

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2022



Important Information

STREET ADDRESS:

121 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002

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The following staff can be reached by email or by calling the office and leaving a message: 413-253-2848

MINISTER: The Reverend Rachael Hayes

revrachael@uusocietyamherst.org

On summer break until August 2.

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Lea Douville office@uusocietyamherst.org

On vacation July 30—August 13.

Usual Hours: Tuesday - Friday 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Andrew Coate dre@uusocietyamherst.org

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR:

Johnny Williams youthandya@uusocietyamherst.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Brenda Miller music@uusocietyamherst.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

board@uusocietyamherst.org

[link to board minutes](#)

Co-Presidents:

John Gerber and Anne Moore

Clerk:

Louise Grosslein

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



Members At Large:

Carolyn Cave

Sue Kelly

Deeya Pavelle

Schedule of Services

Our UU Society will not have Sunday Services this summer. But, you are welcome to be a virtual guest at UU services across the country! Below are links to services that Rev. Rachael encourages you to attend, and to websites for these congregations to tell you more about them. (They don't all start at 10:30 A.M.!) Our own hybrid services will resume in Amherst in September. Save a small bit of water from a place in your life for our Water Ingathering Ritual on September 11.

Sunday, August 7, 10:00 A.M. – Service at First Parish (Concord, MA)

To join this service online, click: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RrURKQc9R0i6Eq33dVbf6A

Website: <https://firstparish.org/wp/>

Sunday, August 14, 10:30 A.M. – Service at May Memorial UU Society (Syracuse, NY)

To join this service online, click:

<https://zoom.us/j/97675097110?pwd=akYzbmpQRmNNbnBsSFV2WWFhVHNLU09> Meeting ID: 976 7509 7110 Passcode: 992193 Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Website: <https://mmuus.org/>

Sunday, August 21, 10:00 A.M. – Service at First Unitarian Church (Rochester, NY)

To join this service online, click: <https://zoom.us/my/rochesterunitarian>

Website: <https://rochesterunitarian.org/>

Sunday, August 28, 11:00 A.M. – Service at Fourth Universalist Society (New York, NY)

To join this service online, click: <https://zoom.us/j/8972538131> Website: <https://4thu.org/>



Do you know we have a UUSA YouTube Channel?

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

Dedicated Offerings

From September through June, we donate half of the proceeds from our collection to a worthy organization whose work aligns with UUSA Principles. Through the amazing and continued generosity of our congregation, we raised \$9600 in FY2022 to help fund nine different organizations!

Recipient organizations of our Dedicated Offerings are suggested by both individuals and committees of the Society. If you'd like to recommend an organization for the committee to consider for this coming worship

season's DO recipients, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/j4F1jbEU1hBxaRYN9>.

Thank you for showing your support for the Dedicated Offering program, not only with your contributions to the DO recipients themselves, but also with your contributions to the Society.

Social Events

Our summer Pancake Breakfast returns on Sunday, July 31, 10:00-11:30 A.M. in our Social Hall! Help us prepare the correct amount of pancakes, eggs, and more by letting us know you are coming by filling out the form [here](#). Or just show up — we'll have extra! UUSA member **Jay Stryker** will also return to enhance the ambiance with his keyboard skills as he always used to do!

The Women's Circle is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. We are currently meeting at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, sometimes in person, sometimes online. 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 7:00 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.

Message from the Co-Presidents

Isn't summer just wonderful?! We hope you have been able to relax a bit with family and friends... we did! At the same time, the work of the congregation continues. We have been meeting to prepare for our return in the fall, in full anticipation of our traditional Water Ceremony on September 11. We are excited to begin working with new Board members: **Sue Kelly**, **Deeya Pavelle**, and our new Treasurer, **Eric Murphy**. We will also be welcoming our new Director of Religious Education (DRE), **Andrew Coates**. And continuing on the Board will be **Carolyn Cave** and **Louise Grosslein**. We have an excellent crew, don't we?

One of the things that concerned the Board, when we agreed to forego local services this summer, was “*how would our members stay connected?*” We hope some of you enjoyed visiting other congregations online on Sunday mornings. And we know lots of us connected at the wonderful picnic organized by the **Pastoral Care Team**. At the time of this letter, we are even looking forward to a pancake breakfast! We know many of you participated in post-card writing, and others participated in a hike up Rattlesnake Gutter and a paddle around Lake Wyola. We know there were other gatherings as well. Somehow we are figuring out how to stay connected and safe!



New UUSA DRE Andrew Coates and son Julian enjoyed our picnic, too! (Also present: Julian's mom Sarah and sister Alexa.)

So, what are we looking forward to next year? We are planning our annual Board Retreat in September, where we can look at some “big picture” questions and opportunities. This fall, we'll have some disruption caused by the (much-needed) re-siding project which the membership approved last spring. But mostly, we are looking forward to more opportunities to be together!

While summer isn't over (yet), we hope you will continue to recharge your personal batteries and get ready for another year of connection as a congregation! And if you have any questions for the Board or your co-presidents, please don't hesitate to contact us at board@societymamherst.org.

In community,

Anne Moore and John Gerber

Co-Presidents of the UUSA Board of Trustees



Maura Whalen brought music to our July 10th potluck picnic at Groff Park.

Gardening at UUSA

Saturday, August 5, 3:00-5:00 P.M. Mark your calendars for this next chance to assist UUSA member and Master Gardener **Sue Kelsey** in maintaining the UUSA gardens (who knows — maybe her green thumb will rub off on you!). Thanks to **Jeanne Ballantine** and **Pat Brinkman**, who joined her in this activity on July 16. If you would like to garden regularly on your own schedule, contact Sue by email or phone, and she will fill you in with what needs to be done. (*Please contact **Lea** in the office if you do not have access to our UU Society's directory and need Sue's contact information.*)

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, August 15, at 7:15 P.M. online.

Green Sanctuary

Does Your Garden Love You?

Many of us love our gardens and the food and beauty they provide us. Robin Wall Kimmerer asks in her 2013 best-selling *Braiding Sweetgrass*, “Does your garden love you?” It’s a question that suggests whether we have a reciprocal relationship with the land that gives us so much.

That was the theme of her talk at Greenfield High School on June 30, “Restoration and Reciprocity: Healing Relationships with the Natural World.” Many of us from UUSA went to see the talk by the writer and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology. She’s also a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, which was originally from upstate New York, but then resettled to Oklahoma.

Her talk, which was hosted by the [Nolumbeka Project](#), focused on how indigenous and scientific wisdom working together can offer us all lessons on how to heal our relationships with the natural world. The talk traced the evolution of restoration philosophy and practice, and reflected on how the integration of indigenous knowledge can expand our understanding of restoration and reciprocity from the biophysical to the biocultural.

Ecological restoration can be understood as an act of reciprocity, in return for the gifts of the earth. It’s an invitation to explore the ecological and ethical imperatives of healing the damage we have inflicted on our land and waters. Reciprocal restoration includes not only healing the land, but our relationship to land – and the land’s relationship to us. In healing the land, we are healing ourselves.

The presentation was recorded and is available at <https://fb.watch/dRvyowGMjf/> (Note: the speakers start at the 10:10 mark).

A small group of UUSA members who attended or watched the video met recently to discuss our impressions of her message and how we could be more involved in ecological restoration of our patch of the earth. We asked ourselves questions that may be relevant for the UUSA community to discuss, such as:

- What would it mean for us to give back to the land?
- What actions could we take that demonstrate meaningful reciprocity?
- Could we establish ceremonies or rituals that would help us deepen our attention to the land and our intentions to restore it?
- Could we partner with groups representing indigenous people, such as the [Nolumbeka Project](#)?
- How can we bring awareness of local indigenous cultures, such as by adopting historical indigenous names of places in our community?
- Shall we support the return of the land of the New England Small Farms Institute to on Bay Road in Belchertown Native Americans?
- Can we have compassionate conversations around these topics, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued, i.e. respecting our UU principles?

These are just a few of the questions that we raised. We intend to reconvene to continue our exploration.

Though many of our gathering were members of the Green Sanctuary Committee, we want to open the conversation to anyone who is interested. If you’d like to join the conversation, email **Jeff Clark** (contact **Lea** in the office if you do not have access to our directory and need Jeff’s address).

Focus on Our Members

Carolyn Cave (CC) lives in Hadley and was a cognitive psychologist on the UMass faculty until she decided she loved advising more than teaching. Carolyn is now a full-time academic advisor. She was interviewed by **Ellen Pile** (EP).

EP: What drew you to UU?

CC: I was raised what I call a checkbook Presbyterian – in other words, my parents contributed, but they did not darken the door. They sent me to Sunday school, and I tried to be a Presbyterian, but it didn't really take. In our 30's we began to think "gosh there's got to be something more." We had a friend in Nashville who said: "You know, I think you really might want to check out the UU." We attended an eight-week New UU Class before we had the nerve to go to a service. We were very drawn into the principles and the first principle to me says it all – the inherent worth and dignity principle.

EP: You've been very active at UUSA.

CC: I was nominated to the Board as Clerk four months after walking in the door in 2004. **Louise Grosslein** was on the Leadership Development Committee; she recruited me. I have been Clerk, President, and now I'm At-Large. I've been involved in at least three auctions, and I chaired the first of the two recent ministerial searches. My presidency was right at the beginning of the building project, so it was a very intense experience. It was incredibly rewarding to see us move past this two- or three-decades period of knowing what needed to happen and not being able to get there, to open the doors and say, "We're a new organization. We're over 100 years old, but we're new again."



Carolyn Cave

EP: Is UUSA different now that the building is different?

CC: I think that families feel a lot more inclined to come and spend time there. Parents just didn't feel good about sending their kiddos down to the old dingy area. I think the new facility makes us a lot more appealing to families and tells them, "We take you seriously. We're going to put your children into good facilities and give them good programming." Also, as Gordon Wyse put it at **Willie** [Eaton]'s memorial service, we're just more optimistic. We're more of a can-do congregation than we used to be because we managed to do such a big thing in adding to the building. Because of that, **Kevin Noonan** came to us and said: "I really think that we need to serve breakfast every week." And that has helped us feel like we're connected to the community more than we had been. I'd love to see us do more congregation-wide social justice outreach projects. Those will come as we come out of the pandemic. I think we're different; I think we're more outgoing and optimistic than we used to be.

EP: When you're serving on the Board what do you get out of it personally?

CC: I do these things just because I know that organizations don't run themselves. If you want what's good out of an organization, you have to pay in. You have a richer experience by knowing that you are part of what makes the wheels turn. I feel like it's a very important organization, and it's very important to me personally because of the wonderful people I know here.

EP: I must ask you about your singing, which is wonderful. When did you start singing?

CC: Well, I was in school choirs, and I joined the Nashville UU choir. So, when I came to UUSA, joining the choir was just the first thing I wanted to do. And it's a great way to get involved where it's all fun. Our choir is all comers. You don't have to read music; you don't have to be able to carry a tune. You don't have to do anything except say, "I want to sing," So come on down.



“Love is patient; love is kind...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians, 13:7

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, Sophie Herman, 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. The pandemic has made it hard for the congregation to feel as close as in the past, but we let us look forward to the time when we can be together again.

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 Summer newsletters from 25 and 15 years ago
(we did not have separate July and August editions back then).

Summer 1997

Music for a Sunday Afternoon “Beautiful is the custom that brings us together as we share our place of gathering with musicians and community.”

On Sunday, August 25 at 3:00 P.M., our guest performers will be UUs (that’s us!). Mothers Offering Mutual Support (M.O.M.S.) will continue to meet informally over the summer. It will be a time for sharing our music and our talents. Everyone from age 1-100 is invited to participate. An encore performance from last summer, perhaps? Or a new tradition? UUs will make it happen. So far we already have promises of a stellar kazoo performance, sensational piano for six hands, and a return of our infamous Beauty Shop Quartet (Octet, Sextet — whoever shows). Sign up now for the concert of the year. Call **Fran Plumer**.

Walking Club News The Walking Club has begun its summer schedule. We will meet to walk every Sunday at 9:30 A.M. except for July 27 and August 31, the days of the Men’s [Congregational Summer] Pancake Breakfast. On those days we will meet following the breakfast. Call **Marjorie Karlson** or **Luba Reep**.

Summer 2007

Tag Sale for Jessie's House is a Success! We raised \$500 to benefit Jessie’s House — the local family homeless shelter — at our RE-sponsored tag sale. Thank you to all the members and friends who donated items for us to sell! Thanks to **Lauren Croce** for leading this effort with love, commitment and muscle!

The RE Committee

Archives The Library & Archives Committee asks anyone who has material that should be kept for the archives to turn it in by the end of the church year. This includes such things as committee reports or minutes, financial reports, information about events, photos and newspaper clippings — anything about the life of the Society that we might want to preserve. If you have questions, contact one of us. Many thanks!

Peg McDaniel, Bob Scheier, or Mary Wyse