

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 124

March 2013

March Schedule

March 3rd

Ann Mullen and Karen Graff: Women's History
Flowers by: Karen Graff

March 10th

8AM Board Meeting
Service TBA
Brief Congregational Meeting directly after
service in regards to the Ministerial Search
Committee.

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15
Flowers by: Sue Grimm

March 17th

Rev. David Weissbard
Respecting Property
Flowers by: Bonnie Harlan

March 24th

Service TBA
Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15
Game Day
Flowers by: Vincine Fallica

March 31st

Easter and Passover
Flowers by: Elaine Holmlund

ANNUAL JUNQUERAMA

It's getting near time for our annual Junquearama!! The date is May 4 from 9-3 pm at our usual spot across from Casa del Sol. We will be selling gently used clothing (no shoes, please, unless they are new), books (both hard cover and soft), kitchen stuff, small appliances and linens, CDs and DVDs, bric-a-brac, sports equipment, small furniture pieces, toys, etc. As before, please bring your clothing on hangers as it makes it so much easier for the committee. We have loads of hangers in the attic if you need them. If you have large items that you'd rather not transport, let me know. This is our big fund-raiser so please think of us when you're doing spring cleaning. We'll be asking for your help with the labor as it gets closer.

Elaine Holmlund, Chair

**"Let us not look back in anger nor
forward in fear but around in
awareness"**

-James Thurber

President's Letter

Dear friends,

Karen and I have promised to deliver an inspiring service on March 3rd in honor of International Women's Day.

To that end, I've been reading a terrific biography of Olympia Brown by Charlotte Cote. As you may know, Olympia Brown was the first woman in the United States to receive ordination by national church officials, **and** she was a Universalist! She had four passions: her religion, the struggle for women's rights, being with her family, and working in her garden. It's been exciting to read about her, and also to read snippets of her sermons in which she expressed her belief in the universal love of God for the people of the world. She believed that the doctrine of universal love and salvation, if embraced by the world, would end wars, lead to equal rights for all human beings and bring about a lasting peace.

Learning more about Olympia Brown makes me think about our little corner of the world. We are a vibrant center of independent religious thought, in the midst of a vibrant and creative town. I truly believe we make a difference, not only as individuals, but also as a religious community.

Here's to carrying on Olympia's torch!

I think a lot about the individual contributions people make to our congregation, especially when I'm writing these president's letters. Each member or friend makes a difference – each Sunday we meet and it all works out so beautifully. Just a quick thank you this month to Courtney Miller; she's doing a great job delivering The Communitarian to us, on time, and with great content, too.

Yours in Unitarian Universalism,

Ann

UUA @ a Click

One of my favorite Unitarians of all time – do you know who she is?



For more notable Unitarians, click here: <http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/UUA%20Online/index.html>

Ecumenical Council Update

The Ecumenical Council met on February 4th to discuss its progress on its ongoing projects. Among the highlights were:

- ◆ Plans for a website for the Council are underway. Members of the EC will be working with students at NCCC on the design. Our own Gail Brill has agreed to design a logo for the Council. **Thank you, Gail!**
- ◆ We reviewed a draft of the brochure for the homeless shelter, and we're going to be working with a volunteer grant writer as we begin the application process.
- ◆ The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. essay and poster contests were held in the high school and middle school respectively. The winner of the essay contest received a \$500 scholarship, and the poster contest winner received \$100.
- ◆ The Council adopted the following mission statement:
"The Ecumenical Council of Saranac Lake, Inc., is a faith-based organization whose values are based on respect, compassion and support for all persons in need. We are committed to issues of social justice and the awareness of the needs of others. Our focus is primarily upon providing shelter, food and guidance regarding social programs and job placement for those people in need of these services, with the goals of self-sufficiency and a stable physical and social life. We plan and promote ecumenical and inter-faith worship opportunities, as well as encourage school age children to develop interest in our values."



AUUC Library

Guess what? There is an AUUC library with at least 100 books available on loan. Where is it? It's upstairs in the office, which is open before and after services. **Check it out!** (No groans, please.)



Congregational Meeting After Service March 10th

On March 10th, we will be meeting briefly after services to validate the slate of members of the Ministerial Search Committee. At our congregational meeting in November, the members chose the following process for choosing members for the Committee:

- ◆ The members decided that the Board should choose a slate of proposed members for the Committee.
- ◆ The members will then validate this slate by a vote.

This meeting is to validate this slate.

The board spent a great deal of time discussing the makeup of the Committee. We wanted the Committee members to reflect the present and the future of the AUUC, and to have diversity in age, the number of years as UUs and in the AUUC, gender, religious views, to name a few. We

contacted all of the folks and every one was enthusiastic about serving!

The following is the slate:

Whitter Swanson
Silas Swanson
Julia Goren
Elaine Holmlund
Steve Dehond
Joyce Henklein
Phyllis Magnus
Randall Swanson
Ann Mullen
Jean Chamberlain

Once the members are formally elected, they will meet and select a chair. I will be serving on the Committee as a liaison to the board. The Committee will make monthly reports to the board.

Ann Mullen



St. Lawrence District Conference

The St. Lawrence and Ohio Meadville Districts will be holding a joint, annual conference in Niagara Falls on April 26-27. The two districts have dozens of congregations between them, and hundreds of people are expected to attend. Ann Mullen and Karen Graff are going to be attending, representing the AUUC. Reverend Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will give the keynote address. All AUUC members are welcome to attend, as well. Scholarships are available for all members, including youth members.

There will be a report about the conference in the May *Communitarian*.

For more information, click here: <http://www.sld.uua.org/>

“There is no money lost that is used in educating the people”

-Olympia Brown

Coffee Hour Goodies

For our February 3rd service, Phyllis Magnus provided some delicious treats that were all the rage. A few of the recipes she used are listed below for your pleasure. Happy snacking!

Carrot Butter

2 1/2 cups steamed carrots
2 tablespoons cashew or almond butter*
1 1/2 teaspoons Braggs Liquid Aminos
pinch of sea salt

*I used raw cashews, ground in coffee mill, and added just a bit of oil to moisten

Recipe in [Everyday Vegan](#), Jeani-Rose Atchison

No-Egg Salad

16-ounces firm tofu, drained and crumbled
1 celery rib, minced
2 shallots, minced
1 large dill pickle, minced
6 tbsp. soy mayonnaise*
Salt and freshly ground pepper

*I used Follow Your Heart brand, Vegenaïse (not the grapeseed type)

Recipe in [Vegan Planet](#), Robin Robertson

BBQ Popcorn

8 cups popped corn
2 tbsp vegan margarine
1 tbsp BBQ sauce*
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ground black pepper

In a small saucepan melt margarine until liquefied. Stir in other ingredients, tossing until well distributed.

*I used Dinosaur Bar-B-Que Wango-Tango; also, recipe called for a cup of mini pretzels which I forgot to add.

Recipe in La Dolce Vegan!, Sarah Kramer

Loving Acts of Kindness

Following our worship service on February 17th several congregation members approached me about including my sermon in the Communitarian. Ann Mullen and Karen Graff approved the idea. I would like to extend many thanks to the Worship Committee members, Jean Chamberlin, Joyce Henklein and Elaine Holmlund for their sage advice, Jean again for her wonderful children's story, "Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch" and Joyce for suggesting "The Good Samaritan" although we ran out of time due to our lively mid-sermon discussion. Thanks as well to Kathy Cross for her well-chosen musical selections and to the congregation members for their participation. -Susan Arnold

Opening Words: Hymn Book Reading #501

Spirit of Community, in which we share and find strength and common purpose, we turn our minds and hearts toward one another seeking to bring into our circle of concern all who need our love and support: those who are ill, those who are in pain, either in body or in spirit, those who are lonely, those who have been wronged. We are part of a web of life that makes us one with all humanity, one with all the universe.

We are grateful for the miracle of consciousness that we share, the consciousness that gives us the power to remember, to love and to care.

Acts of AUUC Loving Kindness and Caring"

By Susan Arnold

Good morning! I am Susan Arnold and chair of our Congregant Caring Committee which counts Carolyn Alexander, Steve Borst, Carrie DeClerque, Julia Goren, Stanley Ingison and Karen White among its members. If you are present, please wave your hand and say hello.

The mission of our committee is to care for the well-being of this Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community, known as AUUC, and tend to the joys, sorrows, concerns and socialization of the congregation's members and friends.

Our mission statement is based on the first Unitarian Universalist principle: to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Our goal is to provide a ministry of kindness and caring, and joyful get-togethers so that no member of our congregation need be alone.

So that we may identify each other we are creating a congregational directory with names, contact data and photographs. You will each receive a paper copy and online version. A directory questionnaire which will be circulated in March will provide you with the option of sharing information about yourself and your family.

Our covenant of acts of loving kindness and caring for our congregation, in the absence of a minister is to:

- ◆ **visit** the ill and recovering at home, in the hospital or nursing home
- ◆ **support** those who are going through a life crisis
- ◆ **maintain contact** with those unable to attend church due to illness or disability
- ◆ **support** friends and family involved in care giving
- ◆ **comfort** the bereaved
- ◆ **gain permission** from such persons and **maintain confidentiality**

Our program of joys and sorrows:

- ◆ sends cards to members on birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, births, holidays and achievements as we come to know the dates from you.
- ◆ sends cards during illness and following a death or loss, and for whatever need arises
- ◆ writes handwritten notes to accompany the card's message

Our program of activities for congregation members and visitors includes, with your approval, the following in chronological order:

- ◆ Game Days following our Sunday service (Bring your own bag lunch)
February 24th
March 24th
April 28th.
Many card tables have been volunteered as well as a boatload of games.
Bring a bag lunch for you (and your family) and enjoy an early afternoon of fun
- ◆ Next, an Easter potluck luncheon celebrating our lives and AUUC will take place following our service on Sunday, March 31. All are welcome to join us and bring a dish to share with others. Beverages will be provided.
- ◆ A spring picnic will be announced in early June
- ◆ Plans are also in the works for the annual August Hootenanny Picnic with our Canton UU neighbors and a Thanksgiving Day and a Christmas Day potluck luncheon celebration and afternoon of being together.

Although it doesn't sound like it, we are starting slowly and carefully choosing the activities which we can easily manage and do them well. More news will follow about each event.

Today, we are looking for feedback from you regarding our mission, goals and activities which I have just described. We are all in this together as we plan for our future.

- ◆ Do you agree with our committee's mission?
- ◆ Do you agree with our covenant of kindness and caring?
- ◆ If you find yourself out of sorts in any way, how would YOU liked to be cared for?
- ◆ Do you like the activities we've planned and are you looking forward to attending?
- ◆ Do you have questions about something I haven't mentioned?
- ◆ Are you willing to let us know if you know of someone who needs a visit, a call or a card? If so, we plan to have a basket for joys and concerns that are not mentioned in our service.

In conclusion, where we go from here depends on you and me. On how we live our personal lives and on the kindness and compassion we show one another. By giving love, we tap into the love that is inherent in us.

We claim our divinity, opening the way to the higher self. We experience being part of the unity of life, connected with others and with our surroundings.

When you see a need, ask yourself if you can help to fill it. Give yourself to life. Love and caring is your secret talisman. The more you give, the more you have to give, and the more you receive. As you help, you are helped. And as you heal others, you yourself are healed.

In our elder years, when we look back on our lives, our joy won't spring from what we gained, but from what we gave. As we reflect on the part we played in helping to reduce the suffering in the world by tending to our fellow congregants, our respective communities of family, friends and neighbors and by extending acts of loving kindness to those in need, **a great peace will fill our hearts.**

Buoyed by this purest peace, we will be able to move easily from this world to the next, content that our lives had purpose; that we loved, and in loving, learned life's lessons well.

Closing Words: from The Beauty of Friendship

My Prayer

Give me work to do;
Give me health;
Give me joy in simple things.
Give me an eye for beauty,
A tongue for truth,
A heart that loves,
A mind that reasons,
A sympathy that understands;
Give me neither malice nor envy,
But a true kindness
And a noble common sense.
At the close of each day
Give me a book,
And a friend with whom
I can be silent.

Author Unknown

“If a bird sings among your branches, be not too ready to tame it.” –Henri Frederick Amiel



spring and All (By the road to the contagious hospital)

by William Carlos Williams

I

By the road to the contagious hospital
under the surge of the blue
mottled clouds driven from the
northeast-a cold wind. Beyond, the
waste of broad, muddy fields
brown with dried weeds, standing and fallen

patches of standing water
the scattering of tall trees

All along the road the reddish
purplish, forked, upstanding, twiggy
stuff of bushes and small trees
with dead, brown leaves under them
leafless vines-

Lifeless in appearance, sluggish
dazed spring approaches-

They enter the new world naked,
cold, uncertain of all
save that they enter. All about them
the cold, familiar wind-

Now the grass, tomorrow
the stiff curl of wildcarrot leaf
One by one objects are defined-
It quickens: clarity, outline of leaf

But now the stark dignity of
entrance-Still, the profound change
has come upon them: rooted, they
grip down and begin to awaken



Contact Numbers

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:		
	Gail Brill	891-7230
	Karen Graff	891-5735
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
Social Justice:	Courtney Miller	starrypoetics@gmail.com
	Stephen DeHond	sdehond@hotmail.com
Flower Power Program:		
	Elaine Holmlund	891-6717
Place:	Randall Swanson	891-3512
Stanley Ingison	946-7465	



**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
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