

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 133

December 2013

December Schedule

December 1

Jason Brill

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15 RE
Room

December 8

Rev. David Weissbard
TBA

December 15

Joyce Henklein

"It matters. How we gain our beliefs" Sofia
Lyons Fah.

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15 RE
Room

December 22

Ginger Slater
Winter Celebration

December 29

Bark of the Covenant
Stewardship Service

January Schedule

January 5

TBA

January 12

Jamie Whidden

African-Brazilian Culture, Religion, Music,
and Dance

Ecumenical Council Meeting Highlights

The Council met on Monday, December 2nd, at St. Luke's. The following represents the Council's work in progress:

- ◆ Grace Pantry is off to a great start, according to coordinator Jody Deal. It's located at The Baldwin House next to St. Luke's and is open on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 until 4:30. The Pantry offers supplies to those in need such as diapers, paper towels and toilet paper, shampoo and soap - items that the Food Pantry doesn't carry. It serves up to 70 people each week. Consider volunteering! Contact Jody at [518-327-3979](tel:518-327-3979) or at jodydeal@hughes.net. Thank you!
- ◆ Homeless Shelter progress:
 - ◆The recent concert raised \$700 for the shelter.
 - ◆St. Luke's Episcopal Church vestry voted to donate \$9,300 to the shelter in January.
 - ◆Our current balance on hand for the shelter is over \$9,000. With the donation from St. Luke's, it will be over \$18,000. Excellent progress - more funds are needed. Other fundraisers, for example two special collections, are planned to raise the funds needed.
 - ◆105 Christmas food boxes will be prepared by Council volunteers, to be distributed to families in need.

Please support the work of the Council!

" We are bound to one another by the same love of the
 Light."

 Arons  Bayet

Ministerial Search Committee Update

We are pleased to have completed our Information Packet to submit for posting by the Unitarian Universalist St. Lawrence District. Communication with the Reverend Chris Nielson, Congregant Life Consultant, continues as she aids us in this process. One of the final tasks before posting the Information Packet was a AUUC website and we are thrilled that Gail and Jason Brill set up such a great one! At the MSC meeting 11/25, it was decided to make February 28, 2014, our deadline for receiving ministers' applications for our position. Following screening, we hope to have a few individuals to interview as pre-candidates. One will be selected as a candidate by the MSC to visit, preach and meet with the AUUC congregation.

A vote is held by the congregation at the end of that week, on whether or not to extend an invitation to that individual to be our minister.

PLEASE NOTE. Members of the MSC have at times been approached about someone who might be interested in our ministry. We are considering applications of Unitarian Universalist ministers only, and only those who provide a Ministerial Record for consideration. We request that names not be submitted to the MSC. Information for ministers wishing to contact the MSC will be found on the UUA and St. Lawrence District websites.

Phyllis Magnus, Co-chair, for the MSC



Famous UU Women

Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams was born at the No. Parish Congregational Church in Weymouth, MA to the Rev. William Smith and Elizabeth Quincy Smith. On her mother's side, she was descended from the Quincys, a well-known political family in Mass. Colony. She was a cousin of John Hancock's wife, Dorothy Quincy. Adams's father was a liberal Congregationalist minister who emphasized the importance of reason and morality.

Abigail was not considered healthy enough for formal schooling but was educated by her mother and had access to her father's, uncle's and grandfather's large libraries. As an intellectually open-minded woman for her day, her ideas on woman's rights and government would play a major role in the founding of the U.S. She is said to be one of the most erudite women ever to serve as First Lady and was referred to as "Mrs. President" by her political opponents.

Abigail was an advocate of property rights for married women plus greater educational opportunities for her sex. She felt strongly that women should not submit to laws not made in their interests nor should they be content with simply being companions for their husbands. She may be best known for her 1776 letter to her husband and the Continental Congress requesting that they "remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could."

The Adams family belonged to the First Parish Church in Quincy, MA which became Unitarian in doctrine by 1753. Late in life, she wrote to her son that she believed that the Father alone is the supreme God and that Jesus derived his Being and all his powers from the Father. "There is not any reasoning which can convince me that three is one and one three."

submitted by Elaine Holmlund

Holiday Concert

AUUC musician Sue Grimm wanted us all to know that she's going to be in an upcoming holiday show.

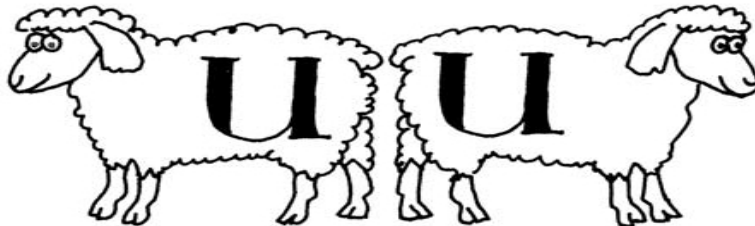
The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble will give two performances of a Festival of Lessons and Carols. Anthems, carols, and hymns illuminate the Christmas story along with community readers and congregational singing in the beloved tradition of King's College, Cambridge:

-Saturday December 21st at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

-Sunday, December 22nd at 4:00 p.m at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid

Admission is a suggested donation of \$10. For more information please find us on Facebook or contact drew.benware@gmail.com.

Double Ewe News



Also, For Double Ewe Knitters. Two boxes of knitted ware, hats, mittens and scarves were delivered to the Bloomingdale and Petrova schools to make sure that children are warmly clad for the cold weather. Knitted infants caps will be given to the newborn nurse at the Adirondack medical Center. This is great public relations for our UU community. The recipients are very appreciative Have a great holiday -Joyce



The Church of the Larger Fellowship

Unitarian Universalist

Top Ten Reasons You Might Not Like It Here

BELIEF #1. God wrote it, I read it, that settles it.

In this community, we're not really focused on "settling" things. You're more likely to hear words like exploring, questioning, wondering, learning, growing And we don't hold that there are particular words that God wrote and others that God didn't. You're as likely to hear poetry by Rumi, contemporary musicians, or names in the newspaper cited as you are Christian or Jewish scriptures. In fact, not everyone here believes in God at all!

BELIEF #2. There is only one right way, and many wrong ways, to understand what is most holy, precious and true.

We are a community of atheists, Christians, Buddhists, earth-based and pagan folks, humanists, agnostics, people who celebrate multiple religious traditions...we are a community of journeyers and spiritual adventurers. None of us is seeking "The Truth" so much as we are seeking a dance with the mystery, with the holy, as our daily practice.

BELIEF #3. It really doesn't matter what I do day to day in my life, so long as I have done the proper rituals and accepted God into my heart.

We believe that faith is, ultimately, to be experienced in how you live. We have no creeds or dogmas, but we do invite one another to reflect on how our lives hold up when looked at through the eyes of our values—love being central among those values. Are our actions creating more love on the planet? Are we helping each other? Are we kind? Are we making the world more just?

BELIEF #4. Some people are worthy of help and love, and some people just aren't.

We believe that no God would create people in order to damn them, that the chance to wake up exists throughout life for all people. We're not chumps or fools; we understand that people do some truly rotten things. But we believe that the limitations on loving those people are our own, and not to be attributed to some external force called God or any other name.

BELIEF #5. God will reward the good and punish the bad after death.

Though we have as many opinions on the subject of what happens after death as we do on anything else, you won't find many people here who talk about Hell. We believe that most hell is suffered here on this planet, and it is our task to hold each other accountable for the hell we create for others.

BELIEF #6. Spirituality has no connection to the world of politics.

Of course we don't get into the business of electoral politics or supporting candidates. But we are a community of activists related to our values: Supporting marriage equality; protecting the earth from degradation; standing up for human rights for people regardless of economic status, immigration status, physical and mental ability, gender identity and every other descriptor used to dehumanize or ignore people. You'll find a disproportionate number of activists here.

BELIEF #7. God has created a natural order, and traditional families and gender roles reflect that order.

We think the universe is a complex place, and that gay and lesbian couples, feminist men and women, transgender and bisexual people, multiracial and multicultural families, are part of the great gift of human diversity that makes life interesting. You will find members of this community from all walks of life, who experience love in their lives in very different ways.

BELIEF #8. God gave the earth to humans. Humans have dominion over the earth.

We talk a lot about something we call “the interdependent web of all existence.” That is to say, we understand ourselves as completely inseparable from and bound up with the earth, as dependent on it as we are on the air that fills our lungs. Far from having dominion or controlling it, we believe that we need to be grateful for this wonderful gift and show our gratitude through good care and respect.

BELIEF #9. People here are just waiting for someone like me to tell them the truth, so that they can become better people and be worthy of God’s love.

Whatever your truth, people here will be eager to learn from you about it. However, we will be equally eager to share our own truths with you! People are not here awaiting deliverance from ourselves. We are looking for companionship, conversation, understanding...not for someone else to save us.

BELIEF #10. I have nothing to offer this community, but I can receive from others.

We are interested in your journey and your story. We believe that you bring unique wisdom and gifts, just the ones we have been waiting for! We are happy to share with you, and understand you might feel shy for a while, but we’re going to want to know you. We encourage you to start small and get to know a few people. We hope you will find this to be a safe, nurturing community where you can be your most authentic self.



The Visionary

by Emily Brontë

Silent is the house: all are laid asleep:
One alone looks out o’er the snow-wreaths deep,
Watching every cloud, dreading every breeze
That whirls the wildering drift, and bends the groaning trees.

Cheerful is the hearth, soft the matted floor;
Not one shivering gust creeps through pane or door;
The little lamp burns straight, its rays shoot strong and far:
I trim it well, to be the wanderer’s guiding-star.

Frown, my haughty sire! chide, my angry dame!
Set your slaves to spy; threaten me with shame:
But neither sire nor dame nor prying serf shall know,
What angel nightly tracks that waste of frozen snow.

What I love shall come like visitant of air,
Safe in secret power from lurking human snare;
What loves me, no word of mine shall e’er betray,
Though for faith unstained my life must forfeit pay.

Burn, then, little lamp; glimmer straight and clear—
Hush! a rustling wing stirs, methinks, the air:
He for whom I wait, thus ever comes to me;
Strange Power! I trust thy might; trust thou my constancy.

Contact Numbers

www.adkuu.org

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Ministerial Search: Jean Chamberlain
Phyllis Magnus



**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
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