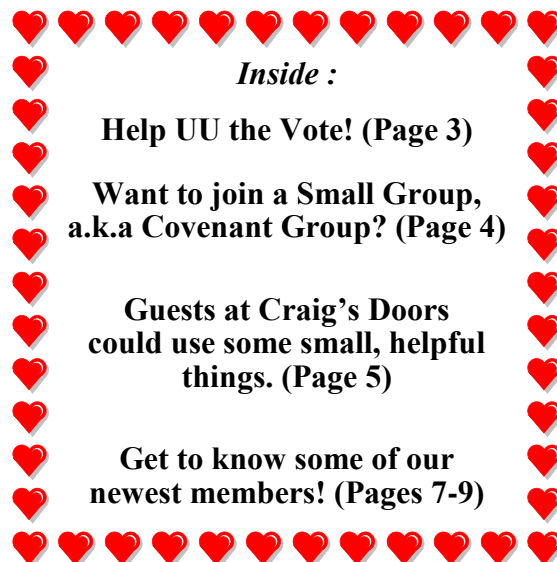


# THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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things. (Page 5)**

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## Important Information

### **STREET ADDRESS:**

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[revrachael@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:revrachael@uusocietyamherst.org)

**CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:**

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### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

[board@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:board@uusocietyamherst.org)

[link to board minutes](#)

**Co-Presidents:**

**Clerk:**

**Treasurer:**

Anne Moore and Susan Rice

Louise Grosslein

Peter Lacey

**Members At Large:**

Carolyn Cave

Sue Alexander

John Gerber

## NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor:

Janis Gray

Calendar Creator:

John Foster

Deadline for submissions: 20th of each month.

Email them to Janis Gray (contact Lea in the office if you need her email address).

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



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## Schedule of Services

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***Our services continue to be online only.*** To join any service, click <https://bit.ly/3bDuwv3> Meeting ID: 988 1332 2308 Passcode: 866951 Or call in +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID: 988 1332 2308.

**Sunday, February 6, 10:30 A.M. – *Love will Guide Us***

**The Sunday Services Committee**

Adrienne Wallace of 80 Acres, recipient of our February Dedicated Offerings, will also speak at this service.

**“Interconnectedness”  
is the theme for Rev. Rachael’s February services**

**Sunday, February 13, 10:30 A.M. – *Title to be announced***

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

**Sunday, February 20, 10:30 A.M. – *Interdependence***

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

**Sunday, February 27, 10:30 A.M. – *Title to be announced***

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes**

### **Do you know we have a UUSA YouTube Channel?**

Original content from our Sunday services is now uploaded to our website, [uusocietyamherst.org](https://uusocietyamherst.org), with optional closed captioning! To view them, click [here](#) — and don’t forget to **SUBSCRIBE!**

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## Dedicated Offerings

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Our Unitarian Universalist Society devotes each month to a new Dedicated Offering (DO) recipient whose representative speaks to us on the first Sunday. We split every Sunday’s offering plate 50/50 with the recipient organization. This move symbolizes the solidarity we feel with the organizations we choose to support, and it gives us all more opportunities to contribute. As always, please specify whether the funds you send to the office or by PayPal are for the plate, your pledge, or some other purpose.

In December, we raised \$1,005 for **The Literacy Project**. We will report in a future newsletter what we raised in January for the **Catholic Charities Agency of Springfield, MA**.

Writes **Anne Perkins**, a member of our Dedicated Offering Committee: In recognition of Black History Month, the **February Dedicated Offerings** will be donated to a recently opened learning center in Northampton named **80 Acres**. The learning center is for children in K-6 and is “steeped in the excellence, beauty, and celebration of Black culture and Black cultural knowledge. It is also a farm school.” The Center also has after school programs for school-age children that include art, science and math, and Black history. See: <https://www.80acres.org/>

The school director is Adrienne Wallace, who grew up in Amherst and attended both Mount Holyoke College and Yale University. She explained to me in an email that the name 80 Acres has “a historically important name: After emancipation, enslaved folks were supposed to get 40 acres and mule. That promise wasn’t delivered on, but we commit to this generation and ones to come.” This history is reflected in the doubling of the number in the learning center’s name. She added, “We also believe in the promise of community and doubly invested in it!” Ms. Wallace will speak to the congregation at our February 6 service.

Janaya Collins is the Director of Early Learning at 80 Acres. I spoke with her a few weeks ago and she was clearly excited about helping to create a space for children that is grounded in Black culture. Both women are interested in following indigenous land practices and sharing those with the children as part of the farm school.

The UUSA donations will support their tuition scholarships.

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## *In Memoriam*

### **Betty Joy (Guttmann) Turner**

Betty Turner, a longtime member of our congregation, died of pancreatic cancer at the Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst on December 10, 2021.

Born in Chicago, Betty grew up in Miami. After graduating from the University of Florida, she followed her beloved brother Allen to Amherst, where her teaching career began. In the 1960s, Betty taught for the U.S. Army in Germany, married, gave birth to her son Jonathan, lived all over the country, and was divorced. She returned to Amherst for good in 1969.

Betty taught in Wildwood Elementary School from the day it opened until the day she retired – and afterwards, as a substitute. If she wasn't working on a given Thursday, she would often join the bi-monthly UUSA Women's Luncheons at local restaurants. During summer vacations Betty made it a point to travel, visit museums, and explore. She loved reading, cats, Joe's Cafe in Northampton, Florida (during the winter), dirty jokes, farm stands, the Granby condominium she bought in the late 1980s, her wonderful neighbors, restaurants, Thanksgiving, the Weston Playhouse theater in Vermont, travel tours, Robert B. Parker's Spenser novels, *Columbo*, McCray's Country Creamery ice cream, and most of all her family. For many years she made it a rule to have at least one thing to do on her calendar every day.

Betty is survived by her son, Jonathan, and her daughter-in-law, Robin Holly; her brother, Professor Allen Guttmann, and her sister-in-law, Professor Doris Barga; her niece, Erika Guttmann-Bond; her nephew, Hans Guttmann; and the many hundreds of students who passed through her hands. A memorial service is planned at the Unitarian Meetinghouse in Amherst, but it will be delayed until the current COVID wave has subsided. Please contact [jonathan.a.turner-at-comcast.net](mailto:jonathan.a.turner-at-comcast.net) if you would like to be notified once the plans are set.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider a donation to the Dakin Humane Society animal shelter in Leverett – or, if you can, adopt an animal in Betty's name. Memorial guestbook at [www.douglassfuneral.com](http://www.douglassfuneral.com)



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## **Social Action**



**UU the Vote! Support our Democracy!** Want to help combat voter suppression? For the past several years our UU society has teamed up with Reclaim Our Vote, a nonpartisan grassroots organization. Reclaim Our Vote is devoted to ensuring that voters of color are informed about voter registration, protocols for requesting mail-in ballots, and changes to election laws that could impact their ability to vote. Teamed with others in our local community, we have written over seven thousand postcards to individual voters in states with a long history of voter suppression. We are not writing in support of specific candidates. We notify them of election dates, and how to contact the Voter Protection Hotline to ensure they have not been removed from voter rolls. In this pivotal year, we'll be postcarding nine states. Our focus is on GOTV (Go To Vote) postcards to currently registered voters. Here are our target states, and the dates of their primary elections:



Texas primary March 1  
North Carolina primary May 17  
Alabama and Georgia, primaries May 24  
South Carolina primary June 14  
Virginia primary June 21  
Arizona primary August 2  
Florida primary August 23

If you are interested in being a postcard writer, please email **Anne Louise White**. Contact **Lea** in our office if you do not have access to our directory with Anne Louise's email address.

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## Religious Education Ministry

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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](mailto:dre@uusocietyamherst.org).

<https://u2canuu.wordpress.com/>

**Youth Group** has been meeting every Sunday on line for the past month from 2:00-4:00 P.M. as the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence building has been closed for events due to the Omicron surge. We are beginning to plan the details for our youth-led service on March 27 and have recently revisited and updated our Youth Group covenant for the year ahead. We also shared feedback on our experiences of Unitarian Universalism at a recent meeting with the Widening the Circle working group, which wants to hear our perspectives about growing up as a UU and what we would like to see be different for the future of our faith.

**The Young Adults** have been meeting on 2nd Sundays from 5:00-6:30 P.M. on line. We recently hosted a virtual Solstice gathering and provided feedback about our experiences of Unitarian Universalism with the Widening the Circle working group (see above). We are in the process of starting a podcast book club and are exploring some collaborations with other regional UU Young Adult groups. Our next monthly meeting will be on February 13 from 5:00-6:30 P.M.

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## Small Group Ministry

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Are you seeking a deeper sense of connection with our UU community? Our **Covenant Groups Committee** is inviting everyone in our community to consider joining a covenant group, also known as a Small Group. These groups, currently online, have played a vital role during the pandemic. We get to share with and listen deeply to one another about topics dear to our hearts.

Covenant or Small Groups are gatherings of seven to nine people who meet regularly (once or twice a month) to get to know one another and to examine significant questions involving spirituality and how we live our lives. Meeting in Small Groups not only helps us develop closer ties with individuals, but also nurtures our entire community. Many people new to our UU Society found joining a small group an excellent way to get to know our community and to build close relationships during this time of social distancing. Please be in touch with **Anne Louise White** if you'd like to join a Small Group. Contact **Lea** in our office if you do not have access to our directory with Anne Louise's email address.

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## Our Caring Ministries

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*We need to stop  
just pulling people  
out of the river.*

*We need to go  
upstream and find  
out why they're  
falling in.*

*Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)*

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, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse**.

**Our Pastoral Care Team Coordinators** are **Fran Plumer** and **Rob Fuderich**. Other members are **Elizabeth Alcaide, Charlie Atwood, 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 encouragement to those of you suffering from illness or loss, to those who are lonely or discouraged or facing hardship of any kind. You are part of our beloved community, and we are here to help. In these difficult times, with the pandemic raging around us, let us hold on to gratitude and hope and the knowledge that that we do not walk our path alone.

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## Social Events

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**The Women's Circle** is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. Our next meeting will be online on Thursday, February 10 at noon. Please contact **Naomi Yanis** for more information, or to get on the email distribution list. If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with Naomi's contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

**Weekly Men's Breakfast** The Wednesday morning Men's Breakfast held at Kelly's is *postponed until future notice* due to the prevalence of the highly contagious COVID-19 Omicron variant in Amherst.



Yes, it's that time of the year again, we're gearing up for our annual UUSA pledge drive... and what could be more appealing than this loveable quokka to inspire your generosity?

Well, perhaps YOUR kitty, doggie or baby would make an appearance to prompt our gifts? Email a photo with a catchy caption to **Sue Alexander** no later than **February 20**. (Contact **Lea** in the office if you do not have access to our directory with Sue's email address.) We'll select some to lighten up our efforts this year! Stay tuned.

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## Finance Committee

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The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, February 14, at 7:15 P.M. on line.

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## ION Corner

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UUSA is a member of the Interfaith Opportunities Network. Another member, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant St, Amherst, has welcomed Craig's Doors to use part of its building for overnight use as a shelter for homeless individuals. Craig's Doors guests need the following items: warm socks, personal care items (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste), playing cards, board games, underwear, men's clothing (large), bottles of juice (not individual size), razors, milk, coats, stamps and envelopes, pillows, hand warmers and nail clippers. Donated items can be brought to Immanuel Lutheran Church through its main door. Thank you.

## Calling All UUSA Members

We are scheduling our **only** fund raiser for this year...a SERVICE AUCTION to be held on May 14, 2022.

With your help, it will be a huge success and a lot of fun for all.

We are inviting as many of you as possible to volunteer to pull together and work as a team to make this happen. If you have helped in the past, please volunteer this year. If you have never been a part of this event, please sign up. We'd love to have new members.

Working together, our great UUSA community can make it happen!!!!

The form of the auction and type of services and opportunities presented will depend on the status of COVID and in-person gatherings. In the past, we UUs have enthusiastically bid on offers from other congregants to baby sit, dog walk, clean out a garage, host a dinner party or board game night, bake pies or cakes, or provide a vacation home for a perfect getaway.

To volunteer for this fun event, please contact Lea in the Office or a member of the stewardship committee.

With appreciation,

Your Stewardship Committee

Jeanne Ballantine

Elliott Kelly

Catharine Porter

## Introducing "Tech Tuesdays"

**Lea Douville**, UUSA's Congregational Administrator and techno-wizard, is now reserving an hour in her weekly schedule to help us tackle some of the frustrations we all inevitably feel towards the technology in our lives. Struggling with Google Docs? Can't find what you're looking for? How do you "share" something? Where's the UUSA Directory again? Zoom quandaries?

Basically, bring her any friction that you are facing when it comes to the intersection of the UUSA and your digital/technological life. No questions too small! Just drop in! Tuesdays at 2:00 P.M. (online, of course):

<https://bit.ly/3u6ETlw>

Meeting ID: 944 2409 5404 | Passcode: 302253

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## Get to know our newest members!

Our Sunday Service of January 30 included a belated recognition of people who have joined our UU Society since our last in-person New Member ceremony (before COVID came to our shores). The next three pages in this newsletter were originally attached as a PDF to the January 30 email sent with the service link. In case you missed it then, we reproduce the PDF here to let you learn more about many of the individuals who have found our community just before or during this time of social distancing.

Thanks to **Rev. Rachael** and the Ministry of Welcome and Membership (**Libby Walton-Stanforth**, **Karen Mack** and **Mary Herman**) for virtually leading a warm and moving New Member Recognition on January 30, 2022!







## New Member Recognition Ceremony January 30, 2022

Nancy Hampshire  
Leslie Matlen & Fred Bloom  
**Mary McKenna**  
**Brenda Bushouse & Charlie Schweik**  
Meghan Dewar & Betsy Wheeler  
John Gerber

Melinda Ewen  
Maryclaire Wellinger  
Linda Honan  
Ellen Kosmer  
Suzanne Goffredo  
Deeya Pavelle

*[bolded names have bios included here]*

Mary McKenna writes: "This congregation has been a welcoming home to me since I moved here 2.5 years ago from California, which was my home for most of my life. Through the services and social hours where so many friendly people said hello and invited me into the fold, to the series of women's luncheons where I became acquainted and then developed relationships with many vibrant, interesting women, to serving for a short time on the Stewardship Committee, and then participating in two covenant groups...UUSA has been a home base for me as I build a new life here.

I am the mother of four, grandmother to eight, a practicing marriage and family therapist for the past 30 years, and someone who loves to be fully engaged with life. Reading, cooking, doing art, traveling, and enjoying live music and theater are pursuits that bring such joy to my world, and which I long to return to soon. I am grateful for this community of kindred spirits...UUSA."

Mary signed the Membership Book on February 2, 2020



Brenda Bushouse writes: "Charlie (Schweik) and I live in Amherst. I grew up in Michigan and he grew up in western New York. I started coming to the UU when my kids graduated from high school. I was also recovering from a serious injury and it meant a great deal to connect with people. We have 20 year old twins. Max is a sophomore at Ithaca College. Sophia is a sophomore at UMass. We are passionate outdoors people. We hike, kayak, and enjoy long walks with our two dogs. We have not been very active in UU during the pandemic mainly because I have visual deficits that make zoom difficult. We look forward to being able to see people again in person!"

Brenda and Charlie signed the Membership Book on February, 23, 2021

John Gerber writes: "My late wife and I raised our two oldest sons in a UU congregation in Urbana, IL. When we moved to Amherst in 1992, we went to the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence for a few years until a beloved minister left and we drifted away. When my wife of 50 years passed away in 2020, I knew I needed to connect with people to stay sane and started to attend UUSA services by zoom. I quickly got involved and now find myself contributing as co-chair of the Sunday Services Committee, as facilitator of a small group, helping with the UUSA web page, and as a new member of the Board of Trustees. I've been welcomed by this congregation at a time in my life when I needed to belong to something meaningful. One of the greatest gifts I've found since joining is the commitment of this congregation to the Eighth Principle. As a lifelong environmental and social justice activist, currently full of despair for the world we are leaving to our grandchildren, working toward The Beloved Community within the UUSA inspires me to get up each day and try to 'start where I'm at, use what I've got, and do what I can' - one day at a time."

John signed the Membership Book on January 24, 2021





Melinda Ewen writes: *"I have been a Unitarian-Universalist for over 40 years as a member of several UU churches in Indiana and California during that time. I moved from Santa Monica to Amherst in 2019 to be near my daughter, Jennifer. I also have a son, Adam, who is currently in Amherst as well. I have four granddaughters, all of whom are college students. I enjoy reading The New York Times, memoirs and fiction. While in Southern California I was proud of my collection of over 180 succulents and cactuses, all of which were distributed to friends as part of the moving process. I am now taking a gardening seminar to find my niche for plant stewardship here in the frozen north."*

Melinda signed the Membership Book on January 24, 2021



Maryclaire Wellinger writes: *"In 2018, my husband and I sold our farmhouse in Beverly, and moved here; we found a duplex to rent in Northampton. From the North Shore to the Pioneer Valley— a new adventure! Our friends from Marblehead, Pete and Sophie Rogers, paved the way. At the UU Marblehead Church, I trained as a pastoral care counselor. I have worked as a psychotherapist, and am a published poet and passionate painter."*

Maryclaire signed the Membership Book on February 23, 2021

Ellen Kosmer writes: *"I moved to South Amherst about 15 years ago after I retired from Worcester State University where I was a professor of art history, after receiving my PhD from Yale."*

*Though I was raised as a Catholic, I never felt at home there, disagreeing with most of catholicism's basic articles of faith and its political and institutional positions. The Unitarian Universalist Society is appealing to me because it offers ways to seek out one's own truth within a community based-structure and guiding principles.*

*I am a native New Englander, I was born and grew up in Massachusetts. I am an only child and fortunate to have many close and loving friends. I share my house with two splendid cats, a calico Ravenna and a tiger Fenice.*

*I have a variety of interests and have been involved in community organizations. I was chair of the Cultural Council of Amherst and was a member of the Community Preservation Act Committee. While I was on the CPA I was involved in the grant funding for the UUSA's restoration of the Tiffany window. I am passionate about animal welfare and for many years was a member of the Board of Directors at the Dakin Humane society.*

*I am an active member and former president of the 5 College Learning in Retirement organization, and a member of the Garden Club of Amherst. I am an enthusiastic gardener and I welcome wildlife into the garden. I got my undergraduate degree at Mass Art and so I continue to practice in studio arts and right now I am exploring mixed media collage."*

Ellen signed the Membership Book on March 21, 2021







Linda Honan writes: *"I grew up in Ireland, coming to the USA as a graduate student at Yale where I trained as a medievalist. I spent many years in museum education and teacher training, finally coming to work at UMass as a program coordinator. I consider myself a Massachusetts native now. I was raised a Catholic, I have been attracted to the UU liberal acceptance of all religions for decades. Increasingly distressed by the Catholic abuse and now aged 79, I felt I had better do something about it before it is too late! I am looking forward to the classes that the Rev. Rachael is offering.*

*I am very interested in the Five College Learning in Retirement program, where I moderate seminars. For some years I volunteered at the South Hadley Food Pantry; I am very supportive of food and shelter programs. Because I am now on dialysis I don't have much time or energy to volunteer these days. My immediate family is deceased; i am fortunate to have loving cousins and good friends.*

Linda signed the Membership Book on March 21, 2021

Suzanne Groffredo writes: *"I moved to Greenfield right before the pandemic after 29 years in South Florida. "I needed the 4 seasons and rolling hills back in my life. Leaving my 30 year-old daughter in Florida was most difficult, but we adjusted. My first visits to UUSA were right before Covid, but during more then a year of difficult times I turned back to my 25 year friendships and ministry at UU Fellowship of Boca Raton. After many Zoom services at UUFBR, I knew I had to get involved with a new home UU. Knowing Rev. Rachael and being involved with a UUSA small group discussion over the spring and summer the choice was not hard. Attending last weeks in-person service and the blessing of the animals, UUSA became my new UU home. Thank all that have made me feel welcome over the last few months."*

Suzanne signed the Membership Book on October 24, 2021



Deeya Pavelle writes: *"I was born in Pittsfield, MA. After my mom died, my sister and I moved to Florida to live with my grandparents. When my father remarried, we moved to NYC; people often ask if I am a native New Yorker. But after only a few years in NY, we moved back to MA. First in Winthrop and then four years of high school in Brookline. I spent my junior year of HS in Israel where my Mom was the Prima Soprano in the National Opera company. That was very cool! I attended Tufts-Boston School of Occupational Therapy, and later Lesley College.*

*I married early and was a stay-at-home mother for my sons Ethan (41 yrs old) and James (39 yrs old). I practiced psychotherapy after being the Coordinator of the Rape Crisis Center in Attleboro, MA. I divorced the boys' father after 18 years of marriage. After burning out from my work as a therapist I went back and got a teaching credential and taught a high school behavior class. I graduated from The Humanist Association and am a celebrant.*

*A few years into teaching I pursued a fantasy to live in London -- some of the best years (3) of my life! I came back and had a hard time settling down. I was married to my wife for 3 years and lived to talk about it. I come to Amherst from Madison, WI via Somerville."*

Deeya signed the Membership Book on November 21, 2021



*A heartfelt welcome to all of our new members*

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## Here We Have Gathered

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*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 February newsletters from 25 and 15 years ago:

### February 1997

**Love Makes a Family** Thanks to the generosity of the Family Diversity Project, the photographic exhibit “Love Makes a Family: Living in Lesbian and Gay Families” will be displayed in our sanctuary on March 2 and March 9. In this traveling exhibit, photographs by Amherst photographer Gig Kaeser depict a variety of families of all races with gay or lesbian moms, dads, grandparents, and/or youth. Accompanying each photograph is text edited from interviews with family members conducted by writers Peggy Gillespie and Pam Brown. Together, the words and images show the strength, support, and love within these families. We feel privileged to host this beautiful reminder that the fundamentals of love and support are to be found in *all* types of families. For more information, call **Carol Rothery**.

### February 2007

**Caring** We will miss the contributions made here by **Florence Bert**, who passed away unexpectedly on January 18 following a massive heart attack. A memorial service is being planned for February 24 at 2:00 P.M. at the Meetinghouse. For many years, most of the items in the Caring column were submitted by Florence. Her deep love for our congregation, and involvement in its life, led then-RE director **Jonathan Remus** to declare her our “den mother.”

*[Editor’s note, February 2022: After her passing, our Board of Trustees voted to use a gift from her family to establish The Florence Bert Fund to support the ministry of what is now our Caring Circle.]*

**UU Meetinghouse hosts a Call for Justice at Guantanamo** Our Meetinghouse was packed on Thursday evening, January 11, when our Social Justice Committee co-sponsored an event marking the fifth anniversary of the arrival at Guantanamo of the first alleged “enemy combatants.” Primarily sponsored by SAGE, Amnesty International and the Pioneer Valley Coalition Against Secrecy and Torture and chaired by **Nancy Foster**, the observance in Amherst of the “Call to Shut Down Guantanamo” began with more than 70 people participating in a candlelight vigil on the Common – in the biting cold! The Pioneer Valley Coalition had supplied a “cage” in which volunteers in orange jumpsuits symbolized the harsh treatment of the men in detention at Guantanamo.

Vigilers reassembled at our Meetinghouse for hot coffee, and were joined by others to watch a moving film, “*Outlawed: Extraordinary Rendition, Torture and Disappearances*.” They then heard from attorney Buz Eisenberg, who works with many other *pro bono* lawyers seeking justice for the detainees. He told us 85% of these men had not been captured on the battlefield but rather were turned in by Afghans, Pakistanis and Iraqis responding to American offers of bounty payments. (These ranged from \$1500 to \$4780, the equivalent for many of a fortune!) Of the 775 detainees who have passed through Guantanamo, only ten have so far been charged, while some 395 prisoners are left in limbo.

Mr. Eisenberg also explained how the Military Commissions Act passed by the old Congress last fall strips the U.S. courts of any jurisdiction over these prisoners. It grants the administration the latitude to continue its abusive interrogation program and effectively insures against any future prosecutions based on military and civilian “command responsibility” for these and other human rights abuses suffered by the prisoners. Sponsors of the event sought signatures on a petition calling for repeal of this outrageous Act.

— Nancy Foster