

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 138

May 2014

May Calendar

May 4

AUUC Ministerial Candidate Presentation
featuring candidate Rev. Jane Dwinell

May 11

Rev. Dave Weissbard
Topic TBA

May 18

TBA
Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15
RE Room

May 25

Meredith Garmon
"How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love
Spirituality"

UU @ A Click

UU Stories and Songs

I invite you to click on the following link and take a trip around popular Unitarian Universalist stories and songs. This website was constructed by our friend, Reverend Tracy Sprowls, minister to the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, NJ. I found the section of "favorite hymns" fascinating. Rev. Tracy conducted two surveys, one of ministers, the other of congregants, to come up with these lists. Enjoy the site!

<http://www.ourstoriesandsongs.com/>

Big Ministerial Search News!

Dear AUUC Members,

When the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)* undertook its task, they were hopeful to eventually find a Ministerial Candidate who would meet the expressed needs of our Community. After spending a weekend with the Reverend Jane Dwinell and listening to her preach in a neutral pulpit at the Plattsburgh UU Fellowship, the MSC agreed that this was a person who exemplifies the qualities and skills defined in our congregational survey.

On the weekend of May 3-4, Jane will come to Saranac Lake to be presented as the MSC's recommended candidate for the quarter-time ministerial position of the AUUC. She will be available on Saturday, May 3, to meet with Committee members, attend our rummage sale, and meet with the Board members. Jane will preach at the Sunday service on May 4. Following the service there will be a brief opportunity for your questions for Jane. After this, Jane will leave the room and a business meeting will be held, where a congregational vote will be conducted on calling the Rev. Jane Dwinell as our Minister.

It is critically important that you attend this service and participate in the decision to call this Minister for our congregation. A vote by the congregation to call a minister is not the same as hiring a minister. When the congregation calls a suitable candidate, a negotiation process begins and essential elements of the relationship, like job description, compensation, and limitations are negotiated. The candidate is hired, only if a mutually agreeable fit can be found. A Negotiating Committee has been chosen by the Ministerial Search Committee and is ready to begin the final step in the hiring process, if the congregational vote is affirmative. We are including biographical information, statements by individuals providing references, and information about where to review materials Jane has written online. Please let us know if you do not have internet access and we can make copies of some of her writings for you.

We hope you will review the Rev. Jane Dwinell's credentials and writings that are included in this letter carefully and take the opportunity to meet and speak with her the weekend of May 3/4. We hope your schedule will allow you to attend the service on May 4th and you will cast your vote for the candidate the MSC has chosen to present to you.

If you have any question or concerns, please contact one of the members of the Ministerial Search Committee.

Best Regards,

Jean Chamberlain and Phyllis Magnus, Co-chairs of MSC

Ministerial Search Committee members: Jean Chamberlain, Steve DeHond, Julia Goren, Joyce Henklein, Phyllis Magnus, and Randall, Silas, and Witter Swanson.

Jane Dwinell's Resume

Registered Nurse

Staff Nurse, then Head Nurse, Birthing Center, Gifford Memorial Hospital,
Randolph,
VT 1979-1984

Maple Lane Nursing Home, Barton, VT, Dementia Unit, 1987-1988, 1993-1994

Yolo Hospice, Davis, CA, hospice nurse, 1994-1996

various other nursing positions in Seattle, WA and Vermont

Clergy

Parish Minister, First Universalist Parish, Derby Line, VT 1996-2004

Small Church Consultant, Northeast District of the Unitarian Universalist
Association

(Maine), 2003-2005

Chaplain, various venues in Vermont, 1996-2004

Independent, International, Small Congregation Consultant, 2005-present

Writer

Freelance writer specializing in health care, women's issues, and rural living, 1987-
present

Author, Birth Stories: Mystery, Power, and Creation, Bergin and Garvey, 1992

**Co-author, Big Ideas for Small Congregations: A Friendly Guide for Leaders, Spirit
of Life Publishing, 2007**

Author, Freedom Through Frugality: Spend Less, Have More, Spirit of Life Publishing, 2010

Educator

Taught Death and Dying, Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA
Taught Ethics, and World Religions, Community College of Vermont
Led various conferences and workshops, various topics

Other Work

Restaurant owner and head chef
Direct service staff, statistician, and bookkeeper, Abate ONE, Newport, VT
(domestic violence and sexual assault agency)
Small farmer: poultry, vegetable and maple syrup producer
Home builder and renovator

Volunteer Work

Member and Officer of various local and national boards:

- Vermont Dental Care
- Northeast Organic Farmers Association
- NH/VT District of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Association
- NH/VT District UU Minister's Association
- Interweave Continental, UUs for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Issues
- Lambda, UU BGLT Minister's Association
 - Home renovation and construction, New Orleans, LA, post-Katrina
 - Home weatherization, Montpelier, VT

Education

Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA, 1996, MDiv
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 1978, AS Nursing
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 1976, BA History

Other

Basic Mediation Training, Woodbury College, Montpelier, VT, 1996
Ordained by the First Universalist Parish, Derby Line, VT, June 1, 1997
RN license, inactive, VT

When Jane was working, her specialty was small congregations. She is the coauthor of the book, Big Ideas for Small Congregations. This book is well-written, practical and displays Jane's expertise and experience in working with small congregations. Jane is also the editor of 'Small Talk', the newsletter for small congregations (which ceased publication 2 years ago). You can check out back issues of 'Small Talk' on Jane's website, spiritoflifepublishing.com and find examples of her writing, as well as read articles that are interesting and relevant to our small congregation and community. If you are on Facebook, check out Jane's 'Freedom Through Frugality' page for photos, and a sense of the kinds of things she likes to post.

Jane has been married to Sky Yardley for 30 years and they have two adult

children. Jane and Sky built a tiny house and lived in it for a year-and-a-half, traveling around the US, and then used it to live in while they built their house in Addison, VT. They are committed to a life of voluntary simplicity, and have great concerns about climate change and the impact on both the planet and the people on it. Jane believes that resilient communities will be very important to our future. The MSC contacted two references for Jane and below you will see their positions and what they had to say about the Rev. Jane Dwinell:

Comments from References for Jane Dwinell March, 2014

Minister of Canton, MA UU Congregation

- in awe of her writing and intelligence
- can't think of anyone better for preaching and growing your community
- very spiritual, uplifting speaker
- has the ability and talent to draw people to hear her service and has strategies to get people to be involved and want to come to church
- very effective leader to new, progressive kinds of ministry (more women)
- very efficient, clear thinker....can get more done in an hour than most can accomplish in a day
- conscientious of taking care of the earth and being a responsible steward of resources
- straightforward - what you see is what you get
- very direct but also very open - no pretense and is willing to listen
- compassionate and kind
- quite a success record in growing churches

Former district executive, NH/VT Unitarian Universalist district (retired)

- took a church that was dead and doubled its footprint
- very dynamic and gave people a sense of purpose and got lay members to work together for the common good
- warm, but straight forward
- highly recommend and have seen her work up close and have known her for many years
- she has so much more to give and definitely not ready to retire
- you would be so lucky to get her

April Thoughts from Emily

April 22, 2014

Earth Day. I walk downtown to get a new tube for my road bike. A sprinkle of rain. Not enough to use my umbrella.

I walk because my truck has been deemed uninspectable, too many things wrong to consider repair including a cracked frame.

I walk because I can, because I want to, because in my more noble heart I can take this opportunity to practice what I wish to preach. The Earth is suffering and I am part of the cause. Each time I drive a vehicle, each time I turn the thermostat up or play Spider on my computer I am affecting the destruction bit by bit of my home.

I have done what I can to make my home more energy efficient: new windows, a demand water heater, a pellet stove. I use only the lights I need where I sit reading or knitting or playing music. I know I can do more.

The trucks demise reinforces my angst. I know I used to hop in the truck to go across town to run errands. Now I must do it differently. It can be done. Still I look at the ads for used cars. Craig's list. North Carolina. A trip (plane? train? bus?) to my sister's to find a rust free vehicle? That will drain my savings. That will be worthless in ten years if I'm lucky.

I have a car available, not mine, but available to use. In fact, I now have two cars available having bartered my services with a UU friend. That should be enough. I think of the seagulls in the "Finding Nemo" movie... "mine, mine mine". Does having "mine" make life any better, any easier, any friendlier? I walk downtown and have conversations with people on the street; a friend who is moving from the area. Another sweeping her driveway of the winter's road salt/sand. I tell her if I'd been in my truck I might have waved but never stopped to talk.

Earth Day. Every action matters.

Emily

Meet the Candidates!

As you are surely aware, our May 4th service will be an important one for our community. Directly after meeting Rev. Jane Dwinell, a candidate for our ministerial position, and voting whether to call her as our minister, we will be electing officers for the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community Board of Directors.

On behalf of the AUUC Board and the Nominating Committee, below is our slate of proposed candidates for officers.

For President: Susan Arnold, to serve a one year term as president and then, two additional years as trustee;

For Vice President: Joan Kelly, to serve a one year term as vice president, and then, an additional year as trustee;

For Secretary: Jean Chamberlain, to serve a one year term as secretary, and then, two additional years as trustee;

Gary Alexander, to serve a one year term as treasurer, and then, an additional two years as trustee.

Each candidate has provided biographical info to help you get to know them a little better and to demonstrate the experience and skills they can contribute to the Board of the AUUC. We are grateful to be able to present this slate to the congregation for a vote on May 4th.

See you then!

Laura Reid and the AUUC BOD

Susan Arnold

I am a candidate for president of the next AUUC Board and have been a member since April 2008. I previously served on the Board in 2009-2010 and have volunteered with the Caring and Worship Committees and co-chaired the 2013 stewardship drive. In the past I have served as a church deacon, ministerial search committee chair and group-study leader. My professional career has been devoted to working with start-up and fast-moving not-for-profit organizations such as North Country Home Services (NCHS) (development in the '80s); Saranac Lake Youth Center (director); The Nature Conservancy's MA Islands Program (TNC) (coordinator and development) in the 90's and 2000's and The Wild Center (membership and fundraising) for ten years ending with my retirement in 2013. I served as project manager of two construction projects for NCHS and TNC and experienced the creation and building of The Wild Center.

With a strong mission statement guiding my passion as well as the director's and staff, each agency or NFP experienced unprecedented growth. I hope to bring that same energy to AUUC and with the congregation's help, grow and sustain our membership, support our ministerial candidate's goals and develop a strong team of Trustees with the dream of a new building to house us in the future.

My husband Glenn and I have been married for 35 years and we raised our son Peter together. Without Glenn's support and devotion to my causes, I could not have accomplished this body of work. Together we operated Noonmark Natural Foods and The Porches B & B.

Joan Kelly

I look forward to serving on the AUUC Board as Vice President. I am a founding member of the AUUC and welcome the opportunity to contribute to our continuing growth as an alternative spiritual place in the Adirondacks.

I continue my nursing consulting practice in northern New York on a part time basis, as well as serving on the Board of the North Country Home Services, and as a hospice volunteer. I previously served as the President of the Lake Placid Kiwanis Club, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Adirondack Health (the hospital).

I moved to Lake Placid from Long Island with my husband, Richard, sixteen years ago; we have three children and two young grandsons.

Jean Chamberlain

I am a candidate for Secretary of the next AUUC Board. I have been a member of the AUUC for two years. During that time I have served as a RE teacher and I am currently serving on the Worship Committee and co-chairing the Ministerial Search Committee. I am very interested and excited to work with our new minister and the Board of the AUUC.

I was an educator for 35 years with the Columbus Public Schools, Columbus, Ohio. During my career, I was a elementary classroom teacher, reading specialist, literacy coordinator and provided professional development to teachers. I retired from teaching in 2011 and moved to the beautiful Adirondacks and the vibrant Saranac Lake community with my husband, Doug, and our dog, Ben.

I love all kinds of outdoor activities, especially biking, paddling, hiking, skiing, fishing and gardening. I practice yoga and meditation. Community involvement is important to me. Along with my work with the AUUC, I volunteer at the Food Pantry, Pendragon Theatre, and with the Village Improvement Society. I am a board member of the Tri-Lakes Humane Society and the Saranac Lake Young Arts Assoc.

I have a daughter and son-in-law, who live in Seattle, WA.

Gary Alexander

I am a candidate for treasurer of the next AUUC Board. I have been a member of AUUC since 2008, when I retired and we moved to our present home in Tupper Lake. I previously served on the Board in 2012 as Vice President. While living in Columbia, MD, I was a member of a large (500 +) UU congregation and served as co-chairman of the Stewardship Committee. I also attended UU services at a small village in Mexico which began with 7, and has since grown to over 100 members. I am a Trustee and Board Secretary of the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System.

My work career includes 7 years as a high school English teacher, 25 years as a small business proprietor, and 13 years selling hardware and software in the technology industry.

My wife Carolyn and I have been married for 49 years. We have 3 children and 9 grandchildren.

President's Letter

Greetings, All.

In a few weeks time we will be conducting our annual congregational meeting. The meeting will be held on May 18th, immediately after services. The business will include election of Trustees to the Board and passage of the 2015 Budget.

The board has spoken at some length about the timing of the annual meeting and passage of the budget, particularly with respect to our new fiscal year (switched not terribly long ago from a summer start to a normal calendar year) and in relation to our ministerial search. It may be that the annual meeting changes in the future, but for the time being, we're following our bylaws. If the budget needs to be tweaked sometime between May 18th and January 1st, we can do that. Either way, we'll be better off than we were this year, when we didn't pass the annual budget until well into the year it covered.

On a completely unrelated note, it saddens me to announce that one of our district staff members, Rev. Chris Nielson, has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Rev. Nielson assisted us in our search process. It was a first meeting with her for most, if not all of us, and we were looking forward to closer and more productive relations with the district. The following message from her provides the only details I know. Please hold Chris and her partner in your hearts.

Dear church leaders,

I want to inform you that I was just diagnosed with Acute Leukemia, and I will be starting treatment on Monday, April 28th. This is very intensive chemotherapy that will keep me out of work for several weeks, perhaps months. Rev. Joan Van Becelaere will be the primary contact in my absence, and will ask the regional and district staff to help as needed during this time. I know that many of you are in transition right now at your churches, and others will step in to help as needed, or reschedule to a time when I can return to work. There are many qualified people in the region who are great resources, and I will be back to work as soon as possible! As my treatment progresses, I'll keep our district board up to date. You will be in my thoughts.

In faith, and with love, Rev. Christina M Neilson, Congregational Life Consultant for St. Lawrence

One final announcement... The AUUC has been awarded \$700 in grant funding to defray ministerial search expenses. The grant was provided by the New York State Convention of Universalists. Our search will cost a good bit more than \$700 dollars, but every little bit helps, and we are immensely grateful.

Yours in service,
Adrien

Update From Rochester

Hey all,

Life in Rochester has been picking up for me. Still looking for work but I feel busy as ever! As the weather gets nicer there's more activities around the city. May 1st was the annual Best Busker Festival, which offered a wide variety of public music by local musicians. The night before that I saw the Mayor speak. The night before that I was at First Unitarian's Social Justice Council meeting. Combine that with my networking and volunteer work and I have a pretty full schedule.

I am seeing more activity on the job front too. If I don't have a job by June I'll start doing some freelance social media consulting. I already have a couple clients lined up. I've also found more job leads after weeks of not a heck of a lot.

I also signed up for the hospitality team at First Unitarian. Sunday mornings I'm usually greeting, ushering, sometimes both. Sometimes I help out with both Sunday services (although that will change in June when the summer schedule is only one service a weekend). It's a great opportunity to meet people and get to know First Unitarian's sizable congregation a little better.

On another note, I know I don't have any fancy images for article breaks this time. I recently had my computer software upgraded to Windows 7 and I'm still getting my programs in order and will have to reload a lot of the typefaces I downloaded.

-Courtney

Contact Numbers

www.adkuu.org

President: Adrien Vlach (734)474-4706
Vice President Ginger Slater 637-5717
Secretary: Laura Reid 359-2019
Interim Treasurer: Karen Graff 891-5735

Trustees:
Joan Kelly 523-1133
Chi Chi Sloan nkechinyeresloan@yahoo.com

Worship Committee:
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:
Stephen DeHond sdehond@hotmail.com

Flower Power Program:
Elaine Holmlund 891-6717

Place: Randall Swanson 891-3512
Stanley Ingison 946-7465

Ministerial Search: Jean Chamberlain
Phyllis Magnus



**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**