

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

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May 2022



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Important Information

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[link to board minutes](#)

Co-Presidents:

Anne Moore and Susan Rice

Clerk:

Louise Grosslein

Treasurer:

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!

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Schedule of Services

This month, we hope to continue to offer “hybrid” services (both online and in person). To join any service online, 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.

If you haven't registered to attend a given service in person and would like to do so, please register [here](#).

Sunday, May 1, 10:30 A.M. – *Ukraine, War Crimes, and the Law of War*

Bill Newman

As more is revealed about Russian atrocities, who can be made to account? Bill Newman returns as our guest speaker this morning. A civil rights and civil liberties lawyer, he has served as the Director of the Western Regional Law Office of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts since 1987.

Sunday, May 29, 10:30 A.M. – *The Cooperative Movement*

Boone Shearer



Do you know we have a UUSA YouTube Channel?

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

Dedicated Offerings

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 March, we collected \$600 for **New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT)**. We will report in a future newsletter what we collected in April for the **Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Zero Waste Project**.

Our Dedicated Offerings recipient for the month of May is Razom for Ukraine. Razom means “together” — it started as a means to support those who gathered for months in Maidan Square in Kyiv in the winter of 2013/2014. Thousands gathered, many died or were injured, culminating in the removal the pro-Russian president. Unfortunately, this prompted Russia to invade Crimea (2/23/2014). In NYC, a handful of organizers with deep ties to Ukraine decided to form the organization to continue the important work started on the Maidan, to build a community — together — for a more prosperous and democratic Ukraine.

The most important effort right now is their Emergency Response: Delivering tactical medical supplies — on average 60 pallets each week (over 218 tons since February) — through their network of other nonprofits on the ground in Ukraine. They have a number of initiatives, but what is exciting is their effectiveness, and their maintaining up-to-date open communication with the wider community — us — along with volunteers, donors, partners, and governments as well as those most directly affected. You can learn more about Razom for Ukraine at: <https://razomforukraine.org/> If you get a chance, watch these:

- Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom - (about what happened November 2013 - February 2014) - it's on Netflix
- Famine-33 (1991), directed by Oles Yanchuk
- The Guide (2014), directed by Ukrainian film director, Oles Sanin
- Mr. Jones (2019), directed by Agnieszka Holland

Religious Education Ministry



In this May 1 screenshot from the “Zoom Gallery,” guest speaker Bill Newman (far left), is assisted by Carol Johnson (in red) during our Time for All Ages in guiding participants in a May Pole dance.

Dear Members and Friends of the UUSA—

I think many of you may have missed my announcement that I am stepping away from my Director of Religious Education job at the UUSA at the end of June. I have had a good long run and I have learned so much, gotten to know so many of you, seen our program develop, watched our children grow into young adults, and helped our congregation change in many ways. Everyone reaches a point where they feel like it is time for a new direction, and that time for me is now.

What will this mean? It means RE Ministry and Rev. Rachael is in the process of searching for a new candidate who will have the energy to continue the good work we are doing in new and different ways. It also means I will go back to being in the pews for worship on Sunday mornings. And I will be taking a two year break from all committee work and event planning. This obligatory committee free time will help me (and my family) rediscover “Sundays” and the joy of



DRE Rebecca Fricke

contemplating the sermon without worrying about the behind the scenes details. So, let's make the best of our last few weeks together! YoUUrS,
Rebecca

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/>

Youth Group Youth Group (shown below) continued to meet weekly on Sundays in April. We have discussed how we thought our youth-led service went, started planning for our camping trip in May, and cooked our last meal for the Interfaith Cot Shelter on April 10.



We are excited to have had the Coming of Age group from USNF (Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence) join us on April 24 and, coming up, for the first night of our camping trip on May 20.

Young Adults The Young Adults have started having our monthly meetings outside for the first time since October.

We had a nice hike at Mt. Tom on April 10 and are looking forward to our next meeting at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst on May 15 from 5-6:30 P.M. If you would like to join us or get added to our email list you can email Johnny at youthandya@uusocietyamherst.org

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF AMHERST at Annual Meeting June 5, 2022

The Ad-Hoc Leadership Development Committee (Charlie Atwood, Mary Herman, and Amy Kalman) is pleased to present for election the candidates for the Board of Trustees. If elected, these candidates would join the Board as follows:

Co-Presidents: *Anne Moore & John Gerber*

Clerk: *Louise Grosslein*

Treasurer: *Eric Murphy*

At-Large: *Carolyn Cave*

At-Large: *Sue Kelly*

At-Large: *Deeya Pavelle*

We invited the three candidates who would be new to our Board to introduce themselves below (the rest would be returning for another term).



Sue Kelly

Elliott and I and our 3 year old child moved to Amherst in 2002 from eastern Massachusetts after finishing graduate school and working for a few years. We discovered Unitarian Universalism a few years before we moved here so it was natural for us to seek out the UUSA shortly after we arrived. We joined shortly after a few visits to the UUSA and our second child was dedicated here in the sanctuary. I was raised Congregationalist, and I found some similarities in UU but mostly a "home" that felt accepting and supportive of my many questions.

Currently, I work at the Amherst Public Preschool at Crocker Farm, a program that serves both neuro-typical children and children with special needs. In my free time I love to garden for myself and friends. I love being active outdoors — hiking, bicycling, running and walking our dog.

CG, our 23 year old, lives and works in Burlington, VT and Addie, our 18 year old, is a senior at Amherst High. We feel so fortunate and so privileged to live and work in such a beautiful place with such beautiful, caring people.



Eric Murphy

I moved to this area about 25 years ago from eastern Massachusetts. My wife, daughter (Jess, Jana) and I had never attended a UU service until about 15 years ago when we attended a UUSA service in search of spiritual community. We felt at home here, became members, and have been involved since then. Our daughter attended years of RE programming, my wife served on the board, the ministerial search committee and is now on the Committee on Shared Ministries.

I have been attending Small Group Ministries and have recently joined the Finance Committee. I am a tax accountant with a private practice but stopped accepting new clients years ago due to being full. I enjoy meditation, running, biking, gardening and spending time with family.

Deeya Pavelle

I moved to the Valley just this past July and immediately threw myself into the church and the community. My first foray into the church was the Women's Circle where I was welcomed with open arms.

Prior to UUSA I was a long time UU and at one point, I was the DRE of a small north shore church. So, when I moved to a new area the first thing I did was to find "my people." I joined at the first book signing I could and am honored to be offered a place on the Board of Trustees.

I am a retired therapist and special needs teacher enjoying the extra time to get to know the area better. I have two wonderful sons: Ethan and James, the lights in my life. So, that is a little bit about me! I enjoy reading, knitting and cooking.



CANDIDATES FOR THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Ad-Hoc Leadership Development Committee (Charlie Atwood, Mary Herman, and Amy Kalman) is pleased to present for election the candidates for the Leadership Development Committee: Sue Alexander, Lauren Croce, Susan Rice



Sue Alexander

I first came to the Valley in 1976 to work at Hampshire College where I became Dean of Students. In 1987 I moved to the eastern part of the state to become Dean of Students at Wheaton College, when they made the decision to become a coeducational college. While I was at Wheaton, I joined the Murray Unitarian Universalist Society in Attleboro, MA. When I retired in 2008, I moved back to the Valley where I live in Leverett. I have two adopted Cambodian daughters, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and two overindulged cats.

When I came to the UUSA in 2016 I found a community that was actively engaged in moving forward under two successive interim ministers, whose members were welcoming and inclusive. While my retirement resolution was not to assume any leadership responsibilities, it was hard to refuse invitations

from such a committed congregation. I've been a member of several covenant groups, the Dismantling Systemic White Supremacy Task Group, and attended a UUA General Assembly. Currently I'm completing my term on the Board of Trustees and I worked on the last two pledge drives.



Lauren Croce

UUSA has been my spiritual home for over 30 years. When my spouse Helen Blatz and I moved to the area in 1988, our only connection to Unitarian Universalism was the building of the Morristown New Jersey society that hosted the LGBT support group we attended. By the time we signed the membership book in 1997, we had spent many hours embraced by the loving congregation and found a faith community where we felt we belonged.

The first opportunity I accepted to participate in the life of the congregation was very personal. Prompted by support from our new minister, Claudia

Elferdink, I joined a committee trying for the **second time** to move members to

vote to become a “Welcoming Congregation,” a designation sought by congregations affirming the LGBT community at the time. We succeeded and with that one vote, I knew I was home!

Not long after that, the congregation helped us welcome our daughter

Sarah. At 10 months old, she was the first child to be dedicated to the Society in many years. Helen and I are proud to have raised our daughter in this loving community and both of us have been active members for over 25 years.

Over the years, I have participated on many committees, taught in religious education, worked on fundraisers and most recently became a member of the choir. I am pleased to be asked to join the Leadership Development Committee to help find others who will be as committed as I am to supporting the life of this beloved community.



Susan Rice

I serve this congregation because I am indebted to Unitarian Universalism.

This religion provided a safe haven for me as a child. My congregation nurtured me and enhanced my self-esteem as an unsure and tenuous adolescent.

As an adult, UU congregations supported me through providing a loving community for my children as well as meaningful ways for me to work for change in my communities. And this UUSA congregation has provided me with opportunities to deeply explore important aspects of social justice, spirituality and leadership.

Green Sanctuary

Ten Tips for Turning the Titanic in Time Darcy Dumont delivered a sermon titled “Turning the Titanic in Time” at our annual Earth Day service on April 3, 2022. In the sermon, she cited the recent report from the UN International Panel on Climate Change that stated over 40% of the world's population – especially climate justice communities – are “highly vulnerable” to climate impacts.

It added that though many of the impacts of global warming are now simply “irreversible”, there is still a brief window of time to keep the temperature increase below 1.5 degrees C and reduce the most serious impacts.

The report points out that this decade, i.e., the 2020's, is the decade to turn things around.

It seems like such a daunting task, and our government and business leaders are slow to move. What can each of us do as individuals do to support and speed up climate action?

Here are ten impactful things you can do.

1. Vote for elected officials who are climate champions and who will prioritize working to implement climate solutions now. Many of our current state representatives are strong climate champions, so keep them in office. Support their advocacy for climate action.

2. If you drive a car, make your next one electric. Proposed legislation in Massachusetts will raise the rebate for an electric vehicle to \$3500, in addition to the federal rebate of \$7500. Find the best prices at [“Drive Green”](#).

3. If you own a home, consider energy efficiency retrofit elements (especially adding electric heat pumps/AC, heat pump hot water heaters, insulation and “envelope” sealing, triple glazed windows and solar panels), which will reduce emissions and pay off in the long run. [MassSave offers incentives](#).

4. If you live in Amherst, Northampton or Pelham and your electric provider is Eversource or National Grid,

you will be able to use renewable energy through a new energy aggregation once it is launched, hopefully later this year. You won't have to do anything to join. If you have another provider, you can join the aggregation by opting in at the end of your contract. We need everyone to participate. Contact [Local Energy Advocates](#) for more information.

5. ["Shave the peak"](#), which means use less heat during peak cold days and less AC during peak hot days. This prevents our utilities from using the dirtiest sources, which are off-line except during peak energy use times.

6. Reduce trash by 40% by supporting the proposal for universal curbside compost pick up, which is currently being proposed by [Zero Waste Amherst](#). They are moving the Town of Amherst toward Zero Waste through planning, policy initiatives, legislation, education, and community engagement to reduce toxic pollution. The mantra is "Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Return, Repair and Compost."

7. Support local food by joining the [Common Share Food Coop](#). It needs 1,000 members to launch and currently has 800. You can also buy from local farms and CSAs.

8. Purchase reused items on [Buy Nothing Amherst](#) or at local thrift shops or estate sales.

9. Eat less beef or other types of meat, and less dairy. If everyone did this, a huge emission source would be greatly reduced.

10. Join and financially support local groups like [Climate Action Now Western MA](#), [Mothers Out Front](#), [Local Energy Advocates](#), [Zero Waste Amherst](#), or our own Green Sanctuary Committee. Plus, financially support groups that are doing the good work, such as the Conservation Law Foundation [Zero Waste Project](#), which is the recipient of April's Dedicated Offering.

If we do these ten things and get our policy makers to act, we CAN turn the Titanic in time.

Welcome to our newest members!



Emma Livingston (left) and **Rene Anderson** (right) each signed the Membership Book on April 10, 2022.

Writes **Emma**: "Hello all! My name is Emma and I use they/them pronouns. I am a long-time UU but first-time member — I grew up in the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis (MN) and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign (IL). I first made the Pioneer Valley 'home' when I went to Smith, and have since stuck around as a data scientist by trade. My spare time is often spent knitting, reading, star-gazing, or organizing and advocating for the asexual and aromantic communities. I have already been fortunate to be a part of a small group and the choir, and am looking forward to continuing to get involved at UUSA!"

Writes **Rene**: "I'm one of those folks whose life changed in a positive way during quarantine. I was "caught" March 2020 on the SC coast gazing at the horizon and listening to the ebb and flow of the waves. Rather than come north where the numbers were higher than in the Carolinas, my friend and I moved to the Blue Ridge mountains until we returned to the ocean in the fall. For that time I was enveloped in quiet and calm. The still-

ness gave me an opportunity to reflect on what was important to me as the age lines on my face deepened and my body was slowing down.

“About this time, Anne Perkins encouraged me to attend a UUSA zoom service to hear Naomi Yanis speak. Her powerful message on social justice resonated for me and I attended the following week and the following. Eventually I summoned up the courage to stay for the small group discussion at the close of the service.

“I’d been seeking a welcoming community of like-minded people with a philosophical bent who were actively involved in peace and justice work. I found my tribe at UUSA. On April 10 I celebrated my birthday by attending my first in person service with Anne P who had invited me to listen to Naomi and become familiar with the UUSA congregation. That day had been designated as a “book signing” Sunday, becoming a member of the community.

“Long having identified as not belonging to anything or anywhere, on that Sunday I let go of that narrative and joined this beloved community of seekers and activists, ordinary people all. I gave myself the “gift of belonging” as my friend Naomi said when I signed the book.

“Thank you all for being welcoming, kind, and curious.”

Social Events

The Women’s Circle is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. We are currently meeting in person at noon on the second Thursday of the month, and online at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please contact **Sophie Rogers** for more information, or to get on the email distribution list. If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with Sophie’s contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

The Men’s Breakfast is a no-agenda group that meets each Wednesday at 7 A.M. at Kelly’s Restaurant on Route 9 in Amherst. Please contact **Pete Rogers** for more information. If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with Pete’s contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

Our Caring Ministries



“The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.”

—Barbara Kingsolver

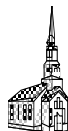
Our **Minister, Caring Circle** and **Pastoral Care Team** are all available to help during difficult times.

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.

If you are lonely, grieving, or ill, know that we hold you in our hearts. You are not alone. We’re thinking also of a world at war and the citizens of Ukraine. May peace come soon.

Denominational Affairs



Unirondack is back and filling up fast! After closing our doors in 2020 and a limited summer in 2021, we are excited for camp to return. Unirondack is a radically-inclusive, UU-founded summer camp located in the beautiful lake-filled Adirondacks on the ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee. We’re currently enrolling for spring and summer programs, and spots are filling up!

At Unirondack we provide a space that holds progressive values, but focuses on providing a space for campers to play, scream, shout, be themselves, and learn about others. Our values create norms, but it’s our campers and staff arriving with a focus on creating community who provide an environment of learning and exploration that

makes Unirondack special. Whether it's a camper's first time in the outdoors, diving into the fantasy world of a DnD campaign, playing music in front of an audience, or showing off their art, we aim to help youth discover new passions and parts of themselves to love.

In addition, we're hiring! Unirondack is currently hiring for summer staff, including counselors, crew member's, a medical director (EMT or nurse) and a professional head cook. We offer salaried positions, and volunteer work-exchange for parents seeking to offset their camper's tuition. For more information about unirondack, visit Unirondack.org or email us at Director@unirondack.org.

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 May newsletters from 25 and 15 years ago:

May 1997

Religious Education The junior high Sunday school class planted the garden last fall as a major part of our stewardship project. We paid for the bulbs, bone meal, and mulch with funds we raised by selling bulbs — many to UU members! We had lots of help from members of the Society. The ground was rototilled by **Robert Davis, Debby's** husband. A large part of the mulch was brought down from Colrain from **Jon Rehms's** house, by Jon.

We planted 100 Crocus, 100 Tête-à-tête Miniature Daffodils, 100 Don Quixote Tulips, 50 Allium Aflatunese, 50 Amor Daffodils, and 100 Grape Hyacinths. These varieties were chosen for their lovely color, bloom time, and known hardiness. The daffodils that are blooming along the wall are ones planted by previous Sunday school classes. We overplanted the bulbs with hardy perennials for three season interest. These plants include Epemidium, Stella d'oro daylilies, chrysanthemum and royal standard hostas, all divisions from my garden.

It is our plan that something will be blooming from earliest spring 'til frost in the new garden.

Candi Talley

May 2007

Where on Earth are we Going? What can We do About it? These are the questions that will be raised at **the symposium hosted by the Green Sanctuary Committee at our Meetinghouse on Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 1:15 to 5:30 P.M. Tuition: \$20.**

The **Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream** symposium is dedicated to bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling human presence on the planet. Using video clips of well-known thinkers and scientists, inspiring short films, leading-edge information, and dynamic group interactions, the Symposium allows participants to gain a new insight into our modern industrial culture and the opportunity we have to shape and change the direction of our world with our everyday choices and actions.

The purpose of the Symposium is to grapple and come to grips with the very assumptions that underlie the way we see the world and our place in it. This emerging discussion is born out of both necessity and possibility-*necessity*, as we discover just how dire and interrelated the social and environmental conditions of our planet are, and *possibility*, as we come to realize the enormous potential of a committed individual working in concert with others.

The Symposium will be presented by Susan Lantz and Cathy Ross, two volunteers trained by the Pachamama Alliance, which developed the materials and the format that have been shown all over the U.S. and in other countries. Pachamama is a Quechua word referring to sacred Mother Earth, all time, all space and the universe. The Achuar, an indigenous people in the Amazon region of Ecuador, have sought help from the modern world to protect their rainforest and their age-old, established ways of living in harmony with nature. The Achuar have also warned that we Northerners need to awaken from our modern worldview, our "dream," which is bringing about the destruction of all life. . . .

Ultimately, to assure the long-term survival of the rainforest, the natural world, and ourselves, we need to address the core values and ways of seeing the world that are deeply embedded in our modern worldview.