

# THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 143

October 2014

## October Calendar

**October 5**

Jane Dwinell

New Member Ceremony during worship service.

**October 12**

Jane Dwinell

Stewardship Drive Kick-Off

**October 19**

Frank Lecinsky

"Sports as a Metaphor"

**October 26**

Dorothy Latta

## Coming Soon!

### The Pledge Drive!

The end of the fiscal year approaches, and it's time for everyone to do their part to support the fabulous Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community!

Kick-off Sunday, October 12  
with a sermon by Rev. Jane

Drive ends November 9  
with Credo Sunday

## A Request from Thirza Ecker

Thirza is home-bound because, as she says, "Now that I am 21 and a half, my body parts seem to be quitting on me." Her outings are almost always medical. She enjoys the comfort of her home and the many things she has collected around her which seem to be, instead of hazards all about, are barriers to tumbling sideways when her balance is off. Thirza rarely has visitors, since she has no nearby family, and her loved ones are we UU's. She looks forward to receiving her Communitarian, looking for names of old friends and feeling encouraged for our religious community when she sees new names. Thirza is thrilled that we finally have our very own minister and asked me to tell her all about Jane Dwinell. And I did. She was so pleased to hear the many good things I had to share and to feel my enthusiasm in the telling. The things Thirza misses most now that she is unable to attend services are the vitality of the community, the children's faces, the discussions, and songs. Thirza is usually home in the late afternoon and she always has one spot for a visitor to sit down. She might not hear your knock on her door (8C), but you can just pop your head in and say "Hello. May I come in?" She will be so happy for your company and conversation. Thirza lives at 60 Church Street ("the hi-rise").

## Words From the Minister

I'm just back from the People's Climate March in NYC where, along with 400,000 of my best friends, I joined the throng to call for action by our government to actually do something to slow the crisis of climate change. The energy was lively, there were signs, and banners, and costumes, and giant puppets, and lots of percussion as we marched from Central Park, to 42nd Street, and on to the end at 11th and 34th. Those of us near the front finished before the people at the back had even started. Somewhere, there were 1,500 UUs marching together with the interfaith contingent. Sky and I missed them, and somehow found ourselves with a group from Kentucky and W. Virginia who were protesting mountaintop coal removal. I felt grateful that we in the Green Mountains and Adirondacks don't have to live with such devastation on our beautiful mountains.

Former VP Al Gore was marching, along with NYC mayor Bill DeBlasio, so at least some of our leaders know that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. Hopefully, something will happen at the United Nations this week, but I'm not holding my breath. I think we need both political action -- like these marches and the civil disobedience that so many young people are willing to do -- but we also need common sense action. We need to burn less fossil fuels, but that's not going to happen overnight. We need more public transportation -- especially in rural areas where everyone has to depend on a car. We need to put more transportation dollars into buses and rail, and less for the airlines. We need more solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal than energy generated by coal, oil, and gas. And we need less factory farming, and more local, organic food.

However, I know I'm preaching to the choir. I know the members and friends of AUUC get it about the environmental crisis we're in. But, is there anything you can do to reduce your use of fossil fuels? Perhaps you can walk to church, or pick up a friend and ride together. There are grants and tax incentives for renewable energy sources, and there is even an organization in NY state that helps low income people install solar panels ([gridalternatives.org](http://gridalternatives.org)). We can work together to find solutions to our most pressing problems.

In the meantime, the natural world is telling us that summer is over, and the blast of color that is fall is upon us. I love the crisp days, starry nights, and the smell in the air. I'm spending as much time outside as I can, and as much time, it seems, in the kitchen canning and freezing the abundance from the garden. Life is good.

See you in church!

*Keep thyself first in peace, and then thou wilt be able  
to bring others to peace,*

*Thomas A. Kempis*

# President's Letter

This particular September has been one for the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community's record books.

- Adrien Vlach, during his recent tenure as Board President wrote two successful grants to help defray the costs of searching for a minister and paying the minister's salary. It's no easy task to assemble the information required for a grant application in addition to the talent, time and effort it takes to write the narrative in an effective way to gain the attention of the grantors, and Adrien did just that. If you see him, please be certain to thank him.
- In the closing months of 2013, we received \$700 from the New York State Convention of Universalists and most recently learned we will be receiving close to \$5,600 from the St. Lawrence District Chalice Lighters with almost 360 donors in 34 UU Congregations donating to our cause. We will be sending out 360 thank you letters via email and snail mail in the coming weeks. Again, thank Adrien, he's writing the letter and getting it out to the legion of generous UU donors.
- On September 7 we celebrated the installation of Rev. Jane Dwinell as our minister and what a joyous occasion it was with 60 members and visitors in attendance. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the luncheon buffet and festivities.
- And what a wonderful minister we have. Our Board of Trustees is moving quickly under Jane's direction to establish policy binders for official documents which align us more closely with other UU churches across the country. Jane was present for September's quarterly congregational meeting and actually took minutes to document the congregation's official business. Thank you, Jane!
- On a national level, many members of our AUUC community traveled to the national Climate Change March in Washington D.C. the weekend of September 20 to make their voices heard. That may be a first national showing for our congregation which, under the leadership of Gail Brill, sponsored the Green Circle for many years. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

I am so excited to be part of all that is happening in our AUUC community and feel much gratitude to be serving you in a leadership role. Volunteering with all of you is one the highlights of my volunteering career. If any of you would like to step up and volunteer your talents, please let me help you find a niche that would be most fulfilling for you.

With yours in AUUC service, Susan Arnold





Photo of Susan Arnold and Jane Dwinell from Jane's installation in September

***AUUC Lifetime Volunteer Award  
Presented to Joyce Henklien  
September 14, 2014***

Known as a person of energy and action, Joyce has served as a top notch volunteer almost since the founding of Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community in 2002. At the start she did refreshments when AUUC met at Pendragon Theater. She then founded "Congregant Care" and went on to start "Community Outreach" when our UU community was meeting at Bluseed Studios.

"Double Ewe Knitters" was an outgrowth of Community Outreach where its members made a pledge to help the poor and underserved in Saranac Lake and around the world. Joyce also helped with supplying and delivering food to the Habitat for Humanity workers and filling 20 large holiday stockings for the less fortunate clients of the Center for Independent living in Saranac Lake.

While still committing her volunteer time to these projects, she also served on the "Fundraising" Committee and helped with the carnival dances, musical fundraisers, Talent Shows, AUUC's booth at the sidewalk fair in August and the annual Junque-u-rama.

When a Domestic Violence Intervention program opened an office on Church Street, Joyce and the Community Outreach volunteers rallied our congregation to purchase presents for the program's children and then staffed the holiday party. Joyce and her committee "adopted" the new "Safe House" in Saranac Lake and made visits when new families arrived and supported the many daily life tasks at the house.

In its 2010 and 2011 the congregation's members expressed their wishes to hire a minister. In 2012 Joyce was asked to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee and at the same time was a vital part of the Worship Committee which had taken on the herculean task of organizing weekly worship services.

Joyce participated in many services over the years by reading her hand-picked stories to the children, presenting thought-provoking sermons and her credo on Credo Sunday. Joys and

Sorrows and Chalice lighting, Joyce has done it all and more.

Her mission whether it is fundraising, charitable gifts or volunteer hours was to bring the congregation together and to get the name of AUUC out in the community. Her efforts, along with those of her family, Gail and Jason Brill, and all those who have served and volunteered over the years, have brought us to this present time where we have hired our first minister and meet on a weekly basis.



### Report from our September 14 Congregational Meeting

On September 14, 2014, AUUC held a congregational meeting with 17 out of 43 members attending. Three orders of business took place.

- Grace Pantry: The meeting voted unanimously to approve staffing and supporting Grace Pantry in the month of May (2015) as this year's congregational mission.
- Approval of new Bylaw changes: The revised Bylaws were discussed line-by-line. There was discussion about several changes, and some changes were amended by vote. Bylaws, with revisions, passed unanimously.
- Approval of 2014's budget: After a brief discussion, the budget was passed unanimously.
- There was a discussion regarding whether or not to have proxy votes should a member be absent from a congregational meeting. Rev. Jane said she would check into this, and found out that proxy votes are not allowed under New York state law.

If you have questions, please direct them to Jane Dwinell or Susan Arnold. Thank you.

### News From the Worship Committee

Another great month with the AUUC Worship Committee; we are blessed with two new members and a possible third. Members now include: Phyllis Magnus, Kelly Metzger, Karen Graf, Ginger Slater and myself. Three of us will be attending a worship workshop in Plattsburg on Oct. 4 put on by Rev. Erika Hewett.

In September our services were lead by Rev. Jane, Steve DeHond and Ginger Slater. Special guests in October are Frank Lecinsky, speaking on "Sports as Metaphor" on October 19 and Dorothy Latta from the Unitarian-Universalist Community in Plattsburgh speaking on October 26. Rev. Jane will preach on October 5 and 12.

Seventeen people signed up for AUUC t-shirts! Good sign of spirit in our community!

Upcoming: Credo Service on 11/9 co-ordinated by Joyce Henklein. Please contact her if you would like to take part in this meaningful service.

If you have any ideas for speakers, please contact any member of the Worship Committee.

-submitted by Elaine Holmlund, Chair

## **AMONG OURSELVES**

Kat Harkins and Sean, Clementine and Freya Guenette are happy to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Zane Wilder Guenette, at their home in Loon Lake, New York.

Julia Goren and Adrien Vlach along with their handsome and smiling son, Sebastian, sent an email inviting our congregation to join them in celebrating a housing-warming potluck and bonfire party at their cabin and barn in the woods.

Joyce Henklein will be undergoing a full knee replacement surgery the first week in October. We understand her freezer is full but she many need rides to physical therapy. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. She'll be good to go another 20 years once this is done.

Many get well thoughts go to Henri Trapp who is recovering under the excellent care of her daughter, Susan, who is staying with her at her home in Lake Placid.



Jane with Mary Reid

## Summary of the September Board Meeting September 14.2014

Rev. Dwinell has purchased a button machine for name tags and will make them for members and friends of our community. Jane attended the interfaith clergy meeting and suggests that the AUUC should have a group for the CROP walk in October. Ginger Slater will lead this. Jane will be gone October 12-22 to attend the Bioethics conference in San Diego and has started her fall bioethics class.

Things are going well with the Worship Committee and they have welcomed two new members to the committee: Kelly Metzgar and Phyllis Magnus.

The RE program needs volunteers!!! Please contact Julia Goren or Ann Mullen if you are willing and able to help with RE this year. RE is a HUGE job for only two adults. Please consider volunteering your service to this critically important program for the children in our community.

The new space task force will look at the hospice house which is selling at \$185K. Jane looked at St. Luke's and the library and they are both inappropriate spaces for the AUUC.

Joyce Henklein has kindly agreed to be our Caring Task force and will do cards and calls to members who are ill or facing difficult times.

The Plattsburgh UU church is offering the Whole Lives program to their teens and invited the AUUC teens to join the group. Julia Goren has contacted families to inquire about interest in this program or interest in forming a AUUC youth group.

A Policy for Disruptive Persons was reviewed and discussed. The Board voted to adopt the policy from the UUA and Jane will edit it for our community. This revision will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

A Safe Congregation policy was reviewed and discussed. The Board voted to adopt the policy from the UUA and Jane will edit it for our community. This revision will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Proxy votes - Rev. Dwinell researched the proxy issue and discovered it is illegal in NY State.

Stewardship Campaign will kick off on October 12 and end of November 9. If a member is interested in being a co-chair on this task force, please contact one of the Board member or Rev. Dwinell.

Transgender issue - Kelly Metzgar would like UU support for NY state transgender rights legislation. Jane has contacted districts regarding NY state congregational support for this legislation. There is a NY state inter-faith organization headed by a retired UU minister which is involved in this.

Submitted by Jean Chamberlain

## Contact Numbers

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

Minister:	Jane Dwinell	802-279-9565
President:	Susan Arnold	891-3744
Vice President	Joan Kelly	572-6054
Secretary:	Jean Chamberlain	354-8061
Treasurer:	Gary Alexander	354-7823
Trustees:	Ginger Slater	637-5717
	Chi Chi Sloan	354-3607
Caring Co.	Joyce Henklein	891-7761
Coffee Hour:	Jean Chamberlain	354-8061
Communitarian:	Courtney Miller	<a href="mailto:starrypoetics@gmail.com">starrypoetics@gmail.com</a>
Double Ewe: Knitters	Joyce Henklein	891-7761
Place:	Randall Swanson	891-3512
	Glenn Arnold	891-3744
RE:	Ann Mullen	891-5735
	Julia Goren	845-216-3810
Social Justice:	Stephen DeHond	<a href="mailto:sdehond@hotmail.com">sdehond@hotmail.com</a>
Social Media:	Kelly Metzgar	891-0454
Worship Co.	Elaine Holmlund	891-6717



**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**