

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 146

January 2015

January Calendar

January 4

Jane Dwinell

Sharing the Plate Collection to benefit Tri-Lakes Humane Society

January 11

Jane Dwinell

January 18

Jon Montan

January 25

Jason Brill

Dance

Sharing the Plate

The Tri-Lakes Humane Society will be the AUUC January recipient of our "Sharing the Plate" collection on Sunday, January 4th.

The Tri-Lakes Humane Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and is maintained as a No-Kill facility. The Tri-Lakes Humane Society advocates humane treatment of animals, reunites lost pets with their owners, provides protection, care, and shelter for abandoned and homeless companion animals, and educates the public.

Notes From the Worship Committee

In December, we were blessed by two services with Rev. Jane, one of which was a lovely Solstice Service. Many Saranac Lakers attended, among them members whom we haven't seen in a long time...I love the holidays! Kudos to Joan and Richard Kelly for the wonderful holiday decorations, inside and out.

We also enjoyed a Credo Sunday, presented by Phyllis Magnus and Joan Kelly. Laura Jean Swanson also entertained us with a collection of stories about Black Pete and his friends. Fun to hear about celebrations in other parts of the world.

Ginger Slater finished out the year with a special world peace and healing prayer service on December 28.

By the way, we cleared \$500 on our first ever CUUL YUULE holiday sale! Thank you to the Worship Committee, Joyce Henklein, Susan Arnold & Glenn and Laura Reid. Also to Emily Warner and her musical friends! What fun!

submitted by Elaine Holmlund, Chair

Words From the Minister

It's that crazy time of year when we all have to learn to write a new date! I feel like I'm just getting used to 2014.... It's been quite the year. Globally, much has gone on, and I am pleased that President Obama understands that the Keystone XL pipeline may not be the best idea, and that he has opened up diplomatic relations with Cuba -- thanks to the Pope. Religious people can do a lot.

What will AUUC do in 2015? There are people to care for, both in and out of our community. There are friends and neighbors to invite to services. There are interfaith activities to participate in. There are children to spend time with. There are injustices to speak up about. How will we make an impact?

Be thinking about what you would like to do, how you would like to participate in the life of AUUC. As your ideas bubble up, be sure to share them with me or your leaders -- the Board, the Worship Committee, and the RE Committee. Many hands make light work -- and help create change in our world.

In the meantime, I, for one, will be working on how to get through the darkness of deep winter. I don't mind the cold, but I mind the lack of light and the short days. I light candles and play energizing music and walk outside as much as the weather will bear. And, if the snow is right, I'll hit the slopes. And I'll long for spring, and the greening of the earth!

And I take to heart the words of May Sarton:

"Help us to be the always hopeful gardeners of the spirit who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth as without light nothing flowers."

See you in church!

Jane



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Driving through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh was a reality during the Christmas days of my childhood. Santa was my Uncle Lynn and the sleigh was a World War II Willy's Jeep. My cousins and I piled into the Willy's singing Jingle Bells at the top of our lungs as Uncle Lynn drove through the snow amidst the trees surrounding the family's farmhouse.

The day was filled with games galore, sledding on the front hill, tobogganing down the country road, cracking nuts in front the fireplace and Grandma and Grandpa snoozing in their chairs by the fire in the midst of all the activity.

In the early evening my grandmother, mother and aunts would gather around the pot-bellied stove in the farm's kitchen after the dishes were done, and we were taking the last bites of our turkey sandwiches before the drive home from Pennsylvania.

Because of those wonderful memories I have always loved the joy and excitement of the holiday season. When we lived in our large Victorian cure cottage on Helen Street, the house literally begged me to decorate its rooms and invite friends and family for holiday festivities.

A candle light beamed in every window bringing pleasure to the residents at the DeChantel and villagers who happened by. The glow of the candles stays with me, shining an inner light on many happy memories and more often on the spirituality of life and our love and acceptance of others. I've learned over the years that the meaning of Christmas is one of love, gratitude and the joy of giving.

Our Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community may not have a Willy's Jeep or a pot-bellied stove in its would-be kitchen, but our candles are glowing, our spirits are alive and we too are making wonderful memories together.

P.S. I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to planning with you for the new year ahead.

Editor's Note

With the hustle and bustle of the season submissions were low for this month. Understandable with how busy many of us are with friends and family this time of the year.

I am happy to have had the opportunity to watch AUUC grow over the past year, even if from afar. I hope 2015 will bring just as much, if not more growth for AUUC. I hope to visit this year!

My current congregation has been seeing growth and change as well, having wrapped up a series of workshops for congregants to discuss what they want to see for First Unitarian's next decade. The church also added three wonderful associate ministers.

This weekend I'll be attending a young adult convention for UUs 18-35, I'm excited to see what that will bring!

-Courtney

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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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