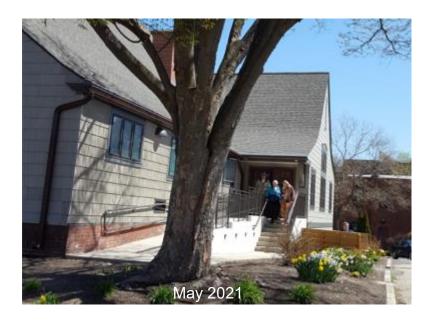
# THEAMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

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## **Important Information**

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## NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor:
Calendar Creator:
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 Online Services

Sunday, May 2, 10:30 A.M. – Beloved Conversations: A Celebration of Learning and Unlearning . . . within our hearts, among our communities, and beyond

## Naomi Yanis, Janis Gray, Ellen Pile, Kate Dahlstedt and Sarah Johnson

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <a href="https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5">https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5</a>. Meeting ID: 991 4202 7902. Passcode: 546613. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID 991 4202 7902 when prompted.

A conversation by five of the 19 members of our UU Society who participated in the UUA's Beloved Conversations program last fall.

## Sunday, May 9, 10:30 A.M. – Mothers Liberation Day

## The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <a href="https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5">https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5</a>. Meeting ID: 991 4202 7902. Passcode: 546613. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID 991 4202 7902 when prompted..

## Sunday, May 16, 10:30 A.M. - Youth Sunday

## The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <a href="https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5">https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5</a>. Meeting ID: 991 4202 7902. Passcode: 546613. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID 991 4202 7902 when prompted.

## Sunday, May 23, 10:30 A.M. – My Heart is Ready: Bridging and Gratitude Rebecca Fricke, Director of Religious Education, and The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <a href="https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5">https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5</a>. Meeting ID: 991 4202 7902. Passcode: 546613. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID 991 4202 7902 when prompted.

## Thursday, May 27, 6:00 P.M. – Vespers to Remember

#### The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <a href="https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5">https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5</a>. Meeting ID: 991 4202 7902. Passcode: 546613. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID 991 4202 7902 when prompted.

## Sunday, May 30, 10:30 A.M. – Peacemaking Honors Memorial Day

#### Paula Green

### Steve Rice, Lay Leader

Our guest speaker this morning, Paula Green, founded the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, an Amherst-based NGO focused on international conflict transformation, inter-communal dialogue, and reconciliation. She writes:

Here and abroad, we are forever mourning and memorializing the deaths of soldiers. The myth of heroic warfare is long gone and yet we continue to send our youngsters off to battle. It is long past time to turn over a new leaf.

The roots of war vary only slightly over time and culture. Humans everywhere share the same basic needs for physical sustenance, for safety and security, and for affirming love, belonging, and respect. When those needs appear to be slipping away, either in actuality or in our imaginations, fear arises. Fears give way to antagonism and aggression, to hate and blame. The cycle of war begins again.

We in the US must learn from the rest of the world to curb our worst fear-based impulses, lest we further escalate our current divides. Therein lies the path to peace, the true honoring of all whose lives have been sacrificed in that pursuit.

Join us a few minutes before 10:30 A.M. by clicking on <a href="https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5">https://bit.ly/3aR2qw5</a>. Meeting ID: 991 4202 7902. Passcode: 546613. Or call in: 646 876 9923 and enter the Meeting ID 991 4202 7902 when prompted.

## **Dedicated Offerings**

For the months of May and June, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been chosen to receive our Dedicated Offerings. The Food Bank's mission is to feed our neighbors in need and lead the community to end hunger. It is the leading provider of emergency food and other food assistance to those at risk of hunger in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties. Before the pandemic, its annual food distribution grew annually at an average of 6% but recently this has increased to 29%. This increased demand has led to plans for more warehouse space with development of a new headquarters at the Chicopee River Business Park. The Executive Director, Andrew Morehouse, and another Food Bank representative will bring us up to date on the new build and current operations on May 9 and June 20 via Zoom. Donations can be made to the UUSA and sent by check to P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA 01004-0502 or on our website: <a href="https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/connection/donate">https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/connection/donate</a>. Thank you so much for sharing what you can.

## A Few "Business" Updates

The Board approved to **extend the lease to Craig's Doors** from the end of April to the end of July. We will use the month of August to prepare the building for UUSA use. We do not yet have definitive plans for our post-pandemic worship plans, but a few of us attended the UUA-NER workshop last week and the appointment of a Re-Opening Task Force will be forthcoming. Please contact **Susan Rice** if you are interested in helping. (See page 8 for a fanciful report from 2016 on our ongoing free Wednesday Community Breakfasts, which serve Craig's Doors guests and other neighbors need.)





We had a great turnout for our **Special Congregational Meeting** on April 25 — the screenshots above show only a few of 55 "frames" filled with UUs! Three of the four board-approved revisions to the <u>bylaws were adopted</u> almost unanimously. The last one was tabled and will lead to further conversation and discernment around the word "ministry." Deep thanks for your participation in our governance.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter (page 4), Rev. Rachael and the board have scheduled two congregational conversations" (via Zoom) for all of us to discuss the budget — May 2 after the Sunday service and Wednesday May 5, 7:00 PM.

# Religious Education Ministry

Check out **Rebecca Fricke's** Director of Religious Education Blog for past descriptions of Sunday activities. Rebecca's blog includes written descriptions, website links and photos. Any questions? Ask! Want to get involved? Email Rebecca at dre@uusocietyamherst.org.

https://u2canuu.wordpress.com/

### PLEDGE DRIVE WINDING UP!

Around the time everyone is receiving this, our UUSA 2022 MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER pledge drive (formerly, our "Canvass") is coming to an end. We've set an ambitious goal this year of raising \$207,000 in pledges to support our growing congregation and help it achieve the important religious, spiritual and social objectives important to so many in our UUSA community. We have an energetic new minister, a growing congregation, and our Board, minister and leaders have set priorities for new programs to serve the religious needs of all the various people who are a part of our community. Plus, to be honest, we haven't been supporting our ministers and staff, including our terrific Congregational Administrator, at the level appropriate to the size of our congregation; we're hoping to rectify that situation at least partly this coming year.



As this is written we're compiling final numbers; with just a few folks remaining to be heard from, it looks like we'll fall a few thousand short of our goal. We have a wonderful "Angel" who's matched increases in pledges, new pledges and pledges from those who've returned after a while, and that matching amount brings us close, but we're still not there. If you've not yet sent in a pledge for this coming year, please do so. And if you find it in your abilities to increase the amount you have pledged, please contact Lea to do so — a simple email or phone call would do it.

Pledges make up the base of the income UUSA operates on. We have other sources of income — rental of the Meetinghouse, fundraisers, bequests, etc.

— but pledges are the foundation of our congregation. The Board of Trustees and Finance Committee have been developing a budget that balances the programs and people we support with the funds we can expect to have. And pledges are the foundation that supports all of it.

Rev. Rachael and the Board have scheduled two "congregational conversations" (via Zoom) for all of us to discuss the budget — May 2 after the Sunday service and Wednesday May 5, 7:00 p.m. — so the budget doesn't take up too much time at the Annual Meeting in June. At those discussions the draft budget will be discussed so members and friends can ask questions and give the Board input. After the two congregational conversations the Board will prepare a final budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting, where it will be voted on.

Please note the dates of the "congregational conversations," be there, learn about our income, our expenses, and participate. Your Pledge Drive Committee — **Jeanne Ballantine, Catharine Porter, Elliott Kelly, Mary McKenna, Sue Alexander, Charlie Atwood, Richard Roznoy** — has been working with Lea, the Board and Finance Committee to help us all **MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.** If you haven't made a pledge, or if you have and you think you can do more, please just call or e-mail Lea at the office to let her know! And . . . *THANK YOU ALL*!!





When we could gather in person, fun fundraisers like UUSA's Stone Soup Bazaar (left) really boosted the budget. Now as we look forward to being together once more, we need our pledge drive more than ever!

## **Should UUSA Adopt the Eighth Principle?**

The proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle for all Unitarian Universalists reads:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

More than 40 UU congregations have adopted the principle, many are in the process of adopting it, and we

hope to have a vote on it here at our June 13 annual meeting. Ellen Pile, Naomi Yanis and Betsy Wheeler are involved as 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Ambassadors. In the interest of trying out new ways of thinking and working, they opted to call themselves ambassadors, not a task force. The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Ambassadors work as promoters and representers of the proposed principle at UUSA. Their work thus far has been to facilitate discussion, collect thoughts and questions and provide answers and information as they are able.



This new principle would guide our actions as individuals and as a congregation as we move forward. Look for opportunities to talk about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and ask questions during May and early June. **Ellen Pile** and **Naomi Yanis** are available by phone or email. **Betsy Wheeler** is available by text.

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, May 10, at 7:15 P.M. on Zoom.

## Social Action

NBA. All Covid precautions are being utilized. Temperatures are taken, masks and gloves are required and social distancing is being practiced. The meal is packaged and then handed out to community people outside where they have lined up to receive the food. People are needed to help with meal preparation from 9:30 - 12:00; to help package 11:30 - 1:00; to serve 12:00 - 1:30; and to help clean up 12 - @2:00. NBA is located in Amherst in the lower rear of the First Congregational Church with access off the Spring St. parking lot. If you can help, please contact Mary Beth Seminario, mbsem@comcast.net, 253-0894. THANK YOU!

## **Green Sanctuary**

Massachusetts has passed a strong climate bill! It took several years and lots of lobbying, but the MA legislative has taken a bold step by passing the Next Generation Roadmap bill that has now become law. Our state house and senate passed the bill 3 times, and Governor Baker vetoed it twice. The last time, they had veto-proof majorities and no deadline to allow to Baker to scuttle it. Governor Baker signed it the third time on March 26, 2021.

It is a comprehensive, complicated bill, which you can read if you want at <u>Next Generation Roadmap</u>. We thought we would make life a little easier by summarizing the main points.

- 1. The state must reach **net zero emission by 2050**. This will require that we use electricity instead of fossil fuels for almost all energy needs and sequester the remaining carbon emissions.
- 2. The state must set emissions reductions targets in **6 sectors**: electricity, transportation, commercial and industrial buildings, residential building, industrial processes and natural gas distribution.
- 3. A new definition of **environmental justice** considers race, income and English language-proficiency. This will be useful as the state tries to ensure that pollution is not concentrated in certain neighborhoods.
- 4. The Department of Energy Resources will define **net-zero building standards**, which cities and towns will have the option to implement.
- 5. The Department of Public Utilities, which regulates the electric and natural gas utilities in the state, will have 3 additional priorities: security, equity and **reducing greenhouse gas emissions**, in addition to long-standing priorities of safety, reliability and affordability.

- 6. State electrical utilities will have to buy **more renewable energy** including wind power, up to 45% by 2030 and over 90% in 2050.
- 7. Natural gas utilities will also have to explore **cleaner sources of power**, like geothermal heat pumps.
- 8. Cities and towns in Massachusetts that have their own municipal light plants will be required to purchase renewable energy like the larger utilities. Previously, they were exempt.
- 9. MassSave has focused on energy efficiency in the past. Under the new law, they will also recommend **emission-free energy sources** when possible.
- 10. **Appliances** will have to be more energy efficient. Massachusetts is going to adopt California standards, which are the strongest in the country.
- 11. The governor will have to set goals for the number of **electrical vehicles** we are using in Massachusetts, which may be as many as 1 million by 2030. They will have to offer rebates and build more charging stations to encourage us to buy electric cars.
- 12. There will be more incentives for putting in solar panels.
- 13. The state will **train people** to work on wind turbines, solar installations and other aspects of our green economy.

This is huge! And, it lays the foundation for more concrete planning and funding of the transition to a clean energy future.

Thanks to all of you who wrote and called legislators in support of the bill.

And thanks to Representative Mindy Domb and Senator Jo Comerford, both of whom supported the bill. If you are interested in more details, presented in a very readable format, check out this excellent <u>summary</u> of the bill.

## Social Events

<u>Women's Circle meets via ZOOM at noon</u> on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Next meetings are May 13 and 27. These are opportunities to meet with friends and become better acquainted with other women in the congregation whom you may not know as well.

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

# Our Caring Ministries

Hello, sun in my face. Hello you who made the morning and spread it over the fields...Watch, now, how I start the day in happiness, in kindness.

Mary Oliver

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 Cave, Lauren Croce, Kate Dahlstedt, Gabriela Horvay, Sophie Herman, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse.

Our Pastoral Care Team coordinators are **Fran Plumer** and **Charlie Atwood**. Other members are **Elizabeth Alcaide**, **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.

As always we send love and support to all of you who are struggling with illness, bereavement, or difficulties of any kind in your lives or the lives of your loved ones. We remember those who have suffered in so many ways from the corona virus. Let us go forward with hope and resolve to do that it takes to bring this pandemic to an end.

## **ION Corner**

The Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) invites to you to join others to share how our faith traditions are a foundation for our racial justice work.

Faith Roots of Reparative Justice: An Interfaith Gathering

Sunday, May 16, 2021 - 4:00-5:30 pm EDT

Information: https://interfaithamherst.org/faith-roots-of-reparative-justice

Registration: https://tinyurl.com/faithrootsjustice



General Assembly — the largest gathering of UUs in the country — is packed with programs, workshops, worship services and incredible presenters. The 2021 Ware Lecturers are Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade! This year, a special scholarship to attend GA has been donated by a member of UUSA specifically for youth or young adults (35 years or younger). Contact Lea if you would like to take advantage of this generous offer.

## Here We Have Gathered

Here we have gathered, gathered side by side, circle of kinship, come and step inside! (Hymn #360, Singing the Living Tradition)

A look back at UUSA based on March newsletters from 25, 15 and 5 years ago:

## May 1996:

Religious Education Some of you may have heard the "All Things Considered" interview with the Rev Bill Bright of the Campus Crusade for Christ and the recent winner of the \$1,000,000 Templeton Prize in Religion. In responding to a question regarding the current push for prayer and fasting as a solution to the American malaise, Bright said, "Education isn't an answer, it's part of our problem." This comment remains with me as I seek all of your help in thanking the many of you who have been part of our education program this year. When religious intolerance, racism, and nationalism are again raging plagues, the world religions focus has been a necessary inoculation brought by an entire community to the Society's children.

I am all for prayer and fasting, but UU religious education <u>is</u> in good measure an answer. An excellent one.

Jon Rehmus (DRE)

<u>Denominational Affairs</u> A Parish Poll of members following the April 14 service resulted in the winnowing of six proposed General Resolutions down to three. Our Society will be submitting the three to the UUA General Assembly. The full texts of the resolutions may be found in both the *World* and in the Tentative Agenda. They

are summarized below:

- *G-2 Earth, Air, Water, And Fire* Protection of the environment the earth, air, water, and sustainable energy requires new and renewed support and advocacy. The first Unitarian Universalist conference on ecology and justice will be held at Meadville Lombard Theological School in the Fall of 1997.
- **G-4 Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines** Long after their initial deployment and the cessation of hostilities, anti-personnel landmines are killing civilians. The 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Convention must be ratified in order to outlaw attacks on noncombatants. We must work for a total ban on the manufacture, shipment, and deployment of anti-personnel landmines.
- **G-6 Working For A Just Economic Community** The common wealth of our country has been intentionally re-directed into the pockets of a <u>very small</u> wealthy minority at the expense of the greater majority of American families. A living wage, single-payer health care, full employment, an equitable tax system, corporate accountability and labor law reform are necessary in order to fulfill our democratic ideals in the 21st century.

The other proposed general resolutions concerned breast cancer prevention, support for people with mental illness, and toxic threats to children.

For your Information A reverent and no-so-reverent celebration of motherhood is the theme of a concert by Teresa Whitaker and our own **Anne Louise White.** The duo will perform at the Meetinghouse Saturday, May 4, 7:30 p.m., celebrating motherhood through song, story, and improvisation. If you've ever seen, known, been, had, abhorred or adored a mother, you're invited to join them in this "archetypal extravaganza with a cast of thousands played by two moms who can do it all!" Tickets will be \$8 at the door.

#### May 2006:

**Board News** ... The consensus of the Board is that committee chairs should rotate regularly (for example, at least every 3 years) in order to encourage new committee membership and fresh leadership. The Board is still deliberating and may present a bylaw about committee chair tenure in the coming year.

The annual Mother's Day Peace and Justice March takes place in Northampton Sunday, May 14, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Marchers will meet at ll:45 a.m. at the Bridge St. School and proceed downtown for a speakout of prose, poems and song. Our Society's Social Justice Committee is a co-sponsor of the event. For further information, call Emily Lewis at 256-1760.

Religious Education The children have begun collecting food for the Survival Center. The children in K – 1 met with Mary Beth Seminario from the Social Justice Committee, who educated them on the Survival Center and the need of people in our community. This group then was able to educate the 2-6 group through posters and discussion. The preschool group was also honored to have Mary Beth talk to them about the need of the people using the Survival Center. Thank yous go out to the many children and their parents for their support of an organization which serves people struggling to provide food for their families while faced, especially today, with high housing and fuel costs. We will continue through the end of May to collect food in Religious Education on Sunday mornings.

### May 2016:

<u>Green burial movie and discussion</u>, Monday, May 9, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. in the UUSA sanctuary. The Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to a movie and discussion about green burials. A representative from Green Burial Massachusetts will show the one-hour film "A Will for the Woods," and there will be time for discussion afterwards. **Mary** and **Gordon Wyse** have seen the film and report that it is excellent. The Green Sanctuary Committee will also share what we have learned about green burials in our area.

The movie is timely, given Alison's sermon topic on Earth Day and The Jones Library discussion of *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Both have to do with death as a natural process, and the movie also illustrates how a green burial can be done in a manner that uses less fossil fuel and land and fewer toxins than traditional burial.

Wednesday Community Breakfast: A report from the trenches Volunteer Lynn Olson emailed Sophie Rogers, a stalwart chef at the free breakfasts we co-sponsor with Craig's Doors, photos and an account of goings-on in our kitchen while she was away on vacation. Sophie thought it worth sharing with the rest of

us. Your editors concur, while cautioning our readers should consume it with a heaping teaspoon of Morton's Iodized Salt.

Hi Sophie – Sorry to interrupt your beach time, but I thought you'd like to know that your early morning kitchen crew managed to survive without your guidance, not counting the pan of butter that dribbled in front of the stove, creating a challenging skating rink, and the incinerated hot pad that burst into flames just as we were dumping the sausages on top of the potatoes (a new look we hope will also catch fire!). (The fire department was quite understanding and helpful.) Your recipes and direc-



Polly

nobody showed up for three hours.

tions were invaluable. Thanks for taking the time to type those up for us, although **Pete** [**Rogers**] says he did all the work because you were busy packing your bikinis and suntan lotion. Anyway, **Glen** [**Bertrand**] got to the kitchen at 4:00 A.M. and



Glen

had all the potatoes cut, boiled and ready to go by the time **Polly [Peterson]** and I arrived, sleepless from worry, at 4:45. By 5:10 we had the onions peeled, sliced and sautéed... perhaps Julia Child would have said, "Sauteed? Charred... they were CHARRED!"... the rolls wrapped, the OJ mixed (added a touch of vodka for the kitchen crew... fun!), and 71 dozen eggs cracked, watered, whipped, and ready to rock and roll. We had to sit around and mumble Unitarian prayers until we could start serving since

After that, it was like a ballet, as we adroitly tried our best to emulate your techniques. Polly not only managed to create your infamous potatoes, she did pirouettes as she popped them into the oven, and learned to juggle the utensils without contamination of the potato spatula and the onion spoon. I was more robot-like with the sau-

sages, ripping open the boxes, dumping them into the Sausage Bowl, doing the 2 minute tango in the microwave, and then at the tone of BING! dumping them into the frying pan for a quick Bernie (oops... Burn!). Clare [Bertrand] and Jade [Lovett, a shelter supervisor from Craig's Doors – Ed.] arrived just as we needed their radiant smiles and cheerleading of the Seven Principles.

Glen was everywhere, as usual, and after he captured the squirrel that came in the kitchen window, he mixed up another batch of Special OJ and we raised our glasses toward the south, murmuring your mantras, "It's all about teamwork! You all do beautiful work! You are the best!" Glen closed his eyes and said, "We survived ... it almost makes me re-think my position on God ..."



Clare

We missed you! Hope you are having a wonderful vacation, and don't worry about a thing! Lynn

P.S. Everyone else did amazing work, too, and truly loved the Special OJ!

