

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 140

July 2014

July Schedule

July 6

Jane Dwinell
Topic TBA

Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15
RE Room

July 13

Jane Dwinell
Topic TBA

July 20

Annual HUUT'nanny at Meacham Lake.

July 27

Elaine Holmlund
Topic TBA

HUUT'nanny at Meacham July 20

Don't forget the annual HUUT'nanny at Meacham Lake with our neighboring Plattsburgh and Canton congregations will be July 20. Canton's congregation is hosting this year's festivities.

Festivities will kick off with a lake side service, followed with lunch, a sing along, Joy of Cooking Charades and other games, as well as boating and swimming.

Feel free to bring a dessert or side to go with lunch, guitars, water craft, and don't forget plenty of sunscreen.

There is an \$8 per vehicle charge for day use at Meacham, carpooling is encouraged! For more details please see attachment.

Double Ewe Knitters Knews

Double Ewe Knitters met on June 18 and will be meeting again on July 16 at 10am at Joyce's home, 3 Cranberry Way. We decided to meet once a month in the summer. But come September we will meet twice monthly. At that time we will discuss and plan for a possible "Christmas Bazaar" the first week in December. To broaden appeal for the sale, we hope to sell other items besides some knitted goods. If you have skills and have ideas for handmade items such as candles, pine-cone fire starters, holiday table centerpieces and so on, we hope to recruit you to help with productive workshops in which we will meet and all work together to make the items. Sounds like fun and fellowship. Doesn't it? (Martinis will not be served) Joyce has completed a number of Toddler vests and is making three matching mittens, "Pair and a Spare" Henri is a whiz at knitting attractive hats; Laura will be lining the mittens with fleece to make them warmer and thicker. Emily knits unique and practical scarves that are easy to wear and warm too. Elaine is working on a baby blanket. Besides all this, we talk and share feelings and ideas.

-Joyce

Words from the Minister

It's been an exciting first month for me with AUUC. I've enjoyed attending the worship services, and starting to get to know all of you. Please feel free to come up to me at Social Hour to chat! I'm terrible with names, so it would be helpful for me (and other newcomers...) if you wear your name tag. While you're telling me about yourself, feel free to make suggestions for sermon topics. My time with you is limited, so I'd like to use it wisely. There are so many things to talk about, to think about, and to be touched about.

I've also had the opportunity to lead a board retreat and to meet with the Worship Committee. I've also been listening to ideas from different people about possibilities for an all-congregation mission project. It's important for a religious community to serve the larger community, so it's been interesting to hear suggestions. A congregational mission is a specific, simple project that everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, can participate in. This project is a hands-on activity or event that benefits people who are in need of our care. If you have any ideas for such a project, feel free to share them with me. Once a few good ideas bubble up, they will be presented to everyone for a vote, hopefully sometime in the fall.

Another exciting project that is starting to take form is Small Group Ministry, also known as Covenant Groups. These groups of 5-8 people meet periodically (generally monthly) to share their thoughts about a specific topic that is presented by the group leader (grief, love, creativity, peace, anger, justice, etc.). It's a great opportunity to deepen your spiritual life and to get to know other members of the community. Watch next month's newsletter for more information.

In the meantime, we can all revel in the glories of summer. Hopefully, the black flies will have settled out by the time you read this, and the mosquitoes will mind their own business. It's time to hit the trails, the water, or simply your garden or your porch. We can all give thanks for the brilliant greens, the blooming flowers, the crystal clear skies and waters, and the warmth of the sun and the AUUC community. Hold onto it, bring it into your heart, and remember these days, for winter will be back before we know it!

See you in church!
Jane

AUUC Summer Service Schedule

Our AUUC services will continue throughout the summer; however there will be no RE for the children and no child care provided during July and August. The Worship Committee decided to give the AUUC members a break for the summer and no one will be asked to provide refreshments for Coffee Hour in July and August.

Rev. Jane Dwinell will provide four traditional, regular AUUC services in July and August. She will be preaching on: 7/6, 7/13, 8/3 and 8/17.

The four other Sundays in July and August will be lay-led and more informal. The services will continue to include our rituals of lighting the chalice, sharing joys and sorrows and singing some of our favorite hymns. There will also be a discussion of a relevant, interesting topic and fellowship. These services will be held on: 7/27, 8/10, 8/24 and 8/31.

We hope to see you at one or all of our AUUC services this summer!

President's Letter

In preparation for doing The Flower Community last Sunday, I braved the black flies and took an early morning walk on the Bog Pond Trail at the Visitor's Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths. My thoughts and spirit needed some grounding and being on the bog brought that respite.

As I walked the boardwalk a mourning cloak butterfly joined me along with mating dragonflies, a yellowish/green warbler and a herd of blackflies. The pitcher plants were flowering like soldiers in the grassy bog and then sleepiness overtook me and I lay down on the boardwalk. Suddenly the flies dispersed and the sounds of the mucky earth surrounded me.

Sometimes we need to surrender to the muck in our lives and find a way to let it go. Who would have thought that by stopping my movement, the pesky black flies would learn to commune with me and go on to something else?

June was a busy month at AUUC. Our first board retreat with our new minister, Jane Dwinell, was quite productive with a list of goals and tasks emerging and setting the path for this year's course of action. The next Sunday Jane and I met with the Worship Committee, a dynamic group of people who plan and coordinate each Sunday's worship service. The third Sunday members of the congregation spoke with us about their ideas for creating a mission project for AUUC.

One of our shining stars in June was Kelly Metzgar who engaged in her second interview with a reporter from North Country Public Radio which has provided her with a forum regarding her status as a transgendering woman. She is spending this week with her family members who for the first time are meeting her as Kelly. Congratulations, Kelly.

Jane Dwinell spent five days driving solo to Alberta, Canada where she was part of a healing walk for those affected by the Tar Sands extraction of oil from their land. She hopes to base one of her next sermons on her experience. She is headed back to Vermont and will be preaching this Sunday, July 6, and looks forward to starting her ministry with us.

If you know someone involved with Historic Saranac Lake, please thank them for their hard work at creating a lovely garden, grassy lawn and a formal sidewalk to help make our back entry more accessible.

I am enjoying serving as your president and thank you all for communicating with me and keep me abreast of all that is happening in our Unitarian lives.

With AUUC love,

Susan Arnold

"Whatever is rightly done, however humble, is noble." - Sir Henry Royce

News about the Building from Historic Saranac Lake

Historic Saranac Lake volunteers have been working to improve things in the back of the building so that the yard can be enjoyed by all. This includes the new handicap accessible walkway, a new lawn, new plants and flowers, and an improved picnic table with umbrella for meetings outside in nice weather. Thank you for your patience with these projects! Here are a few things to mention:

1. We recently installed low posts with small signs identifying the parking spaces for the building. This keeps people who aren't visitors to the building from using the spaces, keeps cars from pulling too far forward on the grass, and protects from snowplowing. In an effort to keep the signs simple we just put "Museum Parking" on them. Please know that this is obviously all open parking for the church on Sunday and any other time that church members visit the building. We certainly didn't mean to imply that this is not parking for the church -- we just chose the least wording possible by identifying the building with its primary use during the week. We regret any confusion we may have caused with the new signs!
2. As you have noticed, we have had a new lawn installed in the backyard. The grass is coming up nicely and will soon be a nice area for all of us to enjoy! Ultimately this will be a nice soft lawn for AUUC kids to enjoy playing on. We want it to be used and enjoyed! For now, however, it is important to avoid walking on the grass until it is well established. We recently taped off the grass area to remind folks not to walk on it for now.
3. We have noticed some damage to some of the trees in the backyard due to kids climbing in the trees. Please let kids know not to climb in the trees, as the branches are not strong enough for that. There are also new rose bushes along the back fence and new plantings along the back door area to be careful with. Thank you!

Please let me know any questions or concerns about the lab, and I am happy to help as best I can. We very much appreciate your presence in the building and your patience with changes and improvements made at the lab!

Thanks,
Amy
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"May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent"

-Eusebius

☞Coffee Hour Changes Starting in September☞

The Worship Committee is hoping to make it easier and more doable for members to take turns in signing-up to provide Coffee Hour after services. The person who signs up is only asked to provide a simple refreshment, such as a baked good of your choice (cookies, brownies, breads, etc). If someone would like to provide more variety, that would be a personal choice, not the expectation. Please feel free to sign up with another person and do the refreshments together. Another member will make and set up the coffee and tea service each Sunday. The purpose of this fellowship time is to socialize with one another and build relationships in our community and not pose a hardship on anyone.

Members will no longer be formally asked to bring flowers for the services. However, if the spirit moves you on one particular Sunday, please feel free to bring flowers from your garden or a shop to enrich the beauty of the service. There are plenty of glass vases available in the kitchen. Flowers are always a lovely touch.

The procedure for refreshment sign-up for a Sunday remains basically the same. There will be a sign-up sheet on a table when you attend services where you can sign up for a convenient Sunday. If we have Sundays without anyone signing up, members will be called, on an alphabetical basis, and be asked to take an upcoming Sunday to provide refreshments.

"America has a Koch Problem"

Phyllis Magnus hosted a MOVEON Political Action event at her home on Sunday, June 29th. The event, offered as a movie party, presented Robert Greenwald's Brave New Films documentary "America Has a Koch Problem". Open to the public, it was attended by at least 13 participants, six of whom are AUUC members. Voters For Change and North Country 350 were also represented.

The film gives a fairly thorough overview of the Koch's political spending, influence on the Supreme Court, efforts to turn back the clock on equal educational opportunity by segregating schools, their environmental pollution unchecked by the EPA, etc. A lively discussion followed and an interest in future political action events voiced, including a July 23 event and rallies locally and in New York City in September (XL Pipeline protest).

There was also discussion of the Working Families Party, and other third parties and independents. WFP has a website and there is also extensive information about it at Wikipedia.

(Anyone who is interested in viewing the film can do so at www.democracynow.org.)

"It is important that human beings shall be united, but not that they shall be uniform"
-Ashley Montagu

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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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