

**THE ADIRONDACK  
COMMUNITARIAN**



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

**Volume 132**

**November 2013**

**November Schedule**

**November 3**

Adrien Vlach

Polarization in Contemporary Culture and  
the Value of Healthy Disagreement

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15  
RE Room

**November 10**

Rev. David Weissbard  
Topic TBA

**November 17**

Kimberly Bouchard  
Topic TBA

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15  
RE Room

**November 24**

Elaine Holmlund  
Famous UU Women

**December 1**

Adrien Vlach  
Topic TBA

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15  
RE Room

**December 8**

Rev. David Weissbard  
Topic TBA

**The Food Pantry Needs Help**

Gail has been in touch with the Inter Faith Food Pantry, and they are in need of donations. They are in greatest need of cereal and protein (canned meat, fish, or peanut butter). If you wish to make a donation bring your donation to Sunday service and give it to Gail, she will make the delivery.

**Rising Light Sangha**

Interested in joining Rising Light Sangha? They meet twice a month on the first Friday and third Saturday. If you're interested in joining or being on the mailing list email Jen Curry at [jensanghacurry@gmail.com](mailto:jensanghacurry@gmail.com)

**Social Justice Committee News**

The Social Justice Committee continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month after the Sunday service. The SJC is actively pursuing 2 events. The first event we are hopeful will occur in November which is a showing of the movie "Girl Rising" and follows the lives on nine girls and the challenges and injustice they face in their cultures. The second event is a forum with panel discussion on bullying which we hope will occur the first week in December.

Steve

**"Be not simply good; be good for something."**

**-Henry David Thoreau**

## President's Letter and Congregation News

Dear Friends,

Some board meetings are mostly discussion of events past and ideas for things to come; a single issue dominates other board meetings; and some board meetings are the culmination of efforts, long in the making. The October meeting of our trustees was one of the latter, and in passing nine proposals, we paved the way for some great work. Here's a glimpse at my meeting notes and a little explanation:

### **Social Justice Forums**

- **Approved** - Host Bullying Forum
- **Approved** - GirlRising Screening(s)

### **Open House**

- **Approved** - Open House Planned by Susan Arnold, the Kellys, and Elaine Holmlund

The Board of Trustees reviews proposals for public functions that the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community may host, sponsor, or participate in. This ensures that our congregational identity does not become a convenient vessel for an agenda that does not reflect the needs or nature of the organization. As my notes (above) reflect, the board found nothing objectionable in the events proposed by our Social Justice Committee and the Caring Committee.

### **Pulpit Service**

**Approved** - Six Monthly Services by Dave Weissbard

Under ordinary circumstances I can't think of a reason why the Worship Committee would need board approval to retain an existing minister's services, but we did not approve a 2014 Budget at our June congregational meeting—what's more, we're knee deep in a ministerial search process. They asked, and we approved. A 2014 budget proposal is on the slate for the November meeting—that should prevent committees from having to play “mother, may I” for routine business as we go forward.

### **Purchase Additional Insurance**

- **Conditionally Approved** - Purchase Insurance (provided it does not cost more than \$240/yr.) as Required to Access Adjacent Building for R.E. Expansion

We have that old chicken/egg problem, and this is another creative attempt to dodge the paradox. The paradox—to grow we need money; for money we need to have grown—is broken, if we can bring in a minister and expand our facilities without having emptied the bank in the process. Gail made provisions for us to use the waiting room in the adjacent building, free of charge. All we have to do is prove that we have appropriate insurance (i.e. expand the existing policy to cover the new space).

### **Pursue Grants**

- **Approved** - Adrien to Pursue Grants to Defray MSC Expenses (Chalice Lighter, Convention of Universalists, etc.)

The ministerial search process is not one that comes without costs. Gail found us free space into which we can expand, when we have the need. In the same spirit I'm looking for some free money to help us

with our growing pains, specifically the cost of locating a minister. The grant applications want board approval, and the board was more than happy to oblige.

### **Sign Lease**

- **Approved** - Sign Lease Under Terms Previously Negotiated with HSL

Nothing exciting here. We approved a lease a year ago, but the paperwork was never finalized. Just to be certain we approved it again.

### **Ecumenical Council Shelter Campaign**

- ♦ **Approved** - Special Collection to be taken at a time of A. Mullen's choosing.
- ♦ **Tabled** - Capital Contribution to Shelter Project

Ann represents the AUUC on the Ecumenical Council, and the Council has been hard at work for several years, trying to establish a homeless shelter. They have reached the point where individual congregations are being asked to contribute to a capital campaign. The AUUC approved a special collection, but the board postponed a vote on an organizational donation, pending updated financial statements.

### **Appoint Interim Trustee**

- **Approved** – Glenn Arnold is approved to fill Karen White's vacated seat, if he accepts the invitation.

He said, "Yes". Welcome, Glenn! The board is delighted to add your wisdom to the process of governing our beautiful, if motley crew. Glenn will execute Karen's term of office until the next scheduled elections in May, at which time the Community shall duly elect a member to complete that term.

Finally, Mother Teresa has some words regarding service and spirit:

*The Simple Path  
Silence is Prayer  
Prayer is Faith  
Faith is Love  
Love is Service  
The Fruit of Service is Peace*  
— Mother Teresa

~Adrien Vlach



### **News from the Caring Committee**

Greetings from your Congregant Caring Committee.

We are working with our Board of Directors and the Worship Committee to plan an AUUC

10+1 years Anniversary/Homecoming luncheon celebration in the new year. Date and plans to be announced. Invitations will be sent to past and present members and friends, and the public will be invited through a press release in the paper. The purpose of the event is to welcome everyone who has been a part of AUUC and thank them for all they did and are doing to make AUUC a success. Presentations about what we are doing with our ministerial search, thriving RE program and Forum Circle sermons will shine a light on AUUC, entice old friends to return and new friends to join us. Volunteers will be needed for this event.

Have you thought about being a Greeter on Sunday mornings? Joan Kelly is working with us to form a Greeters subcommittee to serve as our hosts for Sunday morning services. AUUC needs you for this easy, pleasant and purposeful volunteer position.

An AUUC Member and Friends Directory will be issued in time for our Homecoming celebration. Don't be surprised if you receive a phone call or email about information for this directory. Julia Goren and Adrien Vlach have taken photos of you for the directory, but we are missing many so we may ask for your submissions or let you know a date when your photo can be taken.

Paper copies of our Communitarian Newsletter will be available at services. Please call (891-3744) or email Susan Arnold at [sarnold3744@verizon.net](mailto:sarnold3744@verizon.net) if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Best wishes to each of you as we move into the Holiday season and may you join us in our intergenerational spiritual community that nurtures love, harmony, acceptance and freedom of belief during this busy time.

Susan Arnold for the Caring Committee.



### **Notes from the Worship Committee**

We had a service about our services, and our coming together at services as a community. We addressed the questions:

- What makes me come to services? What is satisfying or inspiring?
- What do I like most/ like least about our services?
- What do I wish was different? What is missing?
- What topics or presenters would I like to see added?

Here are many of the comments of the group:

- ◆ What makes me come to services? All of you. I love seeing you all as a singular group.
- ◆ We sound like a real community
- ◆ I get the value of belonging
- ◆ I come with the hope of hearing something that touches me.
- ◆ Remembering – a springboard for the rest of the week.
- ◆ Expand the positive community for myself and my children.
- ◆ I choose to come. It is a time I can have a few minutes to sit with people I can sing and cry with.

- ◆ My time is mixed in with responsibilities. I don't have enough time to reflect, to bring together parts of myself
- ◆ I come because I want to, not obligated to.
- ◆ For a little serious conversation in everyday life. The ideas I hear here are important.
- ◆ In my life, I am surrounded by Catholics, who have no idea of this kind of community.
- ◆ Anything goes. It doesn't matter if you make it here or not.
- ◆ I don't necessarily leave with new insights, but it is a great group of people.
- ◆ You all are NPR people
- ◆ I come worried, about attendance, etc. I didn't want to bring in negativity.
- ◆ Helps to focus on what is important.
- ◆ I find it hard to come sometimes. The community needs so much. I feel guilty – am I freeloading?
- ◆ So much support is needed. If I don't do it, who will? Not a good thing.
- ◆ God became so small because of all of the rules. Heaven is here, open and free.
- ◆ Not many know about UU and its values.
- ◆ Don't want to feel guilty if we don't come.
- ◆ Small church, don't know the big UU world.
- ◆ Our sons are learning a broad view of the world. It's an easy spiritual community for us. We want them to have open hearts, not a narrow minded look on life. It is more than I can give on my own.
- ◆ Add mindfulness – mind, body and spirit.
- ◆ I am missing the spiritual dimension
- ◆ We should not be nervous about hearing the word "Jesus" or about other faith symbols.
- ◆ We do not communicate well – what is going on with the minister search, the board, etc.
- ◆ Caring Committee is inviting people back
- ◆ The question to those that have left, and to all the members is "What do you want that would have you come back?"
- ◆ The tenderness is not there.
- ◆ When we had Ann and Wade, there was always a message you took home. Research that material, use it.
- ◆ I believe in consensus. It is an amazing process.

Let's keep the conversation going. Let us hear from you, your thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you,

The Worship Committee ( Elaine Holmlund, Joyce Henklein, Jason Brill, Jean Chamberlain, Susan Arnold and Karen Graff)

Email: [kegraff@gmail.com](mailto:kegraff@gmail.com)



### **Ministerial Search Committee Update**

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) was appointed by the Board in the fall of 2012 and the slate of members was approved by the congregation. Since that time,

the committee has been meeting regularly, learning and implementing the ministerial search guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association and working on the process of finding and hiring a part-time minister for the AUUC.

The committee designed and conducted a Ministerial Congregational Survey to find the congregation's thoughts, desires and concerns regarding the choosing of a part-time minister for our community. This information was collected, tabulated and analyzed by the committee and the findings shared with the congregation at a service on June, 2013. This information from the survey guided the MSC in their search process. The information was also used to compose a Ministerial Profile that clearly describes what the AUUC is looking for in a part-time minister. (This Ministerial Profile is included in this Communitarian).

The next step in the search process was compiling an informational packet requiring extensive information about the AUUC and the Saranac Lake community. Guidelines describing information to be included in the packet were from the UUA Resource Guide for Ministerial Search Committees and from recommendations by Rev. Chris Nielson, Congregational Life Consultant of the St. Lawrence District. Committee members accepted assignments for developing the content and gathering current or historical information for inclusion into an electronic version of the packet. Julia Goren, our media expert, has been very busy developing an attractive, professional, well-organized electronic informational packet. The packet has been sent to Rev. Nielson for her review and approval. The informational packet will then be posted by the Unitarian Universalists Association (UUA) and reviewed by prospective ministerial candidates. The MSC can then begin considering potential candidates. (The requirements for the informational packet are included in this Communitarian)

Our location and search for a quarter time minister poses limitations and various options will be considered, including sharing ministerial leadership with another congregation. The congregational survey results will continue to guide our search. Ministerial Committee Members: Phyllis Magnus, Joyce Henklein, Julia Goren, Steve DeHond, Randall Swanson, Silas Swanson, Witter Swanson and Jean Chamberlain

#### Ministerial Profile

Adirondack Universalist Unitarian Community (AUUC)

Saranac Lake, NY

The Adirondack Universalist Unitarian Community is searching for a quarter-time minister, with the hopes of growing our congregation and thus our ability to afford greater service/time from our minister. As part of our process, the Search Committee surveyed the congregation to determine the most important roles, responsibilities, and qualities that they would like to see in their minister.

The Adirondack Universalist Unitarian Community (AUUC) is searching for a strong spiritual leader, who will lead two stimulating and challenging worship services per month. Realizing that time is always a limitation, we also would like a minister to provide some of his or her available time to pastoral care and facilitating the involvement of members into congregational life. Knowing that we want our

Religious Education Program to continue to grow, we need a minister who can provide guidance and creative ideas to entice more families to become involved with the AUUC and its RE program.

Responsibility for a successful community will be shared among the minister and the strong, committed lay leadership. Our priority for our minister is to create a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday service, as well as to foster the fellowship and community within the church. Our consensus is that high quality preaching provides spiritual guidance and inspiration to the congregants. We believe this to be a critical component in growing our membership, which is one of our congregation's goals.

Intellectual depth and rigor, profession competence, and a motivated, enthusiastic sense of calling are all qualities that we seek in our next minister. We seek a visionary and a person of strong character. Together with our new minister, we envision a future of promise for our church that will inspire the congregation and the larger community. Our hope is that with the leadership of a strong Unitarian Universalist minister with experience and creativity, and our committed lay leadership, the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community can grow and blossom in Saranac Lake.

#### Informational Packet for Prospective Minister

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ministerial Profile
- \_\_\_\_\_ Application for Part Time Minister
- \_\_\_\_\_ Results of the congregational survey
- \_\_\_\_\_ The draft ministerial agreement prepared by the Negotiating Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Descriptions of the Committees
- \_\_\_\_\_ Description of how the MSC was chosen
- \_\_\_\_\_ AUUC Website updated
- \_\_\_\_\_ Directory of Members
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pictures of the church facility and activities, including the worship space, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A history of the congregation, with dates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contract for current facility
- \_\_\_\_\_ The current operating budget, plus the actual results of the most recently completed fiscal year and Treasurer's reports/budget data from recent years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The constitution and by-laws
- \_\_\_\_\_ The most recent religious education prospectus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recent newsletters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Orders of worship for both "regular" and special service
- \_\_\_\_\_ The most recent annual report
- \_\_\_\_\_ Information about the community including recent real estate/mortgage data.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Notes/Letters regarding the AUUC
- \_\_\_\_\_ Policy for screening pre-candidates and for consulting a criminal background check on your candidate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Contract for candidate



## Highlights from the Ecumenical Council Meeting 11/4

The Ecumenical Council of Saranac Lake met on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The following are the highlights:

Donations to the Homeless Shelter project continue to come in. The Council will be coordinating a fund raising drive among all of the houses of worship in the community. Speakers are available to talk about the project. Brochures and business cards are available to educate members of the community about the Shelter. Enthusiasm remains high!

There will be a benefit concert on November 23, at 3:00 p.m. for the Shelter. The Adirondack Daily Enterprise will give us free advertising for any fund raising event for the Shelter.

Mr. Arora of the Hotel Saranac donated bed linens for the shelter; they have been received and laundered, with thanks to Young Life and Anita Gochenaur for use of their facilities for this.

Grace Pantry, which will distribute items such as toiletries and diapers that are not available at the Food Pantry is open, as of Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be located at Baldwin House, owned by St. Luke's. St. Luke's is providing the use of Baldwin House for this use rent-free.



### The Pumpkin John Greenleaf Whittier

Oh, greenly and fair in the lands of the sun,  
The vines of the gourd and the rich melon run,  
And the rock and the tree and the cottage enfold,  
With broad leaves all greenness and blossoms all gold,  
Like that which o'er Nineveh's prophet once grew,  
While he waited to know that his warning was true,  
And longed for the storm-cloud, and listened in vain  
For the rush of the whirlwind and red fire-rain.

On the banks of the Xenil the dark Spanish maiden  
Comes up with the fruit of the tangled vine laden;  
And the Creole of Cuba laughs out to behold  
Through orange-leaves shining the broad spheres of gold;



Yet with dearer delight from his home in the North,  
On the fields of his harvest the Yankee looks forth,  
Where crook-necks are coiling and yellow fruit shines,  
And the sun of September melts down on his vines.

Ah! on Thanksgiving day, when from East and from West,  
From North and from South comes the pilgrim and guest;  
When the gray-haired New Englander sees round his board  
The old broken links of affection restored,  
When the care-wearied man seeks his mother once more,  
And the worn matron smiles where the girl smiled before,  
What moistens the lip and what brightens the eye?  
What calls back the past, like the rich Pumpkin pie?

Oh, fruit loved of boyhood! the old days recalling,  
When wood-grapes were purpling and brown nuts were falling!  
When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin,  
Glaring out through the dark with a candle within!  
When we laughed round the corn-heap, with hearts all in tune,  
Our chair a broad pumpkin,—our lantern the moon,  
Telling tales of the fairy who travelled like steam  
In a pumpkin-shell coach, with two rats for her team!

Then thanks for thy present! none sweeter or better  
E'er smoked from an oven or circled a platter!  
Fairer hands never wrought at a pastry more fine,  
Brighter eyes never watched o'er its baking, than thine!  
And the prayer, which my mouth is too full to express,  
Swells my heart that thy shadow may never be less,  
That the days of thy lot may be lengthened below,  
And the fame of thy worth like a pumpkin-vine grow,  
And thy life be as sweet, and its last sunset sky  
Golden-tinted and fair as thy own Pumpkin pie!

## Contact Numbers

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

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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**