

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 114

May 2012

May Calendar

May 13

Christopher Argyros of Empire Pride Agenda
Your Star in the Gender Constellation

May 27

Dan Berggren
Topic TBA

June Calendar

June 10

Phyllis Magnus
Second Principle

June 24

TBA

Annual LGBT Pride Service

The right to freely express one's gender is a human right, as well as a global human rights issue. At this service, our speaker will be Christopher B. Argyros, Transgender Rights Organizer of the Empire State Pride Agenda.

After the service and coffee hour, Christopher will lead a workshop focused on current LGBT legislative and grassroots initiatives, including the effort to pass the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA). GENDA would outlaw discrimination in New York State based on gender identity or expression. Currently it is legal in most parts of New York to be fired from your job, kicked out of your home or be denied credit or public accommodations (like service in a restaurant) simply for being transgender. GENDA also expands the state's hate crimes law to explicitly include crimes against transgender people.

All are welcome to attend!

UUA at a Click!

The Unitarian Universalist Association holds its annual General Assembly this year in Phoenix, Arizona, beginning June 20th and ending on June 24th.

Among the plans are several "Public Witness" events, including a candlelight vigil at the infamous "tent jail" of Sheriff Joe Arpaio on Saturday, June 23rd. For more information about other Social Justice events at the Assembly, visit <http://www.uua.org/ga/values/12746.shtml>.

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

- James Freeman Clarke

Congregant Care News

One of our goals this year is to plan social activities to increase the time we spend together as a congregation.

- We are launching our first **AUUC Women's Lunch Bunch** get-together on Saturday, May 19, at Nona Fina's in Saranac Lake at noon. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP Susan Arnold at 891-3744 or emailsarnold3744@verizon.net by May 11.
- The Knitters are at it again making lap blankets for the infirm and hoping you'll join them with your knitting needles after Sunday services
- Coming soon...ideas for a men's group if there is interest, a book club in the fall, congregation dessert parties, a poetry group and walking excursions

We hope you'll join us and have fun getting to know each other. Your ideas are most welcome. Our committee needs more members. Are you interested?

With AUUC love, Susan

Presidential Letter

Dear Friends,

This letter is late but now there is something to write. Our annual fundraising rummage sale, the Junque-a-rama was another great event. It's a wonderful day to make new friends and recycle piles of no longer used stuff and make a profit. Thank you to Elaine Holmlund for one again leading the event and all the volunteers who helped

I want to assure all of you that we have not forgotten about all of the things we discussed at our congregational meeting. They are very much on our mind and on our agendas. The things we need to do as a congregation are not simple, nor are they things that can be accomplished quickly.

We need to decide three important things and do one other. The three decisions are in no particular order, whether we move to our own building, when and how to do a ministerial search, and finally, do we become a full time, every Sunday church community? What we need to do is attract young families and others to grow our community. We are working on both of these things.

There is definitely a "chicken or the egg" relationship between all of these things. But we are looking at all of them very carefully.

In community,
Jason Brill
President

News From the Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Forum Picks Up Steam

Still in its infancy as a committee, Social Justice is forging ahead. Last December, on the heels of several planning and organizing sessions, Gary Burke wanted us to DO SOMETHING! He proposed a presentation on solar ovens, a simple, effective solution to a host of problems in developing nations. That seed grew into the committee's current efforts to host a monthly community forum on social justice issues.

Ironically, there has never been a solar oven forum. In February a small group met in the John Black room to watch a short film on adoptee rights and discuss the issues raised in the film. March was a bust. We are pleased to announce, however, that April's showing of You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train (a documentary chronicling the activism of Howard Zinn) was a success! Twice as many people attended in April, and we were happy to see some folks there who do not attend services.

The tentative plan for the May forum is to host a discussion on post traumatic stress syndrome. Information will be available by our May 13th meeting. We hope to see you there!

Growing Hope

The Social Justice Committee is following in the footsteps of our neighbors in Canton. This year we will be tending a special plot at one of Common Ground Gardens community garden sites. We plan to grow some food for local hunger relief organizations, while raising our local profile and having some fun in the dirt!

The gardening project is wonderful collaboration. Our demonstration garden is part of vegetable varieties trial orchestrated by Cornell, and Cornell is supplying us with seeds, starts, and signage. Common Ground Gardens is furnishing us with a free plot and secured a grant by which all of our building expenses (about \$300) have been paid. Finally, coordination and education is being provided by Master Gardener Volunteers and Cornell Cooperative Extension staff (special thanks to Rich Gast at Franklin County CCE).

In all earnestness this isn't the most effective way to get food to the hungry, but our committee is very excited to be modeling practices that mirror our values. By growing this food ourselves we show that it can be done; we do it with a minimal environmental footprint; and we involve others in our efforts. In that sense we are not just growing vegetables--we're growing hope!

You needn't be a Social Justice Committee member (or even a UU) to participate in the garden project. We want all the help we can get! Contact Adrien Vlach ([734-474-4706](tel:734-474-4706)) to find out how you can get involved.

Go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is.
-Anonymous

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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 hearts, and helping hand" to

**Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community
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