

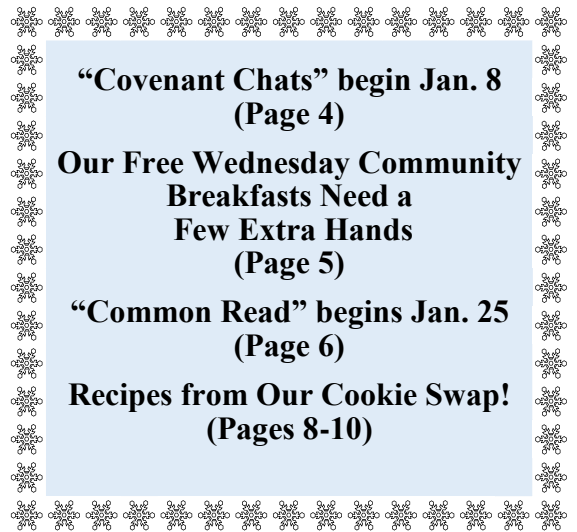
THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January 2023



Important Information

STREET ADDRESS:

121 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 502, Amherst, MA 01004-0502

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 (away until January 10)

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Lea Douville office@uusocietyamherst.org
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Andrew Coate dre@uusocietyamherst.org
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.,
Sunday 10:00—Noon, evenings as requested

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR:

Collee 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
Treasurer: Eric Murphy

Members At Large: Carolyn Cave
Sue Kelly
Deeya Pavelle

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. Submissions may be edited to save space or to maintain a consistent style.

Thank you!

Printed on recycled paper



Schedule of Services

Our live, hybrid services resume on January 8. We encourage you to join us in our sanctuary, understanding that we still wear high-quality masks when we are indoors together. You are also welcome to attend services online. Just click <https://bit.ly/3eGKxFj> Meeting ID: 998 3789 9241 PW: 432607 Or call in +1 646 876 9923 and enter Meeting ID: 998 3789 9241

Sunday, January 1, 10:30 A.M.
– *Embracing Possibility in Times of Change*

**The Rev. Rachael Hayes, UUA
President Susan Frederick-Gray
and Staff, and UUSA choir.**

Those of us who “attended” this service on New Year’s Day highly recommend it. Watch it [here!](#)

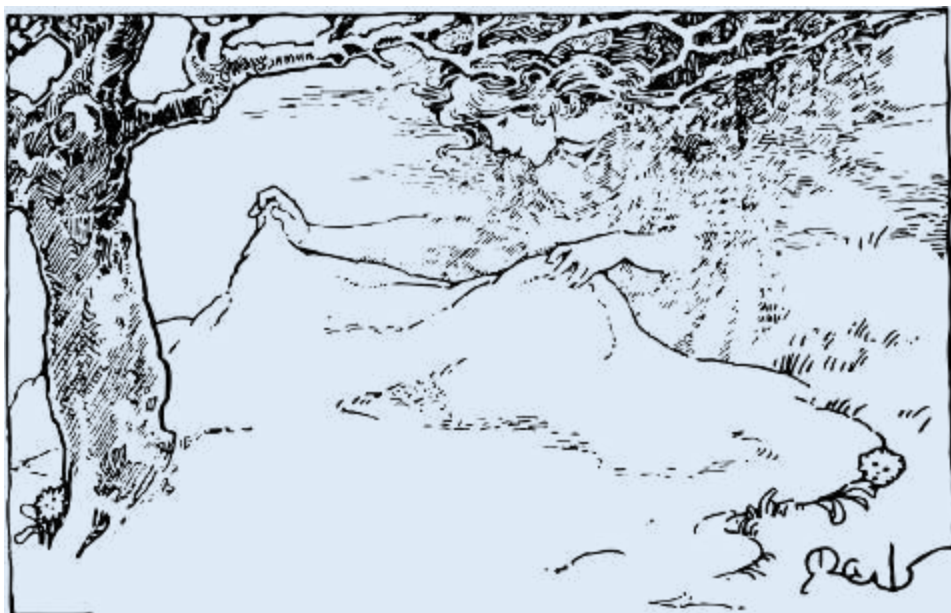
Sunday, January 8, 10:30 A.M.
– *Turning Over a New Leaf*

**Emma Livingston, Lay Leader,
with The Rev. Meg Riley and
Charles Du Mond, UUA
Co-Moderators**

Sunday, January 15, 10:30 A.M.
– *Sermon title to be announced*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, January 22, 10:30 A.M.
– *Sermon title to be announced*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, January 29, 10:30 A.M.
– *Sermon title to be announced*
The Rev. Rachael Hayes



*Mother nature covers the ground with a blanket of snow from
"A Primer" by Catherine Turner Bryce and Frank E Spaulding (1910)*

Yes, 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, our Unitarian Universalist Society devotes each month to a new Dedicated Offering (DO) recipient and splits every Sunday's offering plate 50/50 with the recipient organization.

In October, we raised \$875 for **Hospice of the Fisher Home**. We will report in future newsletters what we collected in November and December for the **Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts** and the **Amherst Survival Center**.

The **January 2023 Dedicated Offering** will raise funds for a new local group named **Local Energy Advocates (LEA)**, which in turn will donate the money to the local **Habitat for Humanity** for specific energy-efficient water heaters. Some of the homes Habitat builds do not have basements and therefore don't have the volume of air needed for normal heat pump water heaters. LEA has found a new solar-assisted heat pump that attaches to an exterior wall that will work, and they are fundraising for this purpose.

LEA was created to generate ideas, motivation and strategic funding to reduce greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions, as much and as quickly as possible. **Darcy Dumont**, a UUSA member, is a founder of LEA and brought this project to the Green Sanctuary Committee and to the Dedicated Offering Committee.

At the January 8 UUSA service we will be joined by Megan McDonough, the Executive Director of Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity (PVHH), a non-profit organization that builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampshire and Franklin counties. Since 1989, PVHH has built more than 50 homes with building professionals, volunteers and future homeowners working side by side. Habitat strives to build simple, durable, energy-efficient homes for low-income home buyers who cannot otherwise achieve the dream of homeownership without a helping hand from the community.

Megan plans to attend the service in person while Adele Franks of LEA will attend the Zoom service. Both will be available to answer questions after the service.

A Message from the Co-Presidents

An Invitation to Investment in the World We Truly Want — a World that “Sides with Love”

As we move into the new year, our Finance Committee, our Board of Trustees, our Administrator, and our Minister will be working on a new budget to be considered at our annual meeting in the spring. We have already asked you to contribute to a Winter Appeal to help us meet expenses during the 2022-23 year. This appeal was necessary because our projected income will not cover the real expenses of maintaining our congregation. If you have not yet made a donation to this one-time appeal, [please do](#). Next year, we will ask you to continue to contribute to the plate each week, both in the sanctuary and on Zoom, as well as to increase your annual pledge. Once again, we will invite you to invest in our congregation, our meetinghouse, our staff, our programs, and in the world we truly want, a world that actively “sides with love.”

While we lost some members during the pandemic, we are excited to welcome new friends and members to our services and Religious Education program. Next year, you will be asked to make belonging a priority, by investing in the capacity of our congregation to provide a spiritual home for us all. We don't ask lightly for your support during this time when many are experiencing financial stress. But we believe that you should know the truth about the fiscal health of our congregation. And the truth is, while we currently have financial reserves, we are spending more than we take in... and this cannot be sustained indefinitely.

Following several years of increasing costs and trimming the budget to “barebones,” we are at a decision point. Our current expenditures have been cut to little more than the basic maintenance of our meetinghouse and paying staff salaries. Meetinghouse expenses will continue to increase with the cost of heat and electricity. In recent years we have struggled to even meet the UUA-recommended cost of living allowances (COLA) for our hard-working staff. If we want to sustain and grow our programs and be a vital congregation, then we all need to invest in supporting a budget that reflects these goals.

We believe that the UUSA makes the world a better place. We believe that the world needs our congregation, and our congregation needs us — all of us. We invite you to let go of giving out of duty or obligation... but give as a transformational experience for yourself, and an expression of faith that the world is better when our congregation is healthy and well-supported.

We have survived the pandemic and emerged with multi-platform Sunday services that touch the heart, music that feeds the soul, a Religious Education program that nurtures our youth, small groups that build meaningful connections, and social actions like *UU the Vote* and *Reproductive Justice* that express our values. We have come together this year for a picnic, a pancake breakfast, and a music and cookie swap that allowed us to congregate safely. We have chosen to “side with love.”

In the coming months, we will have some open conversations about our budget as a statement of our values. We will come together in a spirit of dreaming together, beyond paying our bills, to talk about what kind of congregation we want to be *and* how we fund that congregation of the future. We invite you to invest in our community, where we all may come to worship together... to celebrate together... to grow together... to act together. We invite you to side with love....

Your Co-presidents;
John (on behalf of Anne Moore and John Gerber)

Shared Ministries

Our Proposed Congregational Covenant

Last June at the Annual Meeting the Congregation voted on a Proposed Congregational Covenant for this year to see how well it works for us and how well we use it. At this year's Annual Meeting (June 2023) we'll evaluate the covenant and decide whether to keep it the same or alter it to better reflect our collective journey together.

Our covenant is never set in stone. It is a group of words for us to gather around in reflection. And It is just one of many tools we can use to help us continue to get to know each other as we grow individually and collectively.

Here's the text of the proposed Covenant:

Love is the spirit of this community,

And service its practice.

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To seek truth and justice in love,

And to work toward the time and place where everyone's worth and dignity is honored by all in our world's Beloved Community.

-Adapted from covenant #473 in our hymnal "Singing the Living Tradition" by James Vila Blakel

The Committee on Shared Ministries will be hosting a number of Covenant Chats during which we'll use Appreciative Inquiry to reflect on the proposed covenant together. These chats will be held on:

- January 8 on ZOOM
- February 5 IN PERSON at the UU SOCIETY
- March 5 on ZOOM
- April 2 IN PERSON at the UU SOCIETY
- May 7 on ZOOM.

We hope you can join us!

Sincerely,

Jessica Murphy

Bo Mack

Mary Ann Gundersen

Rev. Rachael Hayes

In the years when this newsletter came into our homes by snail mail, it often included *brief tidings* about births, graduations, weddings, new jobs, or other significant events in our members' lives. Sharings such as these can strengthen our sense of community. Once we began posting the newsletter on our website, however, privacy concerns halted this practice.

UUSA's Communication Team has agreed to try it again. If you have something you'd like to see mentioned in a future newsletter, send note to **Janis Gray** — with the knowledge that it will be accessible to the public. (Reach out to **Lea** in the office if you do not have Janis's contact information.)

Social Events

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 on Zoom. Please contact **Sophie Rogers** for more information, or to get on her email distribution list. If you do not have access to our UUSA directory (with **Sophie's** contact information), please contact **Lea** in the office.

New Venue for The Men's Breakfast With Kelly's Restaurant temporarily closed as it transitions to a new owner, our no-agenda Men's Group that meets each Wednesday at 7:00 A.M. will be gathering instead at The Stables, 326 Russell St. (Route 9) in Hadley. 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.

Religious Education Ministry



Youth Group For the past few weeks, the Youth Group has gathered at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence for our bimonthly meetings. On December 3, several members trickled in after finishing various events in the Hot Chocolate Run. We played a quick round of Apples to Apples while enjoying hot chocolate and pancakes before heading outside to cheer for the runners of the 5k road race as they passed in front of the church. We also discussed roles for the next meeting. On December 11, we continued the food theme by cooking for the Interfaith Shelter. Afterwards, we again played a highly competitive and very close game of Apples to Apples. — **Grace O'Day**, Youth Group member

Young Adult Group Last month we met at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence and baked brownies for the Interfaith Shelter program. They turned out thinner than we had expected, though we hope they were delicious nonetheless! We also talked about our holiday and new year plans. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 7 from 3:00-4:30 P.M. at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence. We will be baking another dessert for the Interfaith Shelter. — **Collee Williams**, Youth & Young Adult Coordinator

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, January 9, at 7:15 P.M. on Zoom.

Social Action



THE WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST NEEDS YOU THIS WINTER!

Several of the committed Wednesday Breakfast volunteers have decided to go to warmer climates this winter. This would be a great time for you to try volunteering to see what the free community breakfast held in our Social Hall is like. It would only be a short-term commitment. In February we need an early bird to chop potatoes and onions (6:00-8:00 A.M.). In the first two weeks of March we will need someone to crack eggs and do other helpful jobs (7:15-10:00 A.M.).

We could also use someone any time who would be able to cook pancakes, French toast or any other delicacy. The guests love our breakfast but would really appreciate the addition of something new.

We have a wonderful team plus you will get a delicious free breakfast.

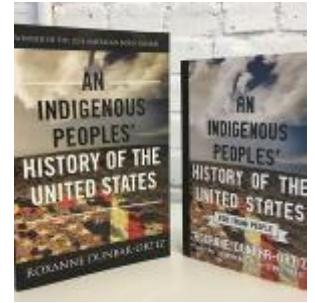
If you are interested, please call or text or email **Sophie Rogers**. Lea has her contact information if you don't have a directory.

Donations for the Amherst Survival Center are still welcome in the basket in the UUSA foyer. Ongoing needs at its Food Pantry are pasta, peanut butter and personal hygiene articles. UUSA member Pete Rogers has offered to pick up the donations on Mondays on his way to his shift at the center.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMON READ BEGINS JANUARY 25!

You are invited to join a congregational common read of the UUA Beacon Press book, *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz. You could read either of the hard copy versions (original or young adult, which was adapted from the original by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese). Or, you could listen to the original version on Audible.

For more information and to register for this UUSA program, please see: <https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/readings/uusa-common-read-invitation/>



SESSION ONE – The Shaping of the Story – Wednesday, January 25; 7:00-8:30 P.M. (**Ellen Pile**, facilitator)

- What did you learn?
- The Mayflower Compact as Covenant
- U.S. American Exceptionalism
- Terminal Narratives

SESSION TWO – The land – Wednesday, February 15; 7:00-8:30 P.M. (**Rodger Mattlage**, facilitator)

- Pre-Colonial Indigenous Civilizations
- Jefferson and Jackson
- Manifest Destiny and Extravagant Violence
- Allotments and the Settlers' Freedom to Acquire

SESSION THREE – Resistance and Reclamation – Wednesday, March 15; 7:00-8:30 P.M. (**Rev. Rachael Hayes**, facilitator)

- Resistance to Boarding Schools
- Multiculturalism as Assimilation
- Rights and Climate Justice
- What's Next?

In addition to three group meetings, you may join us for one or more **optional facilitated discussions online** between meetings.



*Luba, center, enjoys a singalong at her 80th birthday party at the home of **Karen** and **Bo Mack**. At left is her daughter **Lynette**.*

In Memoriam

Luba Reep ~ 1927-2023

Our dear friend, **Luba Dorothy (Brock) Reep**, passed away on November 30 at age 94 in Albany, NY. A pillar of our congregation for decades, she was the first person to reach out to many of us when we ventured through its doors. Those who knew her were sad to see her leave when she moved to New York State in 1911 to be nearer to her daughters.

Luba was born Dec. 26, 1927 in Brooklyn, NY to Alexander and Evelyn (Joffe) Brook. She graduated from Adelphi College with a major in psychology. She went on to attend graduate school for social work at the University of Illinois, where she met her husband, **Howard Reep**, in 1949. While they came from very different backgrounds, they connected over their shared values and a mutual admiration of the author A.A. Milne. They were married in 1950 and, after Howard's time in the military, settled in Huntington, NY to raise their family.

Once their children were older, Luba returned to school to obtain her master's in library science, graduating in 1972. She worked as a librarian at the Landing Elementary School in Smithtown, NY, until her retirement in 1983. In 1988, Luba and Howard relocated to Amherst, MA.

Luba and Howard were active Unitarian Universalists for many decades. Luba served as a founder of the Huntington UU Fellowship in 1955 and as its president in 1977. After their move to western Massachusetts, she and Howard became members of the UU Society of Amherst, where she organized social suppers, chaired the Newcomers and Caring Committees, and with Howard, was instrumental in seeing the UUSA recognized as an LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation. Our UU community was especially important to them after Howard forthrightly told us he'd been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He passed away in 2002. Nine years later, Luba moved from Amherst to Oneonta, NY, and then in 2015 to the Albany area to be near family.

Luba was a lover of animals, nearly always having at least one cat or dog in her home. She enjoyed dabbling in creative pursuits including writing, watercolor painting, and singing in the church choir. She was a voracious reader and also loved to travel, listen to classical music, and spend time with her family.

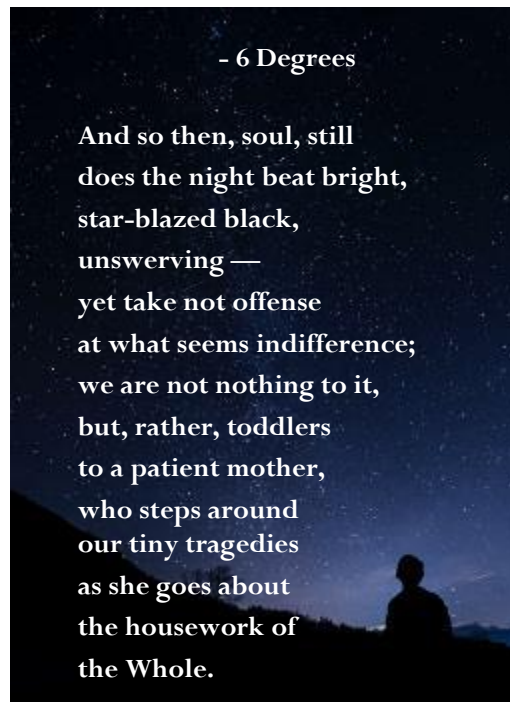
Luba was passionate about social action, including civil rights, affordable housing, and pro-choice causes. When their youngest daughter came out to them in 1980, Luba and Howard became staunch advocates for gay and lesbian rights during an era in which most people were less accepting. In recent years, Luba often expressed that she hoped to live long enough to see Donald Trump leave the White House, and she was happy to get her wish.

She is survived by her daughters Debbie Reep MacLeod and her husband, David MacLeod, of Albany, NY, Catherine Reep and her husband, Rob Kurnit, of Woodstock, NY, and Lynette Reep and her spouse, Morgan Shore, of Burlington, VT; her granddaughters, Emily Maskin of Brooklyn, NY, and Jessica Maskin and her husband, Spencer Kline, of Raleigh, NC; her brother Richard Brook and his wife, Susan Brook, of Bloomsburg, PA; and many nephews, nieces, and close friends. A memorial service will be scheduled in Albany, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Luba's honor to Doctors Without Borders or any animal shelter.

Our Caring Ministries



We include, with her permission, the following poem by **Janis Gray** as our gift to the congregation. She wrote it after coming home to Amherst on a frigid winter night in 1983. — Elizabeth Alcaide



*Image by Klemen Vrankar on
Unsplash*

Dear Friends: Warm New Year greetings to each and all... "still does the night beat bright, star-blazed black," frost-glazed branches...sparkling new snow blanketing hill and valley...

Our Minister, Caring Circle, and Pastoral Care Team are here for you when you would welcome a phone or

in-person visit, a ride, some nourishing soup or a casserole, a listening heart, perhaps a caring fellow parishioner who may ask, "How goes it with your soul?" These are just a few ways we share our lives and our faith with each other in beloved community.

Our **Caring Circle** coordinator is **Catharine Porter**. Please contact her or your own Caring Person for simple needs. Other Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, Carolyn Cave, Lauren Croce, Kate Dahlstedt, Sophie Hermann, Gabriela Horvay, Mary Latham, Karen Mack, Lynn Sussman, and Gordon Wyse**.

Our **Pastoral Care Team** Coordinators are **Fran Plumer and Rob Fuderich**. Please contact anyone on the team for more complex or personal needs. Other members are **Charlie Atwood, Gene Herman, Rev. Rachael Hayes, Carol Johnson, Pete Rogers, Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide, and Oliver MacFadden**.

PEACE SHALOM SALAM SHANTI

A Few Recipes from our Music & Cookie Swap!

Special thanks to **Fran Plumer** who led the Music & Cookie Swap on December 10 with help from many, including **Charlie Atwood, Gene Herman, Mary Latham, Anne Moore, Deeya Pavelle, Sophie and Pete Rogers, Libby Walton-Stanforth and Bruce Stanforth** (and apologies to anyone that is not listed here and should be!).

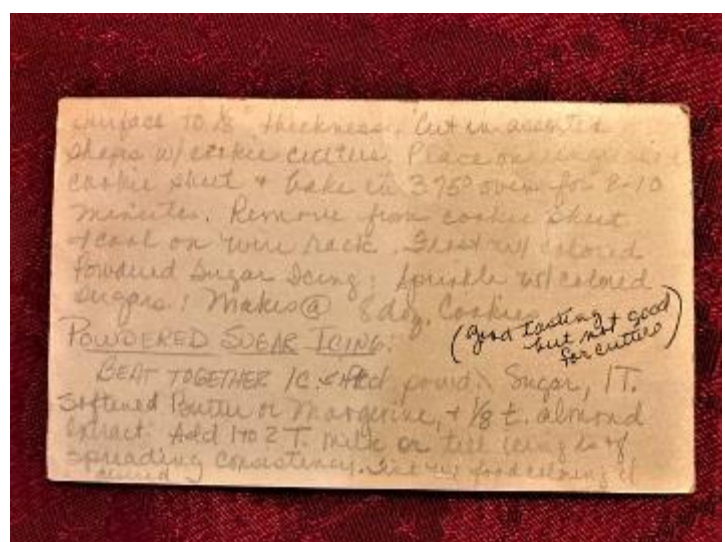
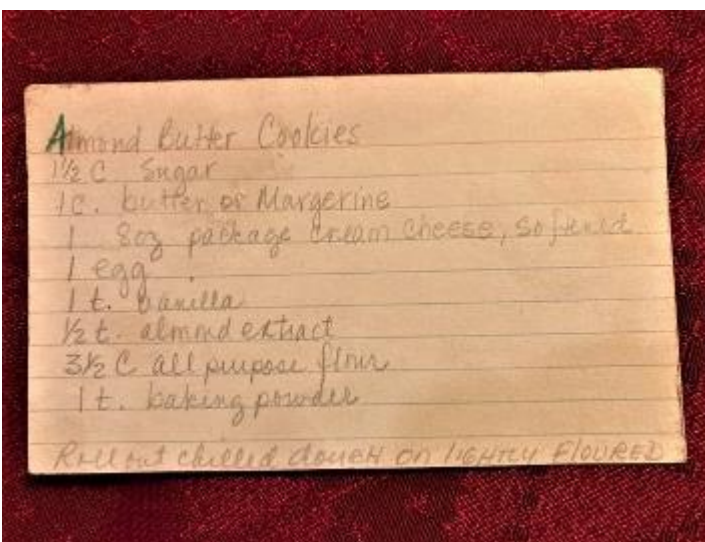


Thanks also to our talented musicians: **Tom Fricke, Jason Threlfall, Maura and Riley Whalen** (shown at left), and **Sue Kelsey**, our pianist for the Cookie Swap itself — a delicious version of musical chairs!



In late December (after some had already left town for the holidays! Oops!), your newsletter editor invited the bakers to submit their recipes. Some sent images of well-worn, hand-written cards. Others emailed links to the recipes that they'd found on the Internet!

Susan Rice's Almond Butter Cookies



Janis Gray's Jeweled Coconut Drops

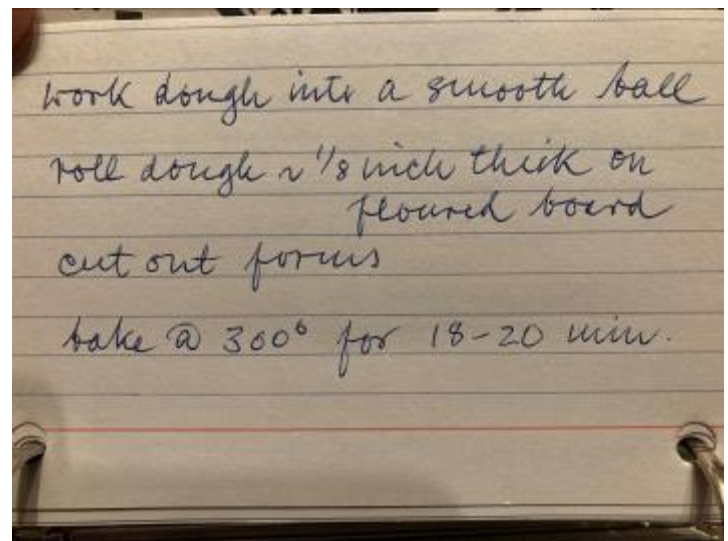
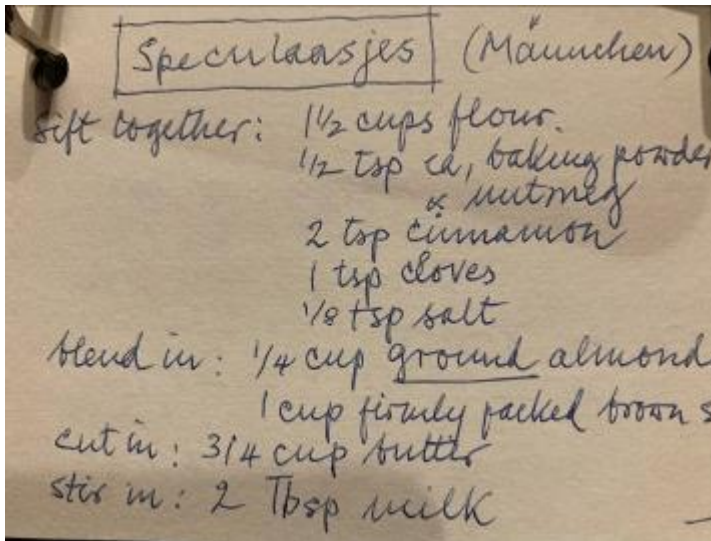


Ingredients: Butter, cream cheese, granulated sugar, egg yolk, orange juice, almond extract, flour, baking powder, salt, sweetened shredded coconut, seedless raspberry preserves.

Recipe here: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/jeweled-coconut-drops/>



Sophie Hermann's Speculaasjes



Jennifer Mack's BEST M&M Cookies



Ingredients: Unsalted butter, light brown sugar, granulated sugar, eggs, vanilla, flour, baking soda, chocolate chips, M&Ms.

Recipe here: <https://www.iheartnaptime.net/best-mm-cookies/>



Meghan MacFadden's Chocolate Crinkles



Ingredients: Chopped bittersweet chocolate or chocolate chips, unsalted butter, granulated sugar, eggs, vanilla, espresso powder (optional), baking powder, salt, flour, confectioners' sugar

Recipe here: <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/chocolate-crinkles-recipe>



Deeya Pavelle's Vegan Ginger Cookies



Ingredients: Vegan butter, brown sugar, molasses, vanilla, flour, baking soda, salt, ground ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, granulated sugar

Find the recipe here: <https://www.noracooks.com/vegan-ginger-cookies/>



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 January newsletters from 25 and 15 years ago.

January 1998

Thanks from the Amherst Survival Center Perry Conley recently called to thank Jay Stryker for coming to the Survival Center's holiday party. Jay played the piano, accompanied volunteers, and generally added much to the occasion. Perry also sends thanks to all our members and friends for responding with offerings of food and clothing whenever the center asks.

Emergency Cot Shelter Appreciation to Sharon Carty, Carolyn Holstein and Ruth Pratt for their contributions of time and/or home-cooked food to the Shelter in December. Sharon reports an unusual experience on the evening she and Ruth spent there: "The guests were dealing with word that another guest had died . . . Two days earlier. The director of the Shelter and a minister who volunteers frequently responded by leading a memorial service for the man who had died. We were encouraged to consider how we deal with our own pain and to acknowledge our own reasons for grieving. These reflections took on particular poignancy in the company of homeless people already struggling with major loss."

January 2008

"JUST ONE THING" The Social Justice Committee was inspired by Alison's sermon, "What Do We Really Need?", in which she talked about the disparity of wealth between the rich and the poor and all the stuff we tend to accumulate. She suggested we could do something worthwhile with this "stuff" by giving some of it away. The Committee is initiating a monthly collection on the **SECOND Sunday** of each month of items for Jessie's House and the Survival Center. While any food, clothing, and household item is welcome, a list of suggested items will be provided each month.

Green Sanctuary Offers a Course in Sustainability The Green Sanctuary Committee is offering a discussion course, *Choices for Sustainable Living*, starting in January. Like the Sustainable Community Initiative (SCI), we hope "to encourage more understanding and focus on the issues of sustainability."

This discussion course on sustainability developed by the Northwest Earth Institute examines the question, "How does the way our society functions affect the earth, and how can we be 'a blessing to the planet'?" In seven sessions it explores the themes of Ecological Principles, Food, Buying, Communities, Business and Economy, and Visions of Sustainability. Groups of six to twelve people meet once a week to discuss the reading workbook, which costs \$18 per person. The workbook for *Choices for Sustainable Living*, which has just been revised, contains a wide range of selections of highly interesting reading, illustrative graphs and cartoons, discussion questions, as well as a guide for the facilitator.

Beginning in January, we plan to schedule four sessions on Sundays from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. at the Meeting-house. The course can also be offered in seven sessions for one hour on a late afternoon or early evening during the week, depending on people's interest and availability.