

**THE ADIRONDACK**  
**COMMUNITARIAN**



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

**Volume 115**

**June 2012**

**June Calendar**

**June 10**

Phyllis Magnus

The Second Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Social Justice Committee will meet after service

**June 24**

Credo Service

Social Justice Committee will meet after service.

**July Calendar**

**July 8**

David Weissbard  
Topic TBA

Social Justice Committee will meet after service

**July 22**

Sigrin Newell  
Flower Communion

Social Justice Committee will meet after service.

**Attention Knitters and Crocheters!**

Double Ewe Knitters will be meeting on Wednesday evening July 13th at 6:30 Pm at Joyce's home at 3 Cranberry Way. Bring whatever you are working on. We can discuss what our goal is , in making and donating items to a worthwhile cause. If you like to go to yard sales, keep your eyes open for" on sale "yarn. Joyce Henklein 891-7761

**UUA at a Click**

**Ever wonder how the chalice came to symbolize UUism?**

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. To read more, click on this link "[Our Flaming Chalice](#)".

(link:

[www.uua.org/publications/pamphlets/introductions/151248.shtml](http://www.uua.org/publications/pamphlets/introductions/151248.shtml) )

**"So do your work in the world that others may do their work better."**

**Felix Adler**

**Dear friends,**

This letter is short because there has just been too much going on in life to sit and write it.

We have a slate of candidates for new church officers that we can be very proud of.

Gail Brill (my wife) is citizen of the year in Saranac Lake. Way too cool.

My son Spencer is moving to NYC to start a new career.

Thanks to all of you for your support and understanding.

In faith,  
**Jason Brill**

### **AUUC-ers Meet with Senator Betty Little on Transgender Equality**

Three Saranac Lake area residents, including AUUC members Ginger Slater and Ann Mullen, were part of a larger group that met with Senator Betty Little on May 29<sup>th</sup> at her office in Glens Falls. The group met with Senator Little to advocate for a bill that would add civil rights protection for transgendered individuals to the existing law.

There was moving testimony from the transgendered participants about the daily issues they and their brothers and sisters face: harassment on the job, being turned away at public places such as restaurants, homelessness due to impoverishment, and problems with identification and documentation. In the words of a Saranac-laker: “We just want to live, work and be.”

Senator Little had several questions about the legislation and she was cordial, candid and open to what we had to say. She said that her position was evolving and that she hadn’t yet made up her mind on the bill.

We left the meeting in a hopeful frame of mind. For more information about this bill, known as GENDA, you can click on the following link: <http://www.prideagenda.org> and scroll down to the article headlined “Win Transgendered Equality and Justice.”

### **Covenant Group Forming**

By Ann Mullen

As many of you know, Karen and I were members of a UU congregation in New Jersey. There, I was a member and leader of a small group called a “covenant group.” Covenant groups are intended to foster spiritual growth and community intimacy across congregations.

There were several covenant groups at our congregation there, and our minister modeled them on a form of UU worship called “Evensong.” The experience I had was very rewarding, and so I want to introduce it at the AUUC. Here’s my vision.

There will be a total of eight weekly meetings of about one and a half to two hours each. Each meeting will have a particular topic, for example, “The Divine” or “The Community – What’s Possible Together?” The topics, readings and songs are all based on the book “Evensong” by Barbara Hamilton-Holway, published by Skinner House.

The format for each meeting is this: we light the chalice, and we sing a simple opening song. The first few minutes are dedicated to checking in: each member shares a few sentences about his or her day or week with the others. After a few moments of silence, a bowl of readings is passed among us, and each

of us selects and reads one to the group without commenting on it. When the readings have all been read, we enter into a period of silent meditation, about ten minutes.

After the meditation ends, we begin a period of personal sharing about the topic. No one is required to say anything, but most people do say something. Then we conclude with a closing song, and extinguish the chalice.

During the check-in and the personal sharing, there's no "cross-talk," which some people might be familiar with from twelve step programs. No cross-talk means that each member says what he or she would like to say, and the rest of us listen respectfully, without any comment or visible reaction. This is freeing for both the speaker and the listeners. No one has to feel like they have to solve someone else's problem (if there is a problem) and the speaker owns his or her thoughts and holds them in the silence that follows. No cross-talk also helps to foster a safe space for each of us to share with the others. To quote Barbara Hamilton-Holway, "People's stories and thoughts are personal and sacred, deep material worth the group's regard, full respect and gratitude."

This can be a really magical experience, and a covenant group may be for you. The most important requirement a member needs to have is the sincere ability to deeply listen to others, and the willingness to adapt to the format of no cross-talk.

The group is limited to ten. Spouses/partners are strongly urged not to participate in the same group, so consider that as you make your decision to join or not.

The particulars:

- ◆ 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- ◆ Place is TBD; I'm still looking for a neutral place. (Most home settings are not ideal for creating distraction-free space.) If we need to rent space, then the cost will need to be shared across the members.
- ◆ Dates: Wednesday evenings: July 11<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Places open: 10. Please sign up only if you can make a commitment to all or most meetings.
- ◆ Sign up by emailing Ann Mullen at [ann.c.mullen@gmail.com](mailto:ann.c.mullen@gmail.com)
- ◆ Questions? Call Ann at 891-5735.

"Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people?"

Abraham Lincoln

## Contact Numbers

[www.adkuu.org](http://www.adkuu.org)

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	Karen Graff	891-5735
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**We the member congregations of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and  
promote**

*-The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*

*-Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*

*-Acceptance of one another and encouragement to  
spiritual growth in our congregations.*

*-A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

*-The right of conscience and the use of democratic  
process within our congregations and in society at  
large.*

*-The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and  
justice for all.*

*-Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of  
which we are a part.*



**From the "Church of the open mind, loving heart, and helping hand" to**

**Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community  
89 Church Street  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983**