

Issue

October 2022

The Foreword



UU AMHERST

*Fostering Justice
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
634-3010 (x101 for office)
Office Hours Tues.—Fri. 9am to 2pm www.uuamherst.org

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Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

MINISTER'S HOURS

Rev. Michelle keeps office hours
Tues - Thurs. Contact her directly to
set up an appointment.
Fridays are her study & sermon
writing day and she is off on
Mondays.

Our Covenant

*Together we promise:
To gather in compassionate
community,
To celebrate diversity of thought and
unity of spirit;
And to seek wholeness for ourselves,
our children, and our world.*

SUNDAY SERVICES OCTOBER AT 10:30 AM

Mask wearing indoors is recommended., but not required. Sunday Services are continuing as dual platform—both in-person and livestreamed. A link to our YouTube channel is available on our website. You can view the recorded service anytime on the channel. Invite friends and family to church! Remember that coffee hour follows with beverages, only; no food!

The Soul Matters theme for October is COURAGE. Throughout the month we will explore various types of courage as well as what courage calls us to do. We will learn how to balance inward reflection with outward action as we live into our UU Principles.

Oct 2 The Courage To Be Vulnerable Rev. Michelle
“Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it’s having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome. Vulnerability is not weakness; it’s our greatest measure of courage.” (Brené Brown) Soul Matters Sunday.

Oct 9 The Courage to Apologize & Forgive Rev. Michelle
As we commemorate Indigenous People’s Day, we take a look at our own history as Unitarian Universalists in relation to Native Americans.

Oct 16 The Courage to Live Fully & Wholeheartedly Rev. Michelle
“The reward for conformity was that everyone liked you except yourself.” (Rita Mae Brown) It takes courage to be oneself and to live wholeheartedly.

Oct 23 The Courage to Make a Difference Ellen Moomaw
The theme for UN Sunday 2022 is: All In For Climate Justice: Displacement & Human Rights. UU Amherst member Ellen Moomaw will facilitate this educational and inspirational service.

Oct 30 The Courage to Hope: A Time to Remember Rev. Michelle
In recognition of All Souls Day, we will enact a Rite of Remembrance. Participants are encouraged to bring photographs or mementos of beloveds who have died, as we create a memory altar together.



MINISTER'S CORNER

I have a friend, Deb, who is the most courageous person I know. Over the last couple of years she went through every parent's nightmare: her young adult son's leukemia diagnosis and ultimate death.

There are so many layers to Deb's courage. When the diagnosis came, Deb reached out through Facebook to her community, the people she knew would hold her family and support them through what was to come. She had the courage to be vulnerable and to ask for help.

Throughout the endless treatments and hospitalizations, Deb looked for expressions of love - from people, from moments of synchronicity, and from evidence of beauty. Her phrase became, "Loved Showed Up." Love showed up in autumn leaves, in the flight of a hummingbird, in the kindness of strangers. Love showed up because she expected it to. She had the courage to be hopeful.

And although her son was sick and ultimately died, Deb did not give up living. Oh, I'm sure there were days when continuing living was the hardest thing to do, when Love was late in showing up. Somehow amid the relentless caretaking and the fear of losing a child, she graduated from grad school. Of course, Love showed up in professors who extended grace with deadlines and in friends who dropped off meals. With that support, Deb had the courage to live fully and wholeheartedly.

I want to learn from Deb. I want to live in anticipation that Love will show up - and then recognize when it does. I want all of us to know the kind of courage that can carry us through even the hardest of times; the courage of community.

With care,
Rev. Michelle

****SAVE THE DATE****

Sunday, October 30 - Noon

Special Congregational Meeting

Topic: Bylaws revision

Must be present to vote.

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: administrator@uuamherst.org

For Newsletter: by 10:00 am on the 16th

For Website: two weeks prior to event

For All Church list serve: daily during the week.

For Weekly Update: Fridays by 10:00 am

Administrator/Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm

BOARD REPORT

Our thanks and congratulations to all the people that worked to make the Living Green Festival happen so successfully. It was originally planned to happen sooner but the pandemic caused a change in plans. The committee did not give up and worked to make it happen. We had great weather and I heard many positive comments from those attending. We intend to make this an annual event so please volunteer when the time comes or join the committee that plans it and put it together.



As you know Chris Barry has left the caretaker position and I want to thank him for all the service he has given to the church over the years which among many other things includes two years as chair of the BOT. Thank you Chris for all you have given!

Let's welcome Andy Andersen as our new caretaker. He has impressed everyone that has spoken to me about him and he will be a good addition to our community. Please review the list of his responsibilities on page 3 of this newsletter as they do differ in some regards to those previously established for the caretaker. We want to make sure our expectations are in line with what has been mutually agreed to.

The Living Green Festival was one of the Three Foci designated as such by the previous BOT and the new sign for our church was another. The Town of Amherst Zoning Board met in late September to vote on whether to allow a variance on the zoning rules which will permit us place the sign closer to Main Street in order to be more visible. When we know the result of the vote we will let you know and, either way, we will be closer to the actual construction of the sign. Thanks to the Sign Committee and thanks to those who donated funds for the Three Foci.

Randy Kent, Board Chair

ENDOWMENT TRUST



The Endowment Trust's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 18, at 6:00 pm in the Emerson Room. Church members are welcome to attend (please contact a Trustee in advance if you have a specific topic/question).

As expected, the value of our portfolio continues to be negatively impacted by the current economic turbulence and has again dipped below \$1 million. This will not interfere with our commitment to assist with funding the much anticipated digital sign!

Please remember, you can help the Endowment grow by remembering friends and loved ones by making a donation in their name. The family of the person being remembered receives a letter from the Endowment Trust Board saying that Trust received a gift in the name of the deceased person. You receive a letter from the ET Board thanking you for your gift. This can be used as documentation for tax purposes.

Consider adding the Endowment in your will either by a designated amount or percentage of your estate. If you have questions about this, an Endowment Trustee would be pleased to talk to you.

Shopping Online? You can benefit the church through Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>). Choose Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust as the organization you want to support, then just order as you usually would. It costs you nothing extra, but generates a donation for us, of 0.5% of your purchases. That doesn't seem like much, but it adds up!

–Lauraine Marcus, on behalf of the Endowment Trustees Elaine Cusker, Recording Secretary; John Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Joe Rautenstrauch, Treasurer; Dorothy Reade, Assistant Treasurer

PERSONNEL: CHANGE IN STAFF

Many of you may have heard the news that UU Amherst caretaker, Chris Barry retired at the beginning of September. Chris has served in this capacity for nine years, although he has been part of the UU Amherst family for much longer. Chris has shared his many gifts with us and as he steps back we have the opportunity to express our appreciation for the love and service he has so generously given. Chris has returned to his family's home to help care for his mother, continuing his calling as caretaker.



Chris Barry



Andy Andersen

Taking on the role of UU Amherst caretaker is Andy Andersen. Andy began attending the church almost exactly a year ago, although his face may still be unfamiliar as he has spent the year helping Les in the loft.

Andy grew up in West Seneca and left WNY for a career in television production in 1978. Having lived in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, Colorado, Florida, and most recently Washington DC, Andy came back mid-pandemic and has continued his work professionally, but also assists Les Buhite with the Sunday video service.

Andy is happy to serve the church and looks forward to starting new friendships as he becomes more involved with UU Amherst.

Caretaker Responsibilities

Each person who has served as UU Amherst caretaker has brought their unique skills to the position. Where Chris brought his skills as a handyman, Andy is bringing his expertise in video production. Here is the scope of the position:

- Provide appropriate services & assistance with technical production
- Open and close the building for scheduled events; ensure all is secured
- Spot cleaning (as needed), replenishing paper products, empty garbage
- Perform simple maintenance tasks (i.e. changing light bulbs)
- Monitor conditions of facilities and report to appropriate person/group
- Clear walkways of snow, ice, etc
- Be trained and familiar with operation of Fire Detection & Alarm Systems

GREEN JUSTICE TEAM

THANK YOU to all those who made the inaugural Living Green Festival a success! We had many people who took part in the planning over the last two years. The "Basket Cases" put together an incredibly impressive basket raffle. The Amherst Little Free Pantry staffed a table in the Vendor Row and assisted with any vendor needs. And many more helped with the Activities Tent, the Information Table, the Free Room, minding the goats, emptying trash cans, directing parking, and more. We had over 50 people involved in making the festival happen, and it would take a whole page to list you all! My sincerest gratitude to everyone.

We are looking for feedback on the festival. We need to know what worked and what didn't. What did you really enjoy and what did you wish was different? Have any ideas for next year? We want to hear about it! If you haven't already voiced your opinion, please email Jeanine at jeanine.moyer@gmail.com with your comments.

If you have a nametag holder and/or lanyard from volunteering at the festival, please return it to the church so we can use these again in the future. You can place it in Jeanine Moyer's (Green Justice Team) mailbox.

Once again, thank you! —Jeanine Moyer, Green Justice Team



Everything we do is Faith Formation

Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism

The Congregation is the Curriculum

-Connie Goodbread

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Dear UU Amherst Members and Friends,

This month's Soul Matters Theme is Courage. We recently endeavored and succeeded in putting on our Inaugural Living Green Festival. This not only took an immense amount of organization among ourselves and collaboration with those we invited to share space and time, but also a great deal of COURAGE to push forward, with each delay that the pandemic presented, each thought of, "Will it be 'good enough'," each mistake and solution that arose, all the way up to the days before the event when some of our significant member collaborators found they were unable to participate. Yet, we found the Courage to make it all happen.



And, no, we didn't have a thousand strangers visit, but those who did, especially those able to hear our guest's stories and presentations, witnessed us living our UU Principles out loud, sharing our values of respect for life in all of its abundant forms!

The Green Justice Team invited people to debrief "under the tent" on Sunday a week after the festival. What an incredible turnout! We had purchased 10 new patio chairs with some of the grant money from the New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU), and there were another 8 chairs already there, AND we had to pull more out from the Emerson Room in order to have all gathered sit in a circle and take turns offering feedback, thanks, constructive criticism, and new ideas.

What makes me the absolutely MOST EXCITED is that everyone assumed that this event will happen again. WOWEE! Talk about energy! I haven't heard anyone say anything to the contrary! THAT is a sign that we are putting our energy where we already have energy. We are using our values and gifts to invite others into the circle of this Beloved Community. AND what our new folx had to say about feeling welcome and grateful, and the impression we gave by using the Circle Way to make sure all voices were heard. . . There just aren't enough words to tell you all that ALL OF IT - the perseverance, the planning, the performance, and the postscript have been remarkable, and I will always be grateful to each and everyone involved!

It seems we really have taken Connie Goodbread's statement that "Faith Development is all we do" into the center of the heart and soul of this growing and changing Beloved Community we call UU Amherst.

In Service,
Angela Warren, UU Amherst Director of Faith Development

Activities for all Ages Under the Faith Development Tent - Inaugural Living Green Festival



Petra Page-Mann



Lorna Czarnota



Eve and Betty

OCTOBER 2022 CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: In person meetings are now able to resume. Some will continue to be virtual-only; others will be dual platform (Zoom and in-person); and some in-person only. See the notation after the meeting. Zoom links for general church groups are published in the *Weekly Update* unless they are hosted on a private account. Zoom events taking place in the Zadmin, Zfd, or Zrev rooms are identified with the abbreviation.

Sunday, Oct 2nd (monthly 1st Sun)
11:45 am: Little Free Pantry Meeting LR & Zoom

Tuesday, Oct 4th
7:00 pm: Havurah—Kohl Nidre Chapel

Wednesday, Oct 5th
10:00 am: Havurah—Yom Kippur Chapel

Sunday, Oct 9th (monthly 2nd Sun)
12:00 pm: Poetry as Practice

Wednesday, Oct 12th (monthly 2nd Weds)
11:00 am: Staff Meeting
1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom

Sunday, Oct 16th: (monthly 3rd Sun)
11:30 am: FD Team Meeting
12:30 pm: Havurah Lunch EM

Tuesday, Oct 18th
6:00 pm: Endowment Trust EM

Wednesday, Oct 19th (monthly 3rd Wed)
1:00 pm: 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group Zoom
5:00 pm: Finance Committee EM
7:00 pm: Bofinger Covenant Group Zoom
7:30 pm: Green Justice Team Meeting Zoom

Thursday, Oct 20th (monthly 3rd Thu)
7:00 pm: Ministry Council

Sunday, Oct 23rd: (usually last Sunday of the month)
12:00 pm: UU Amherst Book Group LR & Zoom

Saturday, Oct 29th
10:00 am: Rental: WNY Gluten-Free Group EM

Sunday, Oct 30th:
12:00 pm: Special Congregational Meeting

Continued

RECURRING:

UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions continues
M-F 8:30 am.

Saturdays, Oct 1st-29th
9:30 am: Shared Caring Circle Zoom Zrev
7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zoom Zadmin

Sundays, Oct 2nd-30th
10:30: Church service—in-person and livestream
Coffee Hour following

Mondays, Oct 3rd-31st
7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple Zadmin (weekly)
L. Marcus
7:00 pm: Lighthearted Larches (10/10 & 10/24)
D. Tucker
7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (10/10 & 10/24)
D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, Oct 4th-25th
12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

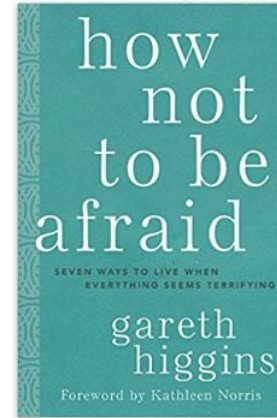
Wednesdays, Oct 5th-26th
10:30 am: Willow Village Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds: 10/12 & 10/26) J. Senders
7:00 pm: Northtowns Village (10/19)
7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group (2nd Weds 10/12) LR

Thursdays, Oct 6th-27th
12:30 pm: Women's Study Group Zoom

OCTOBER ONLY Fridays, Oct 7th-28th
7:00 pm: Book Study Group LR & Zoom

Ministry Council

The Ministry Council meets via Zoom on the third Thursday of each month. If you'd like to attend the meeting, contact Rev. Michelle (minister@uuamherst.org) for the Zoom link. All new ministry proposals and events go through Ministry Council for approval and support.



UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

Our book group alternates each month between a common read and a topic for which readers choose their own book. At the September 25th meeting the group discussed *Paradise Falls: The True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe* by Keith O'Brien, and chose a book for November.

The October meeting takes place on the 23rd at noon. It will be hybrid—both in person in the church Living Room and via Zoom). This will be a topic month—the Middle East. Each participant may choose their own book, fiction or nonfiction, in keeping with the topic.

If you have questions, contact Grace Little or Marie Evans.

Lending Library

Check out the Lending Library in the glass curio cabinet at the north end of the Emerson Room (when building is open). Books in this collection include world religions and spiritual topics, both fiction and non-fiction. Sign out whatever you'd like in the spiral notebook, with an approximate return date.

Secular novels and books about social justice issues can be found in the church Living Room on the bookshelves. These are for sale—cost is a free will donation that benefits the Amherst Little Free Pantry.

Book Study Opportunity

On Sunday, September 18th, we briefly examined Gareth Higgins' book, *How Not to Be Afraid: Seven Ways to Live When Everything Seems Terrifying*. A more in-depth exploration will be offered on Friday evenings in October as Rev. Michelle offers a hybrid (Zoom & in-person) book study. Sessions will run from 7:00-8:30 pm on Fridays (10/7, 14, 21, 28).

Participants are expected to have read Part One (80 pages) in preparation for the first session. The book is available on Amazon in hardcover, Kindle, and audio. A few copies are available at church for loan or purchase. Email minister@uuamherst.org for information, to indicate interest (Zoom or in-person), and to request a book, if needed.

Contributing to UU Amherst

1. The **Giving** option on the church website (uuamherst.org)
2. A NEW phone app "**GivePlus+**" for your phone
3. Texting a donation to phone # **833 987 1968**
4. Mailing a check [remember to fill in the Memo]
5. There is the traditional Sunday Plate
6. Don't forget Legacy Giving – in your will

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LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

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RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE EARTH

AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Many, many thanks to **Angela Warren** and the hard working gardening crew. The Pantry now has fresh vegetables to share with our customers! What a dream come true! As soon as the vegetables are put out, they disappear! When one considers all the steps to get the veggies: planning, cultivating the soil and planting, followed by the continual watering, caring, and weeding of the plants, and finally, properly harvesting the crops, this is truly a work of LOVE. Thank you to infinity and beyond.....Hugs from the Pantry Team!



The tomato and cucumber production is diminishing as the seasons change, but our garden greens are in strong supply, and the eggplant and peppers will continue to produce until frost! Many thanks to our "harvesting helpers," Eileen McCallister, Cheryl Tomasulo, and Wendy Lettieri! If you would like to help yourself to the abundance of kale, collards, and chard, please do. Kale and collards will continue to make food beyond frost in their glorious abundance! Need direction? Contact Angela.

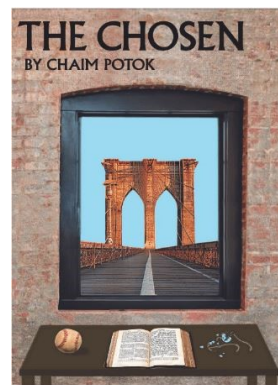
THEATER LOVERS

Our first outing of the season will be **Sunday, November 6**, to Jewish Repertory Theatre for a matinee performance, followed by dinner at Lebro's Restaurant at 4:00 pm (pay your own way). As of newsletter "press time," I have not yet received details about ticket price, and will follow up with an all-church email when I do.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

Directed by JRT Artistic Director and Co-Founder Saul Elkin

Running October 27- November 20 // Thursdays- 7:30 pm, Saturdays- 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Sundays- 2:00 pm



For the first production of our 20th anniversary season, we return to one of JRT's first hit shows. This stage adaptation of the revered novel is the story of two boys, two fathers, and two very different Jewish communities – "five blocks and a world apart" – in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, in the 1940s. Set against the backdrop of WWII, the revelation of the Holocaust, and the desperate struggle of Zionism, *The Chosen* remains not essentially political or religious but deeply human. Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders are both passionate and intelligent young men. When Reuven is injured by Danny during a heated baseball game between their rival yeshivas, a unique friendship is born. As the boys grow to manhood, they are forced to learn important lessons about each other, their fathers, and themselves. This is a story of friendship, family, and difficult choices that we must all make on the path to understanding, respect, and reconciliation.

The Robert and Maxine Seller Theater is inside Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Benderson Family Building, 2640 North Forest Rd, Getzville 14068.

The restaurant is located at 330 Campbell Blvd (just north of Dodge Road), Getzville 14068.

– Marie Evans

COMMITTEE ON MISSION

Now that the Living Green Festival is behind us (thanks to all who participated!), the CoM will resume its regular work. Our Sept. 18th meeting with the Faith Development Team was postponed to allow time to discuss the Living Green Festival after church that Sunday. We will reschedule a time soon to meet with the Faith Development Team to see how their efforts are going in reaching their mission and goals, and to offer support. Later in the church year, we will also plan to similarly meet with the Caring for One Another and Amherst Little Free Pantry Teams whom we met with last church year to establish their initial mission and goals. We are also looking to meet with two new Ministry Teams to help them establish their initial mission and goals. The purpose of our work is to align the mission and goals of all of the ministry teams with the mission of the church. This written information will also help to inform the rest of our church community about the work of each team and invite other members of our congregation to join these teams and be able to continue their work as leadership changes over the years. It should be an exciting church year!

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bofinger, CoM Chair and Committee Members

Marge Marcille (Scribe), Jeanine Moyer (Board Liaison), and Barbara Brooks (Our Newest Member)

UU YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

After a lag in activity during the pandemic, I am looking to revitalize the UU Young Adult Group (generally ages 18-35ish). If you are interested in participating and would like to be added to our text and E-mail lists, send your E-mail and cell phone number to me. I try to keep the group informed about church activities. We are also looking to start a new Discord group. New young adults, Miles Fann and Jayna Ahead, are interested in helping to get the group going again. Miles Fann and I did a tabling event at the University at Buffalo (UB) on August 27th to let UB students know about us. Twenty-eight UB students visited our table to write their intentions for the semester on painted rocks and a community mandala. This was a fun event! We plan to invite these young adults to the church and to our next activity (missed getting the list in time to invite them to our Living Green Festival). If you have contact with UU Young Adults at other colleges or in your work environments, let them know about us, too. All young adults (UU or Exploring) are invited to be added to our lists. If you have any ideas or would like to initiate an activity, let me know and I will promote it and help to gather a team. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Diane Bofinger (she/her/hers) (716-418-3272)

Religious Advisor, UU Young Adult & Campus Ministry

CLOTHING MINISTRY

The past month has been very busy for the Clothing Ministry. We organized and executed a basket raffle, The Itty Bitty Boutique, and a Free Room during the Living Green Festival. This is also the month we will change over to cold weather clothing in the clothing pantry. We are now looking for coats, hats, scarves, mittens, etc., so think of us as you are preparing for winter. Now that the church is opening, we will be limited for space so please keep your Summer clothing for a collection in the Spring.

—Dian and Don Tucker, Pam and Jerry Kent, Barbara Gauger and Barry Kent

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER RECIPES Provided by Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham

Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham are sisters and dedicated members of our Caring For One Another group. They provide occasional meals to church members on an as-needed basis. With the meal they generally include a “goodie bag” and a card on behalf of the Caring Group. Each month you’ll find one of their healthy recipes here in *The Foreword* often incorporating fresh vegetables and even gluten-free.

Salmon and Green Salad Supper

1 can salmon, drained, deboned and skin removed
1/2 small red onion, minced
1 stalk celery, minced
1/4 cup fresh dill, chopped
1 lemon, juiced
Mayonnaise to blend all
Top seeds crackers

Green salad makings - lettuce, tomato, cucumber, radishes, sweet pepper, olives to your preference chopped and mixed together. Oil and vinegar or your favorite dressing. Combine the cleaned salmon, onion, celery, dill, lemon juice and mayonnaise in a bowl and mix until it is an even consistency. Chill. To serve, put a spoonful of salmon mix on a cracker and have green mixed salad along side. Light, healthy, easy and delicious. Enjoy!



Save The Date!
UU Amherst
Family
Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, November 19 - 6:00pm
Let Us Do The Cooking Before You Have To For Thanksgiving!
Chef Salad Spaghetti Meatballs Italian Sausage
Bread & Butter Dessert Coffee/Tea Soft Drinks
Bring Your Own Your Favorite Wine Selection



Adults \$14.00 Children (5-12) \$9.00
Under 5 Free
Space Is Limited!
Advance Sale Tickets Now Available!
Scan This QR Code

ALSO FEATURING A BASKET RAFFLE & BAKE SALE!



U.U.—U.N.NEWS

10 August 2022

2022 United Nations Message

24 October is United Nations Day; that is because the United Nations Charter was adopted on that day in 1945 in San Francisco, California. United Nations Headquarters in New York City was not finished until 1952. 2022 is the seventy-seventh anniversary of the United Nations. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, America's thirty-second President, is considered to be the "father of the United Nations." Every year, U.N. Day is celebrated at U.N. Headquarters in New York City and throughout the world. The United States of America should also participate in the celebration by dismantling its global empire and global military machine and by thoroughly making the United Nations the focal point of our foreign policies.

What are the purposes of the United Nations? The main purposes are to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, to recognize the dignity and worth of the human person, to acknowledge the equal rights of men and women and nations large and small, to encourage respect for international law, to promote better standards of life in larger freedom and to maintain international peace and security.

The United Nations is a noble, humanitarian experiment. Despite all the criticism of the organization, the United Nations has been a relative success. It has prevented another world war, promoted social progress and is in the process of realizing its purposes, principles and reforming itself.

Why is the actual United Nations so different from the U.N. Charter itself? This is a difficult question to answer. Almost all 193 United Nations Member States do not want to subordinate their sovereignty to the United Nations. Consequently, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council do not want to elect a first-rate U.N. Secretary-General committed to realizing and strengthening the U.N. Charter. Also, the U.N. is a complex bureaucracy and its international civil service and peacekeepers have many inadequacies. There are also many other problems and dilemmas hampering the United Nations.

All this must change. To realize the U.N. charter, the United Nations must possess the power to eliminate the scourge of war and promote human rights. To accomplish this, the United Nations must create its own effective system of collective security and a better means for promoting human rights. At the present time, universal and complete disarmament and world peace under U.N. auspices are, unfortunately, unfulfilled dreams.

Nevertheless, on United Nations Day, 24 October, all 193 United Nations Member States and all people should resolve to translate the United Nations Charter into reality in our troubled, interdependent world. The future of humanity depends on an effective United Nations and its ability to maintain international peace and security. The time to make this happen is now; otherwise, the future of humanity is bleak, indeed. As H. G. Wells wrote in *The Outline of History*, "human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe." The problems facing humanity are grave, but human reason and ingenuity can solve them. The United Nations must be made to work and for this to happen, the United States of America must support it. There is no good reason why the history of the future cannot be brighter than the history of the past unless human stupidity and irrationality prevail.

—David Slive, U.N. Envoy

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AMHERST

Fostering Justice and Compassion

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