



# Spirit of Life

August 2017

Sunday Worship 10:30am



Justice, love, and compassion  
in spiritual community

08-06-17

**“MITAKOYE OYACIN (Lakota for “We ALL Are Related”):  
Fidel Moreno**

Fidel identifies as Huichol, Chichimeca and Mexican American. Long time water protector and activist, Fidel is a traditional singer and ceremonialist, as well as an award-winning film producer.

**Share the Plate with Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

08-13-17

**“Living Creatively”: Lana Bennett & Marion Jansen**

We will explore how creativity touches our lives. Lana and Marion are members of UUMSB and both have been involved in many creative endeavors.

08-20-17

**“Hopeful Hullabaloo”: Rev. Kathy Duhon**

Continuing her sermon series on faith, hope, love and joy, Kathy will explore some of our Universalist tradition that exalted hope and also play with the wisdom from world religions and from leaders of our world. Be prepared to hear a hullabaloo of hope.

08-27-17

**“Understanding White Supremacy”: Ken Wagner**

Ken Wagner is the president of the UU Allies for Racial Equity and has conducted anti-racism Sunday services throughout New England and other parts of the country over the last ten years. He has led workshops (of both one day and many over an 8 weeks period) focused on the examination of race and the impact of white supremacy on our lives to over 20 congregations in New England, at the UUA GA, and at District and Regional gatherings across the country.

Music: Ron Hanft, organ  
Trustee/Greeter: Mike Thiemann  
Greeter: Sue Protheroe  
Hospitality: Valerie Bluhm  
Hospitality/Chalice: Leigh Merlini

Music: Ed Chastain and  
Marian Rose  
Trustee/Greeter: Mike Thiemann  
Greeter: Sue Protheroe  
Hospitality: Bonnie Benson  
Hospitality/Chalice: Marion Jansen

Music: Hilda Banks Shapiro  
Trustee/Greeter: Mike Thiemann  
Greeter: Sue Protheroe  
Hospitality: John Corcoran  
Hospitality/Chalice: Sue Corcoran

Music: Marian Rose  
Trustee/Greeter: Mike Thiemann  
Greeter: Sue Protheroe  
Hospitality: Dona Burdick  
Hospitality/Chalice: Carol McKenna

**Mission:** We come together from diverse traditions as a welcoming, religious community with shared values, seeking spiritual growth, lifelong religious education, and fellowship. We strive to promote justice, acceptance, and compassion in the world.

**Reverend:**  
Carol Allman-Morton

**Residence:**  
1089 Main Street, Housatonic, MA 01236  
[Click here for map and directions](#)

**Mailing address:**  
PO Box 783, Housatonic, MA 01236  
**Tel:** 413-358-3877

*Carol* will be on sabbatical from July through October.

For any pastoral concerns while she is away from the congregation, please be in touch with our founding minister, Rev. Kathy Duhon. She can be contacted at [kathyduhon2@gmail.com](mailto:kathyduhon2@gmail.com) or 518-794-0021.

For congregation related questions you can be in touch with Martha Page, our new Board chair and she can help connect you to answers. If you have questions about membership, contact Ray Garnett and Al Blake.

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## **Kathy's Corner**

### **"Broody Hen and Hungry Fox"**

Our farm does a delicate dance between cultivation and wildness, even in the name we chose, "Wild Heron Farm". This spring it must have been a little more sparse for food for our woodland friends and thus, suddenly, we are seeing wildlife everywhere, including near the house and barns: bear and fox, deer and snapping turtle, groundhog and so many snakes.

The fox has come many times, was scared off by my son-in-law Paul in the process of grabbing a chicken for her kits a few times, and was twice successful - we lost two hens. It was sad, but we also felt for the fox. And then we confined our chickens, who usually free-ranged over a few acres, to a much smaller electric fenced-in area. Now we feel for the chickens. Neither the fox nor the chickens were entirely happy with this new way of doing things, and we had a little more work and some regrets in the process. Finally, we let the chickens roam again and so far, the fox has stayed away.

A hen decided to brood, and we kept taking the eggs away, and telling her to skeedaddle, but in the end, we let her brood, marked the 8 eggs under her with a sharpie, and then kept taking out the new eggs that other hens tried to deposit - who doesn't want to take advantage of someone else doing all the work? Broody hen was faithful, mostly staying on the nest, to the point where I brought her food and water. But there was once that she got up, early on, and I found her on the nest next door, happily settled in over 2 eggs, not 8, and who doesn't want to be more comfortable? Maybe the eggs were lost then - got too cold - or maybe it was during the cold spell we had in May, or maybe Captain the Rooster is no longer up to his job, but after all that work and dedication and 4 long weeks, we finally relieved Broody of her job and the remaining eggs - none had hatched.

Perhaps all interactions are complex, involving compromise, sacrifice, regrets, too much work, and failure. And perhaps all interactions are also simple, involving care and feeding and appreciation. We are all both cultivated and wild, birthed of nature, and nurtured with culture. And the dance goes on.

## Message from our President

Happy summer, everyone!



Summer in the Berkshires is a favorite time of mine. Lovely weather. Lots of bicycle riding. Performing arts. Friends.

Summer is also an important time at UUMSB. In former times, many congregations “took a vacation” during the summer. That hasn’t been and isn’t the case at UUMSB, with Sunday services and lots of other activities continuing. It is also a time of the year when we have visitors, especially traveling visitors.

Your board of directors also met in July to start the next steps on the new strategic plan which was adopted at the annual meeting in May. A key part of this will be translating the 5 year goals into objectives for this year and next. Over the coming months, you will be hearing more about this and we hope that as many people as possible can participate.

A special thanks goes out to the many people who have stepped forward to cover many responsibilities while Reverend Carol is away for her sabbatical. Thank you, Thank you?

- Martha Page

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## Performers for Music Sunday: organists Permelia and David Sears with daughter Rebecca on the violin



## *What's Happening in August on the UUMSB's Social Justice Front?*

August may be summer break for some but the justice work rolls on. On Sunday August 13, a representative from Berkshire Natural Resource Council (BNRC) will be telling us about their work here in Berkshire County during **Share the Plate Sunday**. Sheryl Davies will be our social justice team member making the introductions of this important local organization.

On Sunday August 27, UUMSB will have **UU justice activist Ken Wagner** speaking from our pulpit on the topic of better understanding the history of white privilege/supremacy in our nation and the work ahead of all of us to both acknowledge our past and better understand the work ahead of us on this subject.

Ken has been an important UU voice on the subject of White Privilege for many years. Please consider taking time out of your busy summer schedule to hear his address on Sunday morning (August 27 at 10:30) and also try to join the UUMSB Justice Team following the service as Ken takes us for a deeper dive into this subject in a small interactive gathering - giving us better skills to speak out, speak up, and take action!

As you recall Rev. Carol and Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant led this discussion in our congregation back in June and promised our congregation that we would continue this journey together. We cannot expect People of Color (POC) to fix this piece of America's history. It is time for White Folks to acknowledge the privileges we have been given just by the color of our skin. This subject is so institutionalized in our country's framework, our denomination, our neighborhoods, etc. – that we must continue learning look-back first before we can move forward together. Without a doubt this is hard work, but we will not be the America we dream about without this work – both together and as individuals. Come join us - lunch will be provided during the workshop.

Ray and I apologize to our **Social Justice Book Group** that we had to cancel the scheduled book discussion in June and STILL haven't come up with a date to proffer for the discussion of – ***The Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*** by James W. Loewen. Clearly the date will be in the fall. Stay tuned and if you are not on our bookgroup list and want to be – just let one of us know.

Happy summer!

**In the journey**, *Tommie for the Justice Team ~ Ricky Bernstein, Al Blake, Valerie Bluhm, Karen Clark, Stu Dalheim, Sheryl Davies, Ray Garnett, Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant, Sandy Noyes, Martha Page, Sue Protheroe, Gary Shaw.*



August

- 01 Nicki Wilson
- 12 Marian Rose
- 17 Sheryl Davies
- 18 Bob Dix
- 19 Tommie Hutto-Blake
- 24 Sam Morton
- 30 Tom Fiederlein
- 31 Pierre Duhon

## Membership Directory!

If you are part of our community, but have not yet officially joined the congregation, we would love to add you to our member directory as a friend, so that folks can be in touch with you and we can call you in case of cancellations. Just send an email to our administrator Sheena with your contact info at [info@uumsb.org](mailto:info@uumsb.org)!



### UUMSB Community News:

If you have any personal joys or concerns that you would like to share, send them to Sheena at [info@uumsb.org](mailto:info@uumsb.org). Thanks!



**Would you like to join?**

Come and sing with us!  
We rehearse at **9:25 a.m.** before worship on the Sundays we will be singing.

Contact Marian Rose for information.



We come together again in September

**The Caring Committee**, a part of the Membership and Growth Committee, coordinates and delivers caring services to members experiencing difficulties. We are available for anyone needing assistance in life or family situations that seem to come to everyone from time to time. Our committee finds volunteers from the congregation to help provide visits, food, transportation, and other services, depending on the situation.

Whether you or someone you know may need information, encouragement, a hand or a ride, please call:

- Valerie Bluhm (413) 394-4309
- Zoe Dalheim (413) 243-3617
- Phlox Laucher (413) 281-8351
- Sharon Meyer (413) 528-0956
- Sue Montague (518) 321-5102



[Facebook/uumsb](https://www.facebook.com/uumsb)



and share our events and announcements.  
Thank you!

# UUMSB Social Media 'Go To' Page

## **Online UUMSB Google Calendar!**

You do not have to be signed in to anything to see it. The calendar will reflect our programs, meetings, and worship information for each Sunday.

Click on this link: [UUMSB calendar](#)

Let Sheena know! Email her at [info@uumsb.org](mailto:info@uumsb.org)

## **CLICK ON THE LINK:**

[BHRSS](#) Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series

[Clara Barton District](#)

[Construct Inc](#)

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

[UU Mass Action](#)

[UUMSB](#)

[UUSC](#)

[HospiceCare](#)

[RSYP](#) Railroad Street Youth Project

[Hands in Outreach HIO](#)

[Multicultural BRIDGE](#)

[350.org](#)

[Twitter/uumsb](#)

[Facebook/uumsb](#)

[Tumblr/uumsb](#)

Four Freedoms website. [www.4freedomcoalition.org](http://www.4freedomcoalition.org)



## **Are you a Facebook user?**

Check out UUMSB on Facebook, including a calendar of all our events!

***"Like US" and help spread our messages to your friends.***



[Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[Commit2Respond](#)

[PFLAG](#)

[Jan Hutchinson's Raggedy Prayers and Crooked Ladders.](#)

## **WHERE DO I FIND INFORMATION ON EVENTS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?**

The most comprehensive listings are:

- ◆ In the newsletter (print, email and web); On our website ([uumsb.org](http://uumsb.org))
- ◆ On our Google calendar:
- ◆ ([https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=uumsb1@gmail.com&ctz=America/New\\_York](https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=uumsb1@gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York))
- ◆ Updates and changes are sent out over email and posted on Facebook
- ◆ In the weekly insert at worship; On the bulletin board in the social hall

If you have any announcements to go out by email or to be printed in the Sunday insert, send them to [info@uumsb.org](mailto:info@uumsb.org) by Tuesday each week. If you have something to be posted to Facebook, you can send that to [callmanmorton@gmail.com](mailto:callmanmorton@gmail.com) anytime, or post from your account on the UUMSB page.



# August 2017



South County Race Task Force	7:00pm: Thursday August 3
Trans Group meeting	7:00pm: Thursday August 3
Membership and Growth Committee meeting	9:15am: Sunday August 6
Facility Use Committee meeting	9:00am: Sunday August 13
Trans Group meeting	7:00pm: Thursday August 17



## UUMSB Board

**President:** Martha Page (860) 597-2612  
**Vice President:** Mike Thiemann (413) 344-6969  
**Secretary/Clerk:** Dennis Downing (413) 528-3381  
**Treasurer:** Bill Young (860) 597-2627  
**Trustees at Large:** Ray Garnett (413) 232-0248  
Chuck Pierce (413) 528-7910  
Laurie Shaw (413) 528-0343

Our congregation's first meeting was in 1995 with 6 people in attendance. We are a chartered congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We currently have 67 members and maintain strong ties to our community. We are a growing congregation in the liberal tradition that respects ideas, values diversity, and encourages the exploration of spirituality and life's meaning.

UUMSB Church, Housatonic [Click here for map and directions.](#)