

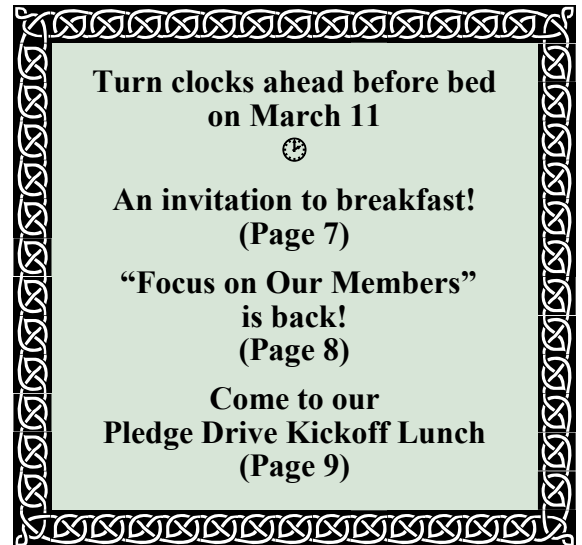
THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



March 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

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

We encourage you to join us in person for our hybrid services, understanding that we still wear high-quality masks when we are indoors together. To attend online, 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, March 5, 10:30 A.M. – *Wayfinding*

Andrew Coate, Director of Religious Education

As we move through life, our relationship to the world around us morphs again and again, with no definitive end point. Join Andrew for an interactive service — with his reflections on moving through the natural world at different points in his own life, and the opportunity to share a few of your own!

Turn clocks ahead Saturday night, March 11 for Daylight Savings Time!

Sunday, March 12, 10:30 A.M. – *Service Title to be Determined*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, March 19, 10:30 A.M. – *Service title to be determined*

The Rev. Rachael Hayes

Sunday, March 26, 10:30 A.M. – *All In*

Led by the **Ministry of Welcome and Membership (Mary Herman, Karen Mack, Libby Stanforth)**

A Service of Celebration honoring 16 people who have brought their gifts of love and commitment to our congregation for 30 years or longer!

Come enjoy cake and conversation in the Social Hall following the service!



Check out the 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 50/50 every Sunday's offering plate with the recipient organization. This past fall our members generously contributed the following: \$1,025 to **Letcher County** in Eastern Kentucky; \$875 to **Hospice of the Fisher Home**; \$2,100 to **Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts**; \$950 to the **Amherst Survival Center**, and \$1,000 for **Local Energy Advocates**. We will report in a future newsletter what we raised in February for **The Ohketeau Cultural Center**.

The **March Dedicated Offerings** from the UUSA will be for the **[Rise Above Foundation](#)**. The Rise Above Foundation provides Massachusetts children in foster care with enriching activities, opportunities and experiences that give them a sense of normalcy, provide comfort and build self-esteem. Each spring, they collect items for College Care Packages to give to the 3% of foster children who go to college, offering the small comforts their families would give. Money is needed, as well as donations of gift cards to Target, Walmart, and Dominoes, also small light-weight items including ramen noodles, mini cereal boxes, granola bars, chocolates and candy, travel-size toiletries, pens and sticky notes. No cans or binders. There will be a box in the lobby for donations of goods through the last Sunday in March. Please donate to support Rise Above. Last year they delivered 268 packages. Please give generously. Thank you so much for sharing what you can.

On the next page, you'll find a list of the organizations that the UUSA Dedicated Offering Committee (DOC) has chosen for the rest of this year.

Please let the lead DOC person (identified after the name of the organization) know if you work with this organization and want to help, or can be available to welcome their representatives come to UUSA.

You are also welcome to join the DOC! Just tell any member of the committee, **Rev. Rachael**, or **Lea**.

- **April 2023:** [The Truth School](#) (**Carolyn Holstein**) The Sojourner Truth School for Social Change Leadership (also known as “The Truth School”) offers classes teaching movement-building skills with the goal of preparing social change leaders to win movement struggles.
- **May 2023/June 2023:** [Wildflower Alliance](#) (**Mary Beth Seminario**) The Wildflower Alliance supports healing and empowerment for our broader communities and people who have been impacted by psychiatric diagnosis, trauma, extreme states, homelessness, problems with substances and other life-interrupting challenges.

If you’d like to **suggest a UUSA Dedicated Offering recipient for *next* year**, we encourage you to fill out the Google form at <https://forms.gle/hypyMGzMJHgeAVf26>, But you can also tell a member of the committee or Rev. Rachael or Lea. We are confident that members of our congregation know of worthwhile organizations that will be new to us. Thank you.

— The DOC: Pat Brinkman and Mary Beth Seminario, co-facilitators, with Linda Callahan, Carolyn Holstein, Linda Honan, Helene Lambert, and Anne Perkins.

Co-President’s Report

As many of you know, the UUSA Board of Trustees has been experimenting with some of the meeting practices associated with sociocracy, also known as Dynamic Governance. This set of principles and practices has been introduced into many UU congregations as a means of moving toward more inclusive governance practices and structures consistent with the Eighth Principle. Many of our own UUSA members and friends (18 of us!) participated in a national workshop sponsored by the UUA’s LeaderLab on how to have more inclusive meetings. Toward that end, the UUSA Board of Trustees has approved the creation of a new standing committee, called the **Sociocracy Support Circle**. The purpose of this circle is to facilitate the learning and practice of sociocracy within the congregation. This new standing committee will replace the former ad hoc (temporary) Sociocracy Helping Circle, which has been leading these efforts for the past few months. The Helping Circle has:

- Met four times, two of those times with members of the wider “UUSA Sociocracy Study Group,” one of which included Renee Ruchotzke from the UUA’s LeaderLab.
- Coordinated the ordering, purchase and distribution of sociocracy books from Sociocracy for All.
- Submitted a proposal to the Board to establish a Sociocracy Support Circle to provide sociocracy learning and support resources to the UUSA community.

In addition, members of the Sociocracy Helping Circle participated in the winter meeting of UUSA committee and ministry leaders to help us practice using “rounds.” During this meeting, we reflected on how we can all be more *welcoming and inclusive* in the operation of our many committees and ministries.

Board members **Louise Grosslein** and **John Gerber** have agreed to serve on the new Sociocracy Support Circle. In addition, **Susan Rice**, **Pat Brinkman**, and **Rodger Mattlage** have agreed to help get this circle up and running. Pat and Rodger already have experience using Sociocracy. The rest of us are beginners. We are looking for two or three others to join the circle. Please let me know if you are interested. The circle members will begin to learn how to use Sociocracy in its meetings by taking the four-session Sociocracy Basics course sometime this spring.

If you are not yet familiar with sociocracy, you are encouraged to explore the resources, readings and trainings at the [UUA Leaderlab](#) or Sociocracy for All’s [Basic resources page](#), or better yet, join us for a UUSA Sociocracy Study Group meeting organized by the new Support Circle. Please let me know if you would like to be invited to the next Sociocracy Study Group meeting.

There seems to be some enthusiasm growing within the congregation for the practice of sociocracy. I believe that as we become more skilled at using these meeting and organizational tools, our congregation will benefit in ways yet unimagined that are consistent with our core values.

“*Love is the spirit of this community - And service its practice*” says our new “experimental” Covenant. Effective, inclusive service, inspired by love, will surely benefit from practice. Please come and practice with us.

In loving community,
John Gerber, Co-President of the UUSA

Green Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 21: Stop Dirty Banks There will be a [Stop Dirty Banks](#) Rally at Pulaski Park in Northampton, from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee will be joining local members of Bill McKibben's Third Act organization who are protesting banks that are heavy investors in fossil fuels. The specific targets are BankAmerica, TD Bank, and the new Chase Bank located in downtown Northampton. [Click Here](#) for information and to sign up. Contact **Jeff Clark** if you're looking to carpool. (Reach out to Lea on our office if you do not have access to our UUSA directory and need Jeff's email address.)



Many members of UUSA (including Lauren Croce, host of this event at our Meetinghouse) have already joined the Common Share Food Co-op. Come to one of these Community Listening Sessions to learn why you might want to join, too!

Here's looking at yoUU!

UUSA's Communication Team invites you to *share brief tidings* with our congregation about births in your family, graduations, weddings, changes in jobs, or other significant events in your life. If you have something you'd like to see in a future newsletter, send a note to **Janis Gray** — with the knowledge that your info will be accessible to the public. since the newsletter is posted on our website.. (Reach out to **Lea** in the office if you do not have Janis's contact information.)

To "prime the pump," so to speak, let's kick off this new newsletter feature with tidings from our Committee on Shared Ministries:

Congratulations! 🍀🍀🍀 ... to our beloved **Reverend Rachael** and to our whole faith community here at the UUSA!!! Reverend Rachael has been accepted through the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) into **Full Ministerial Fellowship!**

Rev. Rachael received her clearest internal call into ministry more than 30 years ago during a farming internship at a Benedictine monastery in Washington state. Check out her inspiring website at: <https://rachaelhayesu.weebly.com/about-me.html>

Although she has been working, learning and growing toward this achievement for decades, the formal aspect of this process has involved three years of study, practice, annual written self evaluation, and annual written evaluation by the Board of Trustees and the Committee on Shared Ministries. Rev. Rachael has demonstrated excellence in ministry, and we can be proud to be an integral and important part of her amazing journey!

New members!

Our venerable Membership Book gained three new signatures on February 13. Shown left to right with Rev. Rachael are **Jennifer Albury**, **Gwen Oulman-Brennan**, and **Kay Flatten**. Also present were **Libby Stanforth** of the Ministry of Welcome and Membership, as well as **Helen Blatz**, **Lauren Croce**, and **Sophie Hermann**.



Writes **Jen**: “I’m originally from New Jersey, but when relocating after living and growing a family for 10 years in Guadalajara Mexico, we chose Amherst as our new home because my grandparents and mom are from the community! We have two daughters, **Julieta** and **Liliana**, who are excited to play and learn here. I am the multilingual education director for Holyoke Public Schools, and my husband is chef and owner of Mexcalito. We are so excited to learn in our new community with you as this is a new path for us. And we are especially grateful for how accepting and supportive this beautiful this community has already been!”

Writes **Kay**: “We all know COVID19 changed lives. It brought us to Amherst. **Hilary Matheson** and I sold our Florida condo in March of 2020. We left our UUCFM congregation and travelled North to visit family in Boston before sailing back to our home in Wales on April 25. The Queen Mary II cancelled her summer sailings. We camped and worked on a horse farm while waiting to sail. Finally, we went online and found Greenleaves Retirement Community [in Amherst] and the rest is history. We loved it here so much that Hilary became a USA citizen. She is back in Wales finishing her golf captaincy, renting out our apartment and arranging for a Cinnamon Trust Charity dog to be flown here to me while she sails. You’ve got it, on the Queen Mary II. I want to thank UUSA for a warm welcome.”

We’ll hear from **Gwen** next time!

Religious Education Ministry



As a kid I wanted nothing more than a very specific map to guide me on my way, tell me what steps to take where so they would have predictable outcomes. I didn’t want things to be a “choose your own adventure” book, I just wanted stability and predictability. Learning that that wasn’t how the world worked was a hard lesson! As I got older I began to be able to see the nuance and to realize that it wouldn’t really work to have a map because things aren’t always choices between right and left turns.

Unitarian Universalist Religious Education seeks to help give kids the ability to move through life with the knowledge and skills they need to make choices about their actions in a variety of situations. Here’s what’s going on in Religious Education for the next couple months at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst. Our youngest kids in **Nursery and Preschool** are moving through the UU Principles with art and play with **Jacy** and **Cameron** in the nursery. Whether it’s learning that every person is important by making life-size portraits, or talking about making a plan as a group so that they can learn together, they are practicing the basics of being a Unitarian Universalist.

In **Elementary** Religious Education, we are diving deep into folktales from around the world and talking about how they could apply to our lives today. We have heard tales from Scotland and Brazil, India and the American Southwest. Each week when we gather, we talk about how we saw the values in those stories expressed in the world around us.

Middle Schoolers are continuing their year-long exploration of faith traditions around the world in Crossing Paths. So far this year we have learned about Unitarian Universalism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and we are gearing up for our virtual visit as we study Hindu. Over the next couple of months we will study Buddhism and Paganism and end with a celebration of all we have learned.

Spring is a busy time downstairs in the Religious Education wing! If you’re interested in volunteering or getting involved please email me at dre@uusocietyamherst.org

- Andrew Coate, Director of Religious Education

Youth Group: Youth Group continued to meet twice a month in February. On February 5 we brainstormed themes for our youth-led worship service and decided on the theme of 'Comfort'. We then played a round of hide and go seek, a Youth Group favorite this year. On Sunday, February 26 at the Unitarian Society of

Northampton & Florence we planned to talk about how everyone's February break was and have time for more fun, games, and worship planning.

Young Adult Group: The Young Adult group wasn't able to meet in February, but we are looking forward to our monthly meetings resuming in March. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 5 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence. We will be cooking a dinner meal for [Cathedral in the Night](#). Hope to see you there!

- Collee Williams, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

An Afternoon for Reproductive Justice

Benefiting the Brigid Alliance

Sunday, March 26, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

At the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has brought a surge of requests for travel, food, lodging and childcare support, as more people than ever are being forced to travel long distances to access abortion care. The Brigid Alliance pays for travel, food, lodging, childcare and other logistical support related to abortion. Their motto is "We get people to abortion care, whatever it takes." The Brigid Alliance has consistently maintained a 100/100 score from Charity Navigator. They need our support to meet the growing demand for services.

Come for an afternoon of solidarity and action with others dedicated to reproductive justice #ReproJustice

- Learn about the vital work of the Brigid Alliance
- Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages
- Attend an art and crafts sale with works donated by area artists and artisans, all proceeds going to the Brigid Alliance
- Hear from a Brigid Alliance spokesperson about their work, as well as about local reproductive justice work and legislation in Massachusetts

This event is sponsored by [Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution Reproductive Justice Task Force](#) and the [Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst](#) and co-sponsored by The [River Valley Democratic Socialists of America](#) Reproductive Justice task group, [Indivisible Northampton-Swing Left WM](#), [Western Mass. Code Pink Women for Peace](#) and the [Feminist Action Team of the MA Indivisible Coalition](#).

If you cannot attend the event, you can donate to the event by sending a check made out to the Brigid Alliance to FCCPR, Box 216, Greenfield MA 01302

☞ Please call the UUSA office if you would like to come, as space is limited to those invited. ☜

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, March 13, at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom.

Social Events

The Women's Circle is a supportive and social group of UUSA women and open to all. We meet at noon on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month; between now and April, all of these gatherings will be on Zoom. If you are not already on the email notification list, please contact **Lea** in the office to request the link — or to ask her to let **Pat Brinkman** know you want to be added to that list!

Winter 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.

ION Corner

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 26 (time TBD), on the Amherst Town Common, the Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) will sponsor a remembrance of victims of COVID. It will include appropriate music and reflections.



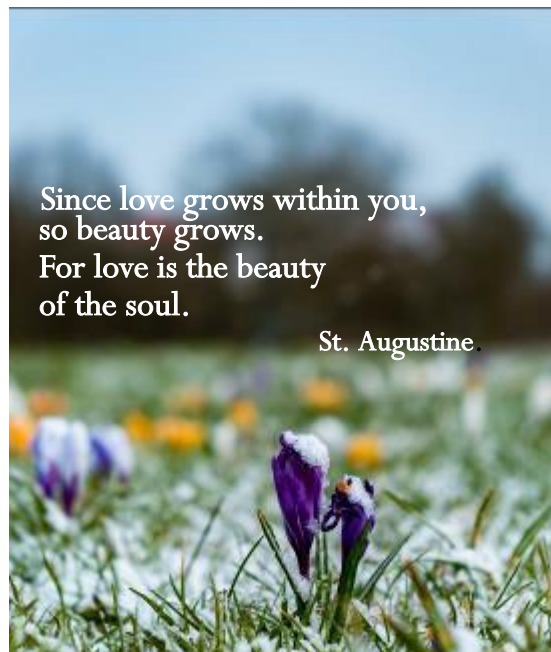
Caring in Community



Pictured is most of the crew working for our weekly Community Breakfast in UUSA's welcoming Willie Eaton Social Hall. From left to right, front row, we have **Charlie Atwood, Fran Plumer, Helen Blatz, Deeya Pavelle, Jess West**; in second row, **David Ulen, Miguel Wells, Owen DeCleene, Chas Stevenson, Lauren Croce**. (**Sophie Rogers**, our leader, is currently away,)

Every Wednesday from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M., we serve up to a hundred guests a free, delicious home-cooked meal. ***Stop by some morning, enjoy the food and company!*** We would love to offer you breakfast.

All are welcome.



Our Minister **Rachael**, members of the **Caring Circle**, and **Pastoral Care Team** are here for you in Beloved Community.

We are here 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, Rev. Rachael Hayes, Carol Johnson, Pete Rogers, and Rev. Elizabeth Alcaide.** Spring approaches! Bidding you peace and love as we journey toward wholeness.

Focus on Our Members

Betsey Johnson (BJ) lives in South Amherst and taught preschool and elementary grades. She was interviewed by **Ellen Pile** (EP).

EP: Is UUSA the very first place you were a UU?

BJ: My husband and I ended up in Washington D.C. **Chad** was very interested in social justice. We were in a period when the Vietnam War became a huge issue, and we joined the River Road Unitarian Society in Bethesda because there was a very active social justice group. We were active not only in the Sunday programs but we also did things like be in front of Caspar Weinberger's house with signs saying "warmonger" or something like that. So when we came up here we thought right away of being part of the Unitarian Society.

EP: You came in the 1980s. What was different then, what was notable when you got here?

BJ: I think there was an interim minister at the time we came, and my impression was that this was a very, very small congregation. One of the first things that happened to Chad and myself was that someone in the congregation asked if he could come over and talk with us. This person was just determined that this congregation was not going to go underwater. At this point we had been to one service, that is my memory in any case. So, this person had something on his mind. How would we feel about heading the pledge campaign? I have to say we were totally stunned. In the future we might be very willing to do that, but as it stood then we weren't even members. But it just spoke of desperation. So that was my first impression of the Society. We knew that there were people interested in social justice, but it was struggling.

EP: So, there was this little congregation. How did it save itself?

BJ: The new minister came in; the UUA paid part of her salary. It was Barbara Whittaker-Johns, and she revitalized that Society. She came with her husband who was a musician, and he got a whole bunch of musical stuff going, including a program for kids. Barbara had some memorable sermons. She was a charming person and good at being available to people as a resource for problem solving.

EP: Do you have any thoughts about what brings people to the UUSA as you've watched them come in and out?

BJ: People come to UUSA for different reasons, and one reason is you're a parent with young children seeking religious education. I taught in the program. I loved doing that. We were in two rooms downstairs before the renovation. I ended up in the kitchen. I put a big quilt on the floor and the kids all came and sat on the quilt. Also, there are the people who come and want a purpose. They like to be part of something that is a community effort, being part of a social justice group. For example, the UUA offered us an idea person, a facilitator to come to our congregation and run a daylong event where people would think about how they would like to participate in the work of the church. I think we had about 60 people who came that day, and the thing that brought them was the idea that they could participate with a group of people in figuring out what, for them, would be the best way to participate in a congregational effort. We ended up with three groups of people, each of which had an idea; there was some very effective work that happened from that. There was this sense



Betsey Johnson

of being part of something that is not just an inward congregational experience but may reach out to the community at large. We had another experience of that. The Social Justice Committee decided we should be thinking about the homeless people in our community, but we had no idea how to go about that. We decided to have a forum. We had someone come who said the greatest need was for a women's shelter. That started what became an interfaith program where we had a women's shelter down on East Hadley Rd. for about a year and a half, before there was support for a women's shelter in Northampton with social workers on site, which we couldn't do. I think those things, offering participation, brought people into our congregation. Also, I think for many people when you listen to the joys and sorrows there is a group of people who care about you. I think right now that is one of our great strengths as a congregation. There is this whole layer of people who are there as resources for those who need them

EP: What do you hope will be going on years from now at UUSA? Do you think about that?

BJ: It's inevitable to think about that, because before our eyes the world is changing so dramatically in terms of climate change and the way we communicate with one another around the world. I look ahead and think to myself sometimes what will last, what will be a core value?

I think some of my feeling about this is dictated by something that I haven't mentioned, which is being part of a Small Group. I think we've been together for about seven years, and that's been a big factor in my life. The feeling that you're not alone in facing any challenge, the need for friendship, for comfort, for support, I think those things are always going to be there.

I think the thing that may change is the sense that, as a church, the UUSA — and **Rachael** has certainly touched on this — needs to be considering ourselves part of the community. What is it that we can do in the community that will be worthwhile and not just within our doors? And perhaps there will be even more need for that. Maybe there will be more crises in terms of weather and dangers that mean people have to find ways to work together both within and without the church.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 12, 2023, after the service

Following a presentation on UUSA's proposed FY24 budget, enjoy a festive Pledge Drive "kickoff lunch" of homemade chicken soup and vegetarian chili in our Willie Eaton Social Hall!

Watch for details in your weekly announcements.

Childcare will be provided during the budget presentation.

Families with children: If you know you are coming, it will be great to know! Please email Andrew at dre@uusocietyamherst.org to tell him how many kids will need care.



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.

March 1998

Our office now has e-mail! Folks wishing to submit items for the Order of Service may use e-mail to do so – and this spare our office manager, **Barbara Tetrault**, from having to retype them. The e-mail address is unitarGU@hamp.hampshire.edu. (GU must be upper case.)

The Inside Scoop from Noho . . . We recently received an email from a friend who works for the Emergency Cot Shelter program. He wrote: “Cooking for 20 people from who-knows-what backgrounds is quite the challenge . . . Everything has to be Very Familiar and Safe — think junior-high cafeteria, franks and beans, beef stew, lasagna. When I get the chance to cook, I go to the Stop & Shop and denude the place of every different kind of sausage I can find, from all sausage ethnicities, and make a sausage stew — one by one the guests hold something up on a fork and yell ‘Linguica!’ ‘Kielbasa!’ with smiles of childhood memories.

“When the shelter was in seven different (Northampton) churches, each congregation gently competed to feed the guests most memorably, and we waited anxiously to eavesdrop on guest scuttlebutt indicating which church was getting the reputation for the best food.

“The Unitarians began by trying to turn the guests into vegetarians, and this did not go over very well; homelessness is a bad time to Improve Nutritional Skills or raise ethical consciousness; they want (and *need*, in the short term) Fast, Protein and Sugar.

“The UUs soon abandoned this menu and reintroduced Meat.”

March 2008

Just Desserts If you are new to our Society, or if you've been around a while but still have questions, please join the minister, **Alison Wohler**, and representatives from our Board of Trustees and many of our committees for Just Desserts at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse on Friday, March 7 at 7:00 P.M.

This is an opportunity to have an informal get-together and ask questions of some of our members, old and new, who will answer you and speak from their own experiences here at the UUSA. Following some brief welcoming remarks there will be plenty of time for discussion and socializing over some wonderful desserts provided by our members.

Have you noticed? Our Society's Web site (www.uusocietyamherst.org) has a new look. Many thanks to **Rebecca Fricke** for the lion's – or it that that lioness'? – share of the design concept. Thanks to Rebecca, **Janis Gray**, and **The Rev. Alison Wohler** for major contributions to the content.

If you have any suggestions for improvement or for additional information you would like to see on the site (e.g., statements from individual committees about their goals and activities), please let me know.

Kurt Gordon, Webmaster

Shop and support UUSA!

Sue Hanley, a member of this congregation, owns Monkey Business, a children's clothing and footwear store in Amherst. She will share 10 percent of sales made to members of UUSA to our Society. Be sure to tell the person ringing up your purchase that you are a member of UUSA. Monkey Business is on College Street in Amherst.

Lee Pershyn is conducting an ongoing Tupperware fundraiser for UUSA. All profits will go to a fund to help the Stained Glass Committee with its mission to explore the possibility of grants. Lee can be reached at 253-5925.