

# THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

**Volume 127**

**June 2013**

## **June Schedule**

### **June 2**

Adrien Vlach  
Peace vs. Justice  
Flowers by: Laura Reid  
Social Justice Committee Meeting  
11:15 RE Room

### **June 5**

Social Justice Forum 6:30-8:30  
Immigration Issues

### **June 9**

Board Meeting 8AM RE Room  
Christine Jenkins  
Pride Service  
Flowers by: Emily Warner

### **June 16**

Kimberly Bouchard  
  
Flowers by: Ginger Slater  
Social Justice Committee Meeting  
11:15 RE Room

### **June 23**

Rev. David Weissbard  
  
Flowers by: Randall and LJ Swanson  
Congregational picnic after service

### **June 30**

Ministerial Search Committee  
  
Flowers by: Adrien and Julia

## **Ministerial Search Congregational Survey**

The Ministerial Search Committee will electronically be sending out a Congregational Survey the first week in June, in order to find out the congregations' thoughts, desires and concerns regarding the choosing of a part-time minister for our community. The information from these surveys will form the description of what AUUC is looking for in a part-time minister and will guide the Ministerial Search Committee in their process to find and hire a part-time minister that is a good fit for our congregation.

You can complete this short survey electronically and return it to Jean Chamberlain by June 16th. There will also be hard copies of the survey available at the services the first two Sundays in June for you to complete. The Ministerial Search Committee members will be conducting the service on June 30 and the survey results will be shared with the congregation during this service.

Thank you so much for your prompt response to the Ministerial Search Congregational Survey. The deadline to receive your response in June 16th. The information you provide to the Ministerial Search Committee is critical in directing their search for the perfect part-time minister for our community.

Contact Phyllis Magnus or Jean Chamberlain with any questions.

"You are what you do, not what you say you'll do"  
\_Carl Jung

## President's Letter

Dear friends,

This is my last letter to you as president of the board. It has been an honor to serve as your president. We've accomplished a lot together and we should be proud of ourselves as a congregation.

Whenever I think of the AUUC, I think of the tremendous number of tasks that have to be accomplished to keep our congregation going. It's hard to believe that we do all that needs to be done with such a small band of folks.

There is a lot going on – the Ministerial Search Committee, the Caring Committee, the Social Justice Committee, the Nominating Committee, a revitalized RE program, the Worship Committee, the *Communitarian*, the setup and breakdown of the John Black Room for services, refreshments and dishwashing, flowers, publicity and ads, donations of time and money, volunteers for announcements, chalice lightings, sermons, the work of the board. I'm sure I've forgotten someone, and for that I apologize. Again, we can be proud of ourselves! If there is one thing outside our little congregation that I've wanted to make sure of as president is that we stay connected to the larger world of the Unitarian Universalist Association. That's important to me and to us. We have a very important message to deliver to spiritual seekers who are independent-minded, socially progressive and turned off by bureaucracy and dogma. We are here!

All the work that you do is directed at making certain that we are a vital, open group of people who are there when the people I've described are looking for a spiritual home. Thank you again for giving me the honor of serving as your president.

All my best,  
Ann Mullen



### Farmers' Market Season is Here!

The AuSable Valley Grange Farmers' Markets in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid are open! Saranac Lake Village Farmers' Market pens this Saturday in Riverside Park from 9-2. I know the Farmers have had a great Spring, so there is bounty on it's way! The Lake Placid Market opens next Wednesday at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts from 9-1. Eat well, know your farmer and support the local economy!

### June 9<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting

The Nominating Committee has not been able to identify enough candidates to fill all open

slots on the board. So, this is a final appeal from Ann Mullen to step forth and volunteer to serve in this important way. Contact Vini Fallica if you're interested. We need new voices on the board – this may mean you!

So, what we will do, in lieu of distributing a formal slate, is to nominate the slate from the floor, as provided in our bylaws.

The nominees we have so far are: Adrien Vlach for president; Ginger Slater for vice-president. Karen White and Laura Reid will continue on as their terms are not up.

Again, we need volunteers for two open seats!



### UUA @ a Click

As part of a shared social witness across UU congregations, each UU General Assembly chooses social issues for study and action. Then, UU congregations across the country choose (if they wish) to focus on studying a particular social issue, sometimes for multiple years. These are called “Congregational Study/Action Issues” (CSAIs)

#### Current CSAIs

- 2010-2014 CSAI: [Immigration as a Moral Issue](http://uua.org/immigration/re/moral/index.shtml)
- <http://uua.org/immigration/re/moral/index.shtml>
- 2012-2016 CSAI: [Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling](http://uua.org/reproductive/calling/index.shtml)
- <http://uua.org/reproductive/calling/index.shtml>

#### Recent Past CSAIs

- 2008-2012 CSAI, now 2011 SOC: [Ethical Eating](http://uua.org/environment/eating/index.shtml)
- <http://uua.org/environment/eating/index.shtml>
- 2006-2010 CSAI, now 2010 SOC: [Creating Peace](http://uua.org/peace/creating/index.shtml)
- <http://uua.org/peace/creating/index.shtml>

After this year's General Assembly, we may want to join our sister congregations in studying whichever issue is chosen for study and reflection. Ann Mullen will provide more information in the July issue of the Communitarian. Meanwhile, click on any of the above links to learn more about previous years' social witness issues.



### News From the Caring Committee

Caring Committee: Save the date! **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**, we'll be celebrating summer's arrival with a picnic following our Sunday service at 11:15 a.m. If the sun is out, we'll bask on the back patio so bring your sunscreen and a potluck item that brings to mind a summer picnic –

sandwiches, pickles, chips, salads and/or desserts. We'll provide the beverages and table settings.

Our AUUC community seems to be in very good health and spirits. Henri Trapp will be arriving home from Arizona and soon our seasonal residents will be joining us for services.

Congratulations to Elodie Linck, winner of second place in the ninth Masonic Essay contest for Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This year's essay topic was "Who in history would you like to interview and why is that person significant to you?" Elodie's topic was Audrey Hepburn and following close behind her was her friend, Dana Holmlund, granddaughter of Elaine and Richard Holmlund, who finished in a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place for her presentation on John Lennon. Elodie is also doing an excellent job babysitting for the youngest members of our UU community.



### **Social Justice Committee News**

After months of planning, we're pleased to announce the official date for our Immigration Issues forum. The forum will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:30pm! An informal reception will follow.

We have a great panel lined up to speak on immigration and agriculture, as it is an issue affecting the North Country. Gonzalo Martinez de la Vida from Workers' Justice Center will be speaking about issues related to human trafficking and undocumented workers. Ralph Child of Childstock Farm will be speaking as a farmer, he was one of the speakers at the local Federal Farm Bill Hearing recently. Rick LeVitre from Cornell Cooperative Extension will also be speaking, having studied labor and agriculture.

Most exciting of all is that we will have NCPR's David Sommerstein moderating the event! Listeners will already know that Sommerstein has done plenty of reporting on immigration as a social and legislative issue and has predicted that it will be this summer's hot topic.



### **An Update from Ginger on the Adoptee Rights Movement**

At church May 5th, Susan Arnold brought a current "Dear Abby" letter to my attention knowing my advocacy for adoptee reform legislation in New York State (and eventually federal legislation) where adult adoptees are denied access to their Original Birth Records, a birthright of all other citizens. "Abby" Informed the American public in her letter that we have open records in this country. Dear Friends, UUA lists this subject as one of our Social Justice Issues, so please read my rebuttal.

Dear Abby,

In your column dated April 30, 2013, you wrote: "DEAR DREADING THE FUTURE: It is natural for children to want to know who their biological parents are; that's the reason adoption records are no longer sealed." Your statement is incorrect and misleads your readers. Denied access to Original Birth Certificate (OBCs) millions of adult adoptees nationwide are denied knowledge of ancestral origins and family physical and mental health medical histories. A significant number die prematurely, others live undiagnosed or misdiagnosed for physical and mental illnesses. The United Nations has cited the United States, among other nations, for human rights violations in this regard.

In fact, according to the American Adoption Congress compilation of birth record access state by state dated 2010, the following are the facts:

Only two states, Alaska and Kansas have never had closed records and adoptees have direct access to Original Birth Records (OBC).

Alabama, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon and Rhode Island (2012) allow adult adoptees access to OBC.

Massachusetts allows access to adult (18) adoptees born before July 17, 1974, but prohibits access to adult adoptees born after July 17, 1974.

Tennessee allows adult adoptee access to OBC unless birth parent was the victim of incest or rape and does not consent to disclosure.

The remaining 43 states do not allow adult adoptees access to their OBC.

There is a great struggle taking place in the USA to legislate Adoptee Rights Reform bills in each state so that these citizens can enjoy the same birthrights as every other American. (UUA ADVOCATES FOR THIS)

Though I believe your intentions were good, your fact was incorrect. There is a need to address that for the sake of the untold numbers effected by having read it. Consider the many thousands Birth Parents, Adoptees, and Adoptive Parents who have been working for years trying to effect change by getting laws passed to open records, and continuing the struggle for Adoptee equality. Few know the suffering of the that was created when states began sealing birth records and issuing falsified documents in the 1930s, or of the Birth Mothers who were often institutionalized in "homes for unwed mothers" where they were reviled as unfit and coerced into signing documents relinquishing their parental rights without ever having met with a lawyer and without ever being counseled about post-adoption grief. In their vulnerable and grieving state, they were told to forget their babies, keep it a secret, and get on with their lives. No mother forgets her baby. Birth Mothers never received a copy of the official Relinquishment of Parental Rights, to which they were entitled by law.

I hope we will see this letter published Your readers trust you and deserve the truth.

## Contact Numbers

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

President:	Ann Mullen	891-5735
Vice President	Gary Alexander	354-7823
Secretary:	Laura Reid	359-2019
Treasurer:	Karen Graff	891-5735
Trustees:	Karen White	524-1100
	Adrien Vlach	(734) 474-4706
	Jason Brill	586-1064
Worship Committee:		
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Children's Programming:	Gail Brill	891-7230
Communitarian:	Courtney Miller	
	(starrypoetics@gmail.com)	
Double Ewe Knitters:	Joyce Henklein	891-7761
Caring Committee:	Susan Arnold	891-3744
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Flower Power Program:		
	Elaine Holmlund	891-6717
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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**