

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 141

August 2014

August Calendar

August 3

Jane Dwinell
"Consequence of Scars"
Board of Trustees Meeting

August 10

Joyce Henklein
Discussion
"The Parent Trap"

August 17

Jane Dwinell
Sermon

August 24

Jason Brill and Karen Graff
Discussion

August 31

Steve DeHond
Discussion

Interested in Becoming a Lay Worship Leader?

Have you always wanted to learn how to speak in public, to lead worship, to write or deliver a sermon? I am happy to work with any of you who would like to do this. We could plan to meet for a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon three or four times to talk about all aspects of worship, and to practice. Let me know if you're interested. Talk to me after church or email or call. Jane janedwinell@gmail.com 802-279-9565



Coming up

Our beautiful Water Communion service will take place on September 7. Be certain to collect water from your favorite place this summer and bring it to the service.

2014 HUUT'nanny

On Sunday July 20, we joined the Canton UU congregation for a potluck picnic at Meacham Lake. The worship service was lovely including readings by Bill Bryson and hymns we all knew. The weather was perfect and the backdrop of the lake and the mountains was inspiring. We had a good turn-out and thanks to Emily Warner, Stanley Ingison, Phyllis Magnus, Kelly Metzger, Elaine Holmlund, Richard and Joan Kelly, Carolyn and Gary Alexander, Ginger Slater, Julia Goren, Adrien and Sebastian Vlach, and Joyce Henklein for coming to the event and demonstrating to our Canton friends that we care. For those of you who missed the get-together, come next year! It may be our turn to host the event including creating the worship service.

Joyce Henklein

Words from the Minister
Rev. Jane Dwinell

I have just returned home from an eight-day intensive seminar beginning my year-long program in Clinical Bioethics. While the subject is very interesting to me, having to spend 9-11 hours day cooped up with 30 other people in a basement classroom with no windows was not a lot of fun. At every break, I went outside for some fresh air and sunshine. Five times I managed to slip away during a longer break to play disc golf in the city park. I fussed and grumbled a lot about this to my fellow students, but no one else seemed to care. I wondered why, but then I realized that they were all either active students (in medicine or the law) or active professionals (medicine and industry) who all spend their days indoors.

I am privileged to have a life where I can be outdoors just about as much as I want. I have worked hard to create this life for myself. And, to tell the truth, I really didn't like my life being disturbed for this class.

None of us really like change -- especially change that is thrust upon us. I think of the change that comes with a medical diagnosis, a new baby, the end of a relationship. Some of us want to hurry up and figure things out, others want to ignore the whole thing if possible. Some people rise to the challenge and have the grace to come up with a new way to live. Other people become depressed, and paralyzed.

I don't have any perfect recipe for dealing with change. It's hard. But I realized that all my fussing while I was at my class wasn't helping anyone, least of all me. I told myself that I could deal with this -- it was only eight days of living in a dank, basement studio apartment, only eight days of being in a basement classroom. That I was lucky enough to be able to take this class, to meet the other students and faculty, and to learn something that will be useful to many people once I am fully trained. I stopped grumbling and started being grateful. Grateful to Steve, the other older student, who took me out to dinner every night when we had the opportunity to dine well and reflect on the day's lectures. Grateful to my professors who shared their knowledge and answered my questions. Grateful to the bus driver who got up earlier than we did to drive us to NYC and back for a day at Mt. Sinai Hospital (a 6 a.m. departure, returning at 10 p.m.). Grateful to the staff at the college who fed us and took care of us during the week.

No matter how crazy the change(s) in our lives, there is always something to be grateful for. And that's a good thing to remember because, as the great philosopher Melissa Etheridge says, "The only thing that stays the same is change."

See you in church!

Jane

"Being religious is being unconditionally concerned whether in secular matters or religious"
-Paul Tillich

Words from the President

Dear AUUC Friends,

The board of trustees July 13 meeting was very productive, and as a result we decided to create a new monthly column in the *Communitarian* to provide a summary of our board meetings in an effort to keep you fully informed. Jean Chamberlain, board secretary extraordinaire, has created our first report which you will find further along in this newsletter. Look for the title, “**Summary of the July 2014 Board of Trustees Meeting.**”

Good Attendance News! With Rev. Jane Dwinell’s masterful preaching and the creative efforts of our worship committee, Elaine Holmlund, Joyce Henklein and Karen Graff, the number of members and visitors attending our services has seen a generous increase. Elaine, who was leading last week’s discussion on Climate Change, commented that she was planning for eight in attendance but instead found herself scurrying to add enough chairs to accommodate the twenty or more people who attended the lively and progressive discussion.

Becoming a Member: One of the advantages to signing our membership book is the right to vote in elections, official congregational meetings or in any church matter that may require a vote. Each member’s input is taken into equal consideration and with respect from the members. If you are interested in becoming a signed member and deepening your commitment to our and the world-wide Unitarian Universalist community, please speak to me, Jane or Ann Mullen following a service or in the grocery store, etc. Kelly Metzgar signed the book in July and Mary Riley will become a member this fall. We welcome you.

Settling In: For the first time this month I was able to take a breather and do some paddling with Glenn and friends, enjoy the summer days, visit The Wild Center and join a summer book club. Being the board president is far more complex than I had imagined, but the challenge is worth it. Working with many of you in the congregation is fulfilling, creative and productive. For example,

- Julia Goren, Ann Mullen and I met at Julia and Adrien’s cabin in the woods for an RE (Religious Exploration) meeting which was one of the best brainstorming sessions I’ve ever experienced. Our AUUC children will love what they are planning for them.
- Joan Kelly, our vice president, assembled a large chronological notebook of AUUC minutes from the first-ever AUUC meeting and started a notebook for sermons. The notebooks are open for viewing by our congregation.
- Emily Warner has volunteered to continue her project of collecting our *Communitarians* and Orders of Service in notebooks which she started during her presidency and which date back to our earliest days of existence.

In Closing: We as Unitarians, stand on the side of love and compassion for our fellow humans, no matter who they are. With all our differences, one would think a group of 42 members would collide on all sorts of issues. But we practice tolerance and affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The longer I belong to this congregation and grow to know each of you intimately or as friends, the more I am deeply impressed by your strength of character and deep-seated belief in doing the right thing for all

living and sentient beings. I am so proud to be a Unitarian and all that stands for. I hope you too share that feeling and commitment.

Susan Arnold

Board Meeting Notes

The Board of Trustees met on July 13. It was a very productive meeting and much discussion took place and many decisions were made. The following are the most important and pertinent information to share with the congregation:

- There will be brief congregational meetings held on a quarterly basis to facilitate communication and to keep the congregation informed of church matters.
- A Congregational meeting, tentatively scheduled for 9/14/14, will be held after the worship service. The purpose is to approve bylaw changes and 2014's amended budget and to bring the congregation up to date with AUUC board's business and plans.
- Ann Mullen will organize a diaper drive for Grace Pantry in the fall. Supplying needed supplies and staffing to the Grace Pantry is being considered as an idea for our AUUC 2015 mission outreach project.
- The front lawn AUUC sign will be upgraded with the name of our minister and the time services are held.
- The church will purchase fair trade coffee and this cost will be added to the budget.
- We reduced our contribution to the UUA to \$520.00 and budgeted \$702.00 to the UU St. Lawrence District.
- AUUC has received two grants and this money will be added to the budget. There may be designated uses for the money and this is being researched.
- Lay led services are encouraged and Jane will be happy to work with anyone who would like to do so.
- There will be two services per month given by Rev. Jane Dwinell, one service per month will be lay led and one service per month will be done by a guest speaker. Per board approval the guest speaker will be paid \$175 per service for the remainder of 2014. The Worship Committee was informed of this decision.
- Money was put into the budget for leadership development, allowing members to attend district meetings or other relevant events.
- The board has approved an idea called "Sharing the Plate" which will be taken to the congregation at the 9/14 meeting for its approval. The loose money put into the offering plate will be designated for a critical need in our community.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Chamberlain, Secretary

AUUC begins Small Group Ministry in October

AUUC will begin a Small Group Ministry (SGM) program **October 11, 2014**. It will take place the second Saturday of each month, 9 to 11 am, October 2014 through June 2015 in either Saranac Lake or Lake Placid, location to be determined. The program is open to members and friends of the congregation. The following excerpt from www.uua.org describes SGM in general terms.

Also known as "covenant groups" and "chalice circles," Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Groups of 10-12 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Whether the topic is "good and evil," "mindful living" or "letting go," the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. Many small groups engage in annual service projects, putting their faith into action.

Most Small Group Ministries have an "open enrollment" time once or twice a year, and request a commitment of one year or more.

Mary Riley, a new member of the congregation, has volunteered to help establish and facilitate our first SGM. She previously served as one of five SGM facilitators at her former fellowship on Long Island. A life and organization coach for the non-profit sector, Mary also has training and experience as a Study Circle facilitator in Connecticut and a Local School Committee facilitator in Oregon.

Those who have questions and/or want to sign-up for our new SGM may contact Mary by email, mary_riley_us@yahoo.com or telephone 631-791-9686.

Ecumenical Council Highlights

Samaritan House Homeless Shelter: the Council is heartened by the continued support we receive for this effort to help the homeless of our community. Recent activities:

- We received \$1,000 in grant money from the United Way to assist in identifying sources of funding through grants, and we're very grateful.
- Our current balance in funds for the homeless shelter effort is around \$24K, a good deal of it from local faith communities.
- Sally Walrath, director of Lakeside House, described a "respite" apartment that Lakeside House provides for temporary housing for individuals. The apartment is in Saranac Lake, and individuals may stay there for up to ten days. Referrals are made through local churches, social agencies or through the Saranac Lake Police Department. To date, 21 people have been served since last year.

- Grace Pantry: the Pantry will be closed for two weeks due to an environmental abatement project. If there is an emergency, local clergy can contact the Council directly. When the Pantry reopens in August, we especially need diapers, size 4, 5, and some 6. Any help would be appreciated!
- CROP Walk: this year's CROP Walk will be held on Saturday, October 18th. We hope that turnout will increase with the move to Saturday. CROP Walk has been around since 1969, and is organized by the Church World Service, a coalition of 40 denominations. CWS is focused on fighting hunger and poverty worldwide, including in the US. Funds raised by the CROP Walk benefit our local community and others in need.
- Ann Mullen

Did you know?

If all the children who attend our RE classes or spend time in the Nursery showed up on a single Sunday, we would have to squeeze 12 children in our Sunday School room and 7 young ones in the very small Nursery space. Aren't we lucky to have so many young families as part of our congregation? Locating more space is on the board's list of goals.

Another surprise...

We have a great group of teenagers who have long graduated from our RE program. Wouldn't it be great if we could do something for them? You'll often see them at services. They are Woody and Mary Reid, Jamison Sloan, Elodie and Sylvie Linck and Silas, Witter and Emory Swanson. If you have a moment, say hello and ask them what they're up to these days.

Among Ourselves

Kat Harkins and Sean Guenette are spending summer days at their home in Loon Lake and have located a new apartment in town starting in the fall. Their new baby will arrive soon. Bet they'll need some help one these days.

Steve DeHond has moved as well, settling into a smaller home where is enjoying the proximity to his boat and Lower Saranac Lake. Congratulations, Steve!

Rev. Wayne and Joan Walder from Canada are staying at their Saranac Inn camp for the summer. We were able to welcome them "home" at our recent service on Climate Change.

"I believe we're all one family and need each other in times of grief and gladness. And I believe in the power of human ingenuity and people of good will make a difference in the world. *"This is my credo as a Unitarian Universalist.* It's what Superman and I have in common.

- Christopher Reeve, Unitarian Universalist

A Boat, Beneath a Summer Sky

by Lewis Carroll

A boat, beneath a sunny sky
Lingering onward dreamily
In an evening of July—

Children three that nestle near,
Eager eye and willing ear,
Pleased a simple tale to hear—

Long has paled that sunny sky:
Echoes fade and memories die:
Autumn frosts have slain July.

Still she haunts me, phantomwise,
Alice moving under skies
Never seen by waking eyes.

Children yet, the tale to hear,
Eager eye and willing ear,
Lovingly shall nestle near.

In a Wonderland they lie,
Dreaming as the days go by,
Dreaming as the summers die:

Ever drifting down the stream—
Lingering in the golden gleam—
Life, what is it but a dream?

Contact Numbers

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
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