

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 149

April 2015

April Calendar

April 5

Jane Dwinell

Our Sharing the Plate Collection will go to the Saranac Lake Young Arts Association.

April 12

Jane Dwinell

April 19

Jamie Whidden

Aging Well With Passion

April 26

Peggy Lynn

Junquerama News

April 14th at noon there will be a lunch at Joan Kelly's for the Junquerama team to discuss this year's plans. Everyone who wants to help is invited!

We are in need of a truck to move items. This year's Junquerama is May 16th at Cassidy's Antiques. If you have a truck you can loan to transport items please let us know.

For everyone else, look through your boxes and donate, donate, donate!



Swanson Boys top Winners in Pendragon Festival

Sophmores Witter and Silas Swanson, along with their friend Sophie Morelli are the winners of Pendragon's Young Playwright's Festival for their play Blackout. This is the second year in a row that Witter has won the Young Playwright's Festival. You can catch a free performance of Blackout on April 11th. Congrats to the Swanson boys!

Words From the Minister

Words from the Minister

Now that the cat's out of the bag, I can tell all of you that spring has arrived here in New Orleans. My fig and banana trees are in full leaf, as are my grapes which are starting to blossom. We've been eating salad out of the garden for a month, and there will be broccoli soon. I know that there are signs of spring in the North Country, too, even if it is only longer days and spring birds. Soon the snow will melt, and it will be time to clean up our yards and get out the bug spray.

The wheel of the year turns in a predictable fashion.... winter into spring into summer into fall into winter. The Greeks got it right with their mythology -- Demeter in mourning over the winter while her daughter Persephone is held captive by Hades in the underworld, and the blossoming of spring when daughter returns to mother, then the weeping of fall when Persephone goes back to Hades for yet another winter. And so the cycle continues. Even Greece, with its Mediterranean climate sees winter!

AUUC is seeing a rebirth as well. Looking at Susan's column and all the other items in the newsletter, it is obvious y'all are on a roll. You have strength and purpose and energy, and most of all, a deep caring and love for one another. That's what's important. Great worship services, stimulating sermons, and tasty social hours are all important, but it's the love and care that you hold for one another -- and anyone else that should join you -- is the most important thing.

See you in church!
Jane

Looking Ahead

UU Outreach Project for a bitterly cold day, First night or during carnival 2016. AUUC members and friends, please donate a carefully laundered scarf that you never wear. We aim to collect about 15-20. These will be tagged. "I am not lost. I have been waiting for you. Wrap me around you to keep warm. from your friends at the Adirondack Unitarian-Universalist Community" These will be posted around town on poles , etc. to be picked up , hopefully, by those in need.

Thanks. Joyce and Elaine, scarf project.

**"Man was not created to preside over all other creatures,
but to live in harmony with them"**

-Ashley Montagu

President's Letter

The Board of Trustees and Worship Committee met for a joint meeting on Sunday, Marcy 1, 2015, following Rev. Jane Dwinell's announcement that she and her husband, Sky Yardley, would be moving back to New Orleans and she would not be renewing her first year contract with AUUC.

Fortunately the Board of Trustees and many interested members met with Jane at the end of January to develop a plan of action for 2015. Jane's leadership skills and grounding in growing and simplifying smaller congregations have been a huge help to our congregation which was struggling with burn-out when Jane agreed to become our part-time minister.

At this time of change please be assured that the trustees leadership is solid, the worship committee has services planned through most of June and the religious exploration program under the leadership of Julia Goren is happily welcoming back several of our young families.

Our congregation does a wonderful job of taking care of one another and delivers meals on wheels every Friday to those living in the Gabriels, Vermontville, Saranac Inn and Rainbow Lake areas. Calls are being made and cards are being sent to those unable to attend services.

We have a number of meetings and events coming up that I would like to outline for you.

April 14, Tuesday, for 12:00 lunch at Joan Kelly's: The Junquerama team will meet to plan for our May 16 extravaganza and set up on May 15. All are welcome to come and lend a hand.

May 3, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. for Canton Worship Service: Video-conferencing sermons are a new option available for UU congregations. Please join us in car-pooling to Canton to take part in new type of worship. Meg Riley from the Church of the Larger Fellowship will be video-preaching from her home church in Minneapolis.

May 10, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Child Dedication Service and Farewell Celebration for Jane: Please join us for this exciting Sunday and let Julia Goren know if you wish to have your child participate in this meaningful dedication service. Julia can be reached at 845-216-3810. This will be Jane's last service.

May 16, Saturday, Junquerama at Cassidy's Antiques, our largest fundraiser. **We are in need of a truck** to transport items. Do you have a truck? Would you be willing to drive on Friday and Saturday afternoons? Dig deep into your piles, boxes, basement, porches and garages for items we might sell!

June 7, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. AUUC Congregational Meeting, following worship service. An important meeting to outline the future worship path for our Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community.

Let's keep our congregation strong and dynamic this spring. Each service you attend makes AUUC more vital to each other, to our larger community and to the children who are growing up as young Unitarians. We have an exciting future.

All my best,
Susan Arnold

SHARING THE PLATE FOR APRIL SARANAC LAKE YOUNG ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Saranac Lake Young Arts Association's mission is to support and nurture the Arts among Saranac Lake Central School District youth by directing donations to support and encourage the Arts primarily through program support and scholarships for workshops, summer camps and college study in the arts.

Adoptee Equality

AUUC member Ginger Slater organized a petition signing held on the 29th of March for adoptee rights. The main focus of the adoptee rights movement is in allowing for adult adoptees access to their original birth records. Upon adoption, adoptees receive new birth records, which can leave a wealth of unanswered questions about family heritage, and health history. Providing access will give adoptees these and many more answers. Petitions were sent to Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Senator Dean Skelos. Below is the text for these letters.

RE: S3341

The Unitarian-Universalist Association of Churches supports the rights of adopted persons to unrestricted, unconditional access to their own original birth certificate befitting our focus on social justice and concerns of equality, civil and human rights.

The right of adopted people to be treated equally to non-adopted persons under the law regarding access to their birth certificates is grounded in the values of Unitarian Universalism and its principles of the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equality and compassion in human relations; and, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. It is the adult adoptees inalienable right to know the facts of the birth, genetic and medical history,

We support proposed legislation for adult adoptee rights bill A2910 / S3314 and we are asking our legislature to move these bills to the floor for a vote. Passage of these bills will bring answers and closure for second class citizens who have been denied rights, and often suffer tremendous grief and pain.

The Governor of Ohio who recently signed adoptee rights legislation commented, "this should have happened twenty years ago". The New York law that seals birth certificates is very old and must be brought current with the times. our state legislature should determine a new law without the necessity of court action.

Green Sanctuaries

Our Green Sanctuary Group has been invited to a sustainability social by NorthCountry 350. They have extended this invitation to everyone at AUUC to join and mingle with other green-minded people in the region!



NorthCountry350

NorthCountry350 cordially invites you and others with environmental interests to a

Sustainability Social!

- *Network with like-minded people
- * Mingle and share your group's efforts to create a more sustainable world (please bring brochures, posters, materials, etc.)

***LIVE MUSIC!**

Celebrate Earth Day! Change the world!

Light snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Children are welcome!!!

When & Where: Saturday April 11th 2-5 PM at
Between The Buns (upstairs) in Potsdam

rsvp: email Rick Williams at williarw@gmail.com or leave a message at 315-267-2613. Please include your name, group's name, and how many from your group may come. Would you like a table to display your group's information?



Summer Camp for UU Children and the Importance of Belonging

I was recently speaking with a friend whose child is in Middle School and the conversation turned to the importance of belonging in the lives of young adolescents and teenagers. The friend was a UU and was surprised when I shared that summer camp at Unirondack had shaped my now grown children more than any other experience in their lives. She had not known that UU summer camp existed and admitted that she was so full of worry that she never even thought to look.

This set me to thinking about how many other parents in our congregations are searching for opportunities for their children to live our UU values in a safe and nurturing community but have never considered summer camp. Maybe it is the fact that it is called summer camp? I have many friends who cringe at the term because they were sent to camp against their will as children.

So I decided to write to all the parents and kids in all the congregations I could reach to share what I have seen happen to my children at Unirondack.

My 24 year old son now runs his own company in the tech world. He readily shares that the confidence he has, the public speaking and organizational skills, and the feeling of being safe and affirmed as a human being all began at camp. He was a nerdy kid with a limited circle of friends at home as a teenager, and I remember how all year he would look forward to the summer, to returning to the place where he was accepted and could safely try on different ways of being.

My 20 year old son is finishing school at Oberlin. He has had a wonderful experience. Two things about his teen years have stuck with me. The first is when I went to visit his middle school and on the wall in his English class were the student's essays about "home". My son had written about Unirondack. The second is when he visited Oberlin and came back thrilled with the place, commenting that it was like "Unirondack on steroids".

I do not think my children's experience is unique. Over the years I have seen thousands of young people attend Unirondack, or Rowe, or any number of UU camps and have a similar experience. I still have a friend in my community who tells me every time I see her that attending camp was her child's only positive experience of belonging.

The camps are almost always full so if this has gotten you to thinking, talk to friend's whose children have gone to camp, or look on Unirondack's website <http://www.unirondack.org/> or check out any of the other UU camps and conference centers on the UUA website: <http://www.uua.org/directory/where/camps-retreats-and-conferences>

All my best,
Dan Gottfried
Executive Director, Unirondack
Co-founder, UUACCC (Unitarian Universalist Alliance of Camps and Conference Centers)



Spring

by Edna St. Vincent Millay

To what purpose, April, do you return again?
Beauty is not enough.
You can no longer quiet me with the redness
Of little leaves opening stickily.
I know what I know.
The sun is hot on my neck as I observe
The spikes of crocus.
The smell of the earth is good.
It is apparent that there is no death.
But what does that signify?
Not only under ground are the brains of men
Eaten by maggots.
Life in itself
Is nothing,
An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.
It is not enough that yearly, down this hill,
April
Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.



"Each man is as much an inhabitant of the
earth as he is of his country."

Hannah Arendt

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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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