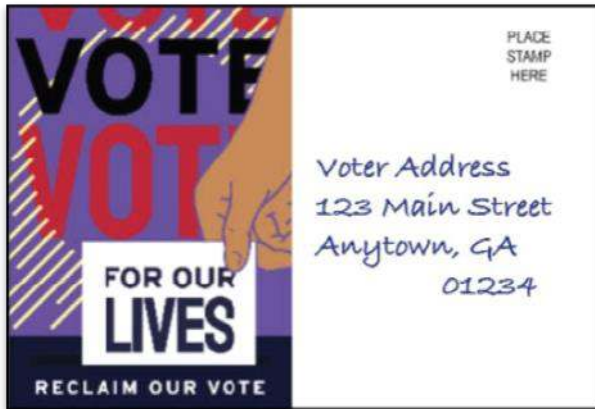
Reward: The **ZOOM Variety Show!** Mark your calendars for **October 17, 7:00-8:30 P.M.**

Family skits, poems, music, stand-up comedy, stories are all good options. You may think of another good option, too. Each act will be short (1-3 minutes). If you would like to be part of the show, [click here](#) to let us know what you plan to do. If that doesn't work, email Louise (louise.grosslein@gmail.com). First come, first served, until we fill up the program!

Please **send your check soon**, or **at least before October 10**, so we can tell you how much we raised for our beloved UUSA when we have our ZOOM Variety Show

Thank you!

UUSA THE VOTE



On May 14, the core leadership team held a kick-off to announce our effort, working with the Reclaim Our Vote campaign. We were excited to be working with a black-led non-partisan organization. Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) works in states where the number of people of color exceeds 20 percent of those eligible to vote. More than **50** of you responded with your enthusiasm! That's an amazing response for a congregation of our size!! You have helped fight voter suppression one voter at a time. **Anne Louise White** took care of all the logistics for us, and for her choruses: ordering the beautiful postcards, getting the addresses, getting labels printed, and setting up the packets. We had five teams, whose captains kept track of the writers and distributed the packets. Now that effort is over. We have received word from "Reclaim Our Vote" that the postcarding campaigns are coming to an end. Reclaim Our Vote has mailed more than five million handwritten postcards. Postcards empower people of color to re-register AND to VOTE. Between our UUSA community and the Leverett and Caravan Community Choruses, we wrote and sent out **14,600** of those five million postcards!

Enormous thanks are due to Anne Louise for being the hub – the one who made it all happen. There is NO way it could have happened without all the incredible work and attention she put into it. And yes, thanks go as well to the Core Leadership team (**Naomi Yanis, Anne Louise, Ellen Pile, Steve Rice, and Maria Lydia Spinelli**) for getting the effort off the ground – taking it from an idea to a happening, and keeping the congregation apprised of UUSA the Vote; to the 50 postcard writers; to **Lea**, who managed the budget records and printed endless sheets of labels, as well as being a postcard writer herself; and to the captains (**Pete Rogers, Jeanne Balantine, Sue Alexander, Ellen Pile, Carolyn Cave, and Steve Rice**) who kept in touch with them and got their packets to them, etc.; and to those who donated to make it all feasible. I think that UUSA can be incredibly proud of getting this effort together so quickly, in the time of COVID.

We received almost \$600 from 17 UUSA households. The money has gone to reimburse Anne Louise for the postcards and other supplies she laid out for (we think she also donated a great deal for which she has not taken reimbursement). We will probably have some money left over. If you donated and wish to have a say in what to do with it, do write or call Naomi. Otherwise, we will probably donate it to Reclaim Our Vote to help them put up billboards in the states in which they work.

They are also offering other ways for folks to continue to stay involved. Andrea Miller, head of Reclaim Our Vote, says: "Thank you, Postcarders! Now, pens down and make calls! Phonebanking is gearing up. We all know the 2020 election will be the most treacherous in generations. Electoral disinformation will explode! That's why phonebanks are utterly crucial. Unlike postcards, phonebanks are nimble. In this time of COVID and last-minute, ever-changing rules, phonebanks provide a lifeline of accurate, up-to-date information to the voter." She urges you to join ROV and members of your activist community to phonebank. You can begin with training, then phonebank. The calls you make could change history.

You don't have to get organized to do this. Join ROV or phonebank with UU the Vote. Finally, Anne Louise reminds us to "Be well, and as John Lewis says, Keep getting into GOOD TROUBLE!"

Music Notes



Be watching for an invitation to join an OPEN CHOIR EVENT through ZOOM sometime in October!! This will be open to all people of the UU. Families are encouraged to join in! More to come on this fun event.

Green Sanctuary

Update on the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge

Last month, the Green Sanctuary Committee urged UUSA members to engage our political leaders in the [No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge](#). We set up a [toolkit](#) to help you either encourage those who have NOT signed it to do so, or thank those who have.

Anne Perkins reached out both to Sen. Jo Comerford and Rep. Mindy Domb, both who had yet to sign it. The results were Jo signed it, and Mindy gave an informal pledge. She wrote, “My policy has been once elected to refrain from policy pledges associated with different organizations. I hope my actions will speak for my goals, intentions, etc. ... please know that I do not – and will not ever – accept funds from the fossil fuel industry or the nuclear industry in any respect, and I am deeply committed to actively working to remove all public financial subsidies from the fossil fuel and nuclear industries.”

We are encouraged by these responses and encourage you to take the time to thank them.

As far as those running in November who have yet to sign, that leaves **Tracy Lovvom**, who is running against US Rep. Jim McGovern, who has signed the pledge. I think Tracy needs a little encouragement.

Social Events

Women’s Circle meets via ZOOM at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Next meeting: October 8. This is an opportunity to meet with friends and become better acquainted with other women in the congregation whom you may not know as well.

Join by clicking <https://bit.ly/35nW8jB> Meeting ID: 983 8988 5674; Password: 135383 or call in at +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID. Please contact **Sophie Rogers** if you want to be in the email notification list.

ION CORNER

400 YEARS TRUTH & HEALING FOR THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS

Sunday, October 18, 2:00-4:00 P.M., broadcast live near the site of the Great Falls (Turners Falls) massacre of May 19, 1676 **via YouTube** and **Facebook** (connecting link posted soon).

Interfaith/intercommunity program in partnership with local Indigenous peoples. Listening to Indigenous speakers, connecting and acting for restorative justice. Reparations to local/New England peoples to support cultural programs and land acquisition. Let’s join with other faith communities and other community people to create a very successful program. To pay by check or money order: Check payable to Franklin County Interfaith Council (FCIC), PO Box 1191, Greenfield, MA 01302. Note on both envelope and memo line “400 Years Project.”

Via credit card: <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/400-years>

Detailed program information: <https://interfaithamherst.org/400-years-truth-healing>

For information contact **Mary Beth Seminario**, UUSA representative to ION (the Interfaith Opportunities Network).

Our Caring Ministries



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 **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.