



ANCHORAGE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP  
*diverse beliefs,  
common purpose.*

**Today At Your Fellowship**  
**Thursday**  
**August 11, 2022**

**This Weekend @ AUUF**  
[Find Zoom links here.](#)

**Thursday 8/11/22**  
5:30 pm Board Agenda Setting Meeting

**Friday 8/12/22**  
12 pm Freethinkers on Zoom

**Saturday 8/13/2022**

**Sunday 8/14/2022**

**9 am** The Forum **on Zoom**

**10:30 am-** UUFF Sunday Worship AUUF  
Watch party & on Zoom

12:30 pm The Alliance

2:30 pm Worship Associate Meeting

**Half Portion offering for August is**  
[AFACT](#)



*Religious Exploration programs at AUUF: Looking Back,  
Looking Forward, With Rosene Beachy*

# The Forum on Zoom ONLY

9 am Sunday, August 14, 2022

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)  
[Click here for Speaker's bio.](#)

## August at the Forum

There will be no separate Forum and Worship Service on Sunday, **August 21**. Instead, we will hold an all-Fellowship **Memorial Service at 10 a.m. for Gary Holthaus**, AUUF's last settled minister. You can find [Gary's obituary here](#).

Finally, on the last Sunday of **August, the 28<sup>th</sup>**, the **University of Alaska Chancellor** (and former Governor) **Sean Parnell** will tell us ***What We're Doing at Your State University***, from the vantage point of having completed his first year on the job—with a continuing opportunity to face many challenges.

**Speakers' bios and photos** can be accessed from the AUUF Home Page ([www.anchorageuuf.org](http://www.anchorageuuf.org)) through the link at "Virtual Forum," or by going to "Sunday Services" under the pull-down Menu for "Ministry." As always, we encourage you to send your ideas for either programs or specific speakers to the Forum Committee Chair John McKay at [mckay@alaska.net](mailto:mckay@alaska.net) or pass them along to other Forum Committee members: Dennis Arashiro, James Dryden, Heather Flynn, and Lynn Hallquist, and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry.



*The Work That Reconnects*  
With Lydia Violet Harutoonian  
UU Fairbanks Fellowship

## UUFF Sunday Worship on Zoom

10:30 am Sunday, August 14

*The Work That Reconnects*  
Guest Speaker Lydia Violet Harutoonian

Guest Speaker Lydia Violet Harutoonian will lead us through an intimate experience with the Work That Reconnects (WTR), a dynamic, interactive body of work developed by Joanna Macy, a scholar and respected elder in systems theory, deep ecology, and Buddhism as well as 50+ years of international activism.

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

August Worship Services

**Aug. 21, In-person and Zoom 10 am**  
*Celebrating Gary Holthaus in Memoriam*  
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry and Friends

Rev. Gary Holthaus served AUUF from 2012-2017 and was a beloved part of our community. We'll celebrate both him and his contributions to AUUF. Several fellowship members will be sharing readings and memories. We're starting at 10 am—this service will be in place of the Forum and Worship. A reception will follow.

**Aug. 28, In-person and Zoom 11 am**  
TBA

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## **Rev. Gary Holthaus Memorial**

### **10 am Sunday, August 21**

AUUF will hold a memorial for Rev. Gary Holthaus on Sunday, Aug. 21 at 10 am. This will be a joint hybrid (in-person and online) service in place of our regular Forum and Worship services. A reception, hosted by the Alliance, will take place following the service. We hope you can join us as we celebrate Gary and his time at AUUF.

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## **Reception after Gary Holthaus Memorial Service**

### **Seeking donations**

The AUUF Alliance is organizing a reception after the memorial service for Gary Holthaus. Some members are donating food and drinks for everyone but we also want to encourage others to bring a favorite snack that they might have brought for coffee hour during the years Gary was with us. Bring items with you to the Fellowship on Sunday morning, August 21st. Questions? please contact [stephaniekoonz@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniekoonz@gmail.com).

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## **August is Black Business Month**

The Alaska Black Business Directory showcases and supports Alaskan Black-Owned Businesses.

[Alaska Black Business Directory](#)

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## **Anti-Racism Team Corner**

UU programs and events: Beloved Conversations: a virtual course offered thru Meadville Lombard Theological School (open to lay and ministerial folks)  
Beloved Conversation is a program for people seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. Our program is grounded in Unitarian Universalism, developed and offered by the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and open to all learners. In Beloved Conversations, we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together.

- + Early Bird Registration: June 27-August 12, 2022 (use coupon code FALL22BCVEB for 10% off)
- + Registration Closes: August 26, 2022

Head to the [website to learn more!](#)

Ask AUUF members Erin Barker ([barker.erin.12@gmail.com](mailto:barker.erin.12@gmail.com)) as well as Rev Lise about their experiences with this curriculum - they loved it!

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Alaska Black Caucus Community Conversation: Race and Policing

Sun, August 14, 2022, 7-8 PM

Join the Alaska Black Caucus in a conversation about race and policing with a focus on local police reform and body camera policy implementation.

[Register now](#)

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Hello,

The Alaska Black Caucus (ABC) will participate in the annual Out of the Darkness event hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This year the event will be held on September 10, 2022, at the Cuddy Family Midtown Park.

ABC will have a booth and wants to invite members of the Allies for Change to get involved to help with the ABC booth or come participate in activities. This is such an important event in our community and a wonderful way to connect with community members.

If you are interested in helping with the ABC booth please let me or Brenda know by emailing Renee Endicott, email below.

Thank you, Allies for Change, our community is strong and better when we work together!  
In service,

Renee Endicott

Ally Administrator

Email: [renee.endicott84@gmail.com](mailto:renee.endicott84@gmail.com)

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## Firepit Chatting Fun! Join us next month!

Several folks met last night around the campfire for our monthly "Firepit Chat". The weather was stupendous, the snacks were sweet, the conversation was delightful, and a good time was had by all! It was fun to meet each other in person and realize that even tho' we spent hours together by Zoom we look different in real life! The goal of our "Firepit Chats" is to get to know each other and especially to welcome new folks who want to meet people and learn more about AUUF. We plan to keep doing these monthly - on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 pm - as long as we can tolerate being together outside (ie: until it gets way too cold.) Mark your calendars and join the fun!!



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## There's still time to join us for Beloved Conversations Virtual

Early Bird Within Registration ends Friday, August 12th!

There is still time to get registered for the Fall Term of Within! Complete your registration and use the Early Bird Discount coupon code by August 12th to receive 10% off your registration for our Within program. See below for more details and head to our [website to learn more!](#)

Important Dates

Please note that the dates below could be subject to change due to unforeseen

circumstances.

- Early Bird Registration: June 27-August 12, 2022 (use coupon code FALL22BCVEB for 10% off)
- Registration Closes: August 26, 2022
- Program Begins / First Lesson is published: September 12, 2022
- Fall Term 2022 Meaning Making Session Dates: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Cost: \$250 USD per person (lay folks and religious professionals). White folks and anyone with economic privileges/ample professional expenses will be encouraged to pay more. Full and partial scholarships are plentiful and easily accessible!

\*No one will be turned away for a lack of funds. Please email JeKaren at [belovedconversations@meadville.edu](mailto:belovedconversations@meadville.edu) to request a full or half scholarship.

Learn more about the Within program and register [HERE!](#)

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## DLRE Transitions

Change can be hard, can't it? It can bring up so many feelings--grief for what is lost, anxiety about what's coming next. It can also be exciting and uplifting--will we get to try some new ideas or meet new people? And then often, when we're in the midst of change we find ourselves feeling both sad and glad for what's happening. Unfortunately, that can send us into guilt spirals--maybe we feel we're betraying what once was. Maybe we feel we're not being supportive enough of what is to come. Like many human emotions and events, it's complex. And it's okay to feel all the things we feel--in fact, it's advisable. The Buddhist teacher, Thich Nhat Hahn, taught us that it's important to make friends with our emotions. We need to acknowledge them and gently get to know them, without judgment. Then, hopefully, we can more easily come to terms with all our feelings, without the guilt spirals.

Another spiritual lesson can be found in gratitude. When we lose someone or something we love, our sadness is in relation to how much we appreciated it or them. If we can acknowledge our sadness, and then focus on the good memories with gratitude, that process can often help us move forward with more joy.

All of this is to say that I know I and many of us are sad about Rosene retiring. Her last official day as DLRE was July 31. But we got to have some wonderful times with her this year before she left (and for the 20-plus years she served at AUUF). Think of all the middle schoolers who shared their credos in our worship service as the final step of their Coming of Age program. How many children has she shared stories with over the years? How many adults has she checked in with to see how they're doing? There's OWL, Youth Cons, bags of RE library books specially delivered during the pandemic, Peace Camp, Fall Frolic (we're having one again--September 24-25--register now!), multi-gen events, soup Sundays--there is so much that Rosene has been a part of and so many ways she has helped us to learn, love, and thrive.

And now, Rosene is moving on to another stage of her life. We get to take the many gifts she gave us, remember them with gratitude, and consider what we'd like to keep, change, and perhaps honorably retire.

And, a new DLRE is about to enter our lives. Ray Macfarlane (they/none\*\*) has accepted the position of DLRE at AUUF and has started the position, long distance from Nevada, this week. They will be dropping into a few meetings, via Zoom, for the rest of this week, traveling up to Alaska with their family next week, and then they'll be in person with us the week of August 15. The hiring team and I are so excited for you to meet Ray! We found Ray to be warm, personable, knowledgeable, collaborative, creative, willing to try new things, and willing to learn from others. We're looking forward to learning from Ray, sharing the wonderful activities we've done for years, perhaps with a new twist, and maybe retiring a few activities as well. We'll all have to wait and see how things unfold, weighing what seems right for now and what seems right for another time.

Change is hard. It's also constant--we've definitely learned that over the last few years,

haven't we? We've also learned that we can get through, laugh at our mistakes and rejoice in our successes. I think some of the things that I'm most excited to share with Ray are the inquisitiveness, warmth, laughter, and grace that resonate through AUUF.

I'm going to miss Rosene, and I'm excited to learn from and work with Ray. Both things are true and we need to let ourselves acknowledge that we can hold both things as we move forward.

Please join me in welcoming Ray, the newest member of our wonderful AUUF staff.

Blessings, Rev. Lise

\*\* (they/none) These are some folks' preferred pronouns. They use they instead of the binary he or she. None is to indicate that if we don't use they when referring to them, it's perfectly fine to use no pronoun at all and simply substitute their name in place of a pronoun.

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## Heeeerrrrreeeee's Ray!

I grew up in Southern Utah, hiking barefoot in the red rock, and rolling down the pink sand dunes. After leaving the church of my youth, I found an anchor in UU fellowship while attending college in the Rocky Mountains. The commitment I found there to service, inclusion, diversity, accountability, and to self-examination provided a path for me to harness my impact on the world to support the values I believe in. As I connected with congregations in Chicago and Las Vegas while pursuing my Ph.D. in Sociology, I found meaningful community connections and service opportunities that inspired me and made a difference in people's lives, including creating a support group for queer youth in rural Utah, teaching in youth programs, and working with The Night Ministry to build community and bring resources to people experiencing homelessness.



I have worked in advocacy and education for the past 20 years: anti-violence work in domestic violence and LGBTQIA+ services, economic justice supporting access to careers, education, leadership opportunities and housing for underrepresented populations, and evaluating mental health and addiction services. While teaching at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, I had the opportunity to help students couch individual experiences into the context of the larger social structures, and give them the tools to understand data and how it can inform our world and our efforts to make change.

This week, my family and I will be making the long-anticipated, week-long trip up the Alcan. My partner, Martin (he), and children, Sagan (8 yrs, she) and Rhonan (7 yrs, they) are excited to see whales, real rivers, and relatives, and to be back in their tribal area. My partner, Joe (he) will be working in support services, and can't wait to be out kayaking under the pine trees. I (they/none) am looking forward to camping under the northern lights, and watching the beautiful sunrise/sunsets of winter on the hoarfrost. We can't wait to meet everyone in person soon!

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## The August Half Portion offering goes to AFACT

### Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together

For the past 18 years, AFACT has worked to democratically address quality of life issues affecting Anchorage, particularly those impacting the poor and disenfranchised. Housing, homelessness, health care, climate change, and home weatherization, are among the issues that have motivated and mobilized members of AUUF and 14 other diverse local faith organizations to act.

Often, in addressing these issues, AFACT has partnered with organizations around the

state, and the impact of that work has been felt well beyond the Municipality. Now, AFACT is pleased to announce a new initiative: we are merging with our sister organization in the Mat-Su, VIA (Valley Interfaith Action), to launch a statewide umbrella organization for organizing groups in Alaska. The organization will be called JOIN (Justice Organizing Interfaith Network) and will coordinate statewide organizing campaigns. Please watch out for a founding event this fall.

In the meantime, AFACT's work in Anchorage continues. Many have been dismayed at the treatment of our neighbors experiencing homelessness the past few months. To that end, AFACT leaders from Central Lutheran Church are currently planning an action aimed at improving coordination and communication among service providers and stake holders. Your support makes these kinds of efforts possible.

**Go to [anchorageuuf.org](http://anchorageuuf.org)  
Click on the Half-Portion note or Donate/ Pay  
at the bottom of the home page.  
Enter your donation under  
"Half-Portion for Social Action"**

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## ***Our AUUF Covenant***

***Together . . .***

***We seek to be an open and welcoming community.***

***We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.***

***We hold each of us and all of this amazing world worthy of our attention, compassion and care.***

***Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.***

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**amazon**smile  
Org Central



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship | (907) 248-3737  
Minister, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/ her) 907-248-3737 x2, [revlise@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:revlise@anchorageuuf.org)  
Office hours: Usually Tues, Th & Fri 10 am -- 2 pm

Shellie Gooden, (she/ her) Congregational Administrator, 907-248-3737 x1  
[admin@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:admin@anchorageuuf.org)

AUUF office hours are usually Monday-Thursday, 10 am -- 2 pm.  
Please call before coming.

Kelly Spring, (she/ her) Communications Specialist, [communications@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:communications@anchorageuuf.org)  
Kelly's remote office hours Mon, Wed, Thursday Friday 9 am -1 pm

Megan Webb, (she/ her) Music Director, [auufmusic@gmail.com](mailto:auufmusic@gmail.com)

Ray Macfarlane (they/none), Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, [drray@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:drray@anchorageuuf.org)  
Office hours TBA

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