

# THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

**Volume 151**

**June 2015**

## **June Calendar**

### **June 7**

Karen Graff and Ann Mullen  
Pride Service

### **June 14**

Ginger Slater  
Holding On, Letting Go  
Sharing the Plate Goes to Tri-Lakes  
Headstart

### **June 21**

Mary and Max Riley  
"Our Circle"

### **June 28**

Nancy Murphy  
Flower Power

(Look inside for our full summer schedule!)

## **Summer Reprieves**

- Communitarian will be on break for August
- The Board of Trustees will skip their July meeting. Meeting for June 7th will be combined with June 14th Community Meeting
- The RE staff, Barb Curtis and the babysitting team to take off July and August

### **Sharing the Plate Tri-Lakes Headstart**

The Headstart Pre-School at William Morris Park will be the recipient of this month's Sharing the Plate offering on June 14. It is an exciting program for children of low-income families, ages 3-5, that is filled with experiences that support the social, health, nutritional, educational, and emotional needs of young children in our community. Rebecca Moran, mother of Adrian, Eli and Murphy, all members of AUUC, is a part of the school's staff.

"There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit"

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## President's Letter

**Upcoming Community Meeting:** The Board of Trustees will be hosting an official Community Meeting following our worship service on June 14. An official notice will be emailed or snail mailed to you ten days in advance on June 4. If you have an item to bring up for discussion, it would be helpful if you would mention or email it to one of our trustees so we can add it to the meeting's agenda. Your opinions and ideas are valuable for the continued success of AUUC.

**Religion Exploration Program:** A major part of the meeting will be devoted to the state of our Religious Exploration (RE) program and our AUUC board and members' commitment to making it happen. Ann Mullen and Julia Goren, current teachers, will open the discussion. We ask that you listen carefully and come prepared to help us come up with viable ideas and workable solutions to the issues.

RE is critical to the life and long-term vision of AUUC. Like most churches we tend toward a senior age demographic, and yet, we have a growing number of young couples, families and children joining our services. During the Child Dedication service on May 10, we dedicated ourselves as a religious community to help raise, educate and model the seven principals of Unitarian Universalism for the five children who were dedicated. They join a number of children who have previously been embraced by our congregation.

One of the major tenets of AUUC's mission statement is "to teach children in an atmosphere of wonder, discover and inquiry, where they will learn to open their minds to the many ways of seeing the world, preparing them for their own spiritual journey as they grow.

And yet, at this point in our twelve-year history we are lacking in:

- space to accommodate all ages of our children and teenagers
- volunteers & leaders to cover each Sunday with exception of July and August
- volunteers willing to form an RE committee to plan a year's activities
- a firm commitment from the board, parents and our adult community

Does that feel overwhelming to you? Like most of us it probably does. So where do we go from here. That's what our community meeting is about – it's about putting all of our brains, compassion and energy together to come up viable solutions. Ann and Julia have plenty of ideas for you to entertain. We hope to include these with the June 14<sup>th</sup> community meeting notice.

Julia Goren and Ann Mullen have dedicated themselves to our RE program for two+ years, teaching our children, missing many church services and our company to do so. Let's give them a hearty thank you for all they have done. Their compassion and dedication will enlighten you.

**Highlights of this summer's worship schedule:** The Worship Co. has put together a stellar schedule of worship services and forums through our August 30 service. The full summer calendar will be sent to you as part of the June newsletter and handouts will be available. Of note is the inclusion of the Rev. Wayne Walder from Toronto as our visiting minister on July 19 and August 16 and a special service with Rev. Joel Baer on August 2. Their bios appear in this newsletter.

We're all in this together as Unitarians, members, and friends. Our Search Committee wrote such a compelling profile of our AUUC community that Jane Dwinell answered our call almost immediately. We can create a compelling case as well for our RE program and make it happen with a splash in the fall. Let's do it!

## Child dedication Ceremony



Vivian Lane, Sebastian Vlach, and Adrian, Eli and Murphy Moran, accompanied by their parents, grandparents, stepfather and stepbrother. Not pictured: Rev. Jane Dwinell.

Mother's Day, May 10th, was an exciting day for AUUC, because five children were formally welcomed into our community through a child dedication ceremony! This is a joyous ritual, in which parents and the members of the congregation dedicate themselves to the children's development. Children and young families are our future, so we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the enjoyment and learning of these delightful kids.

-Ann Mullen

## Junque-a-Rama Success!

**\$1,740.00 Raised**

It would take a complete page in this newsletter to thank all the people who contributed to the financial and team-building success of the Junque-a-Rama. A videotape of the site on Friday prior to the sale would reveal a swift and dedicated set-up crew, truck drivers, unloaders, and a marking team pricing the loot working from 11- 7 until they couldn't see any longer. Saturday morning the pricing team arrived at 7:00 to finish their work. A total of \$1,740 was raised until mid-afternoon when the large breakdown crew arrived. In two hours everything was dismantled, filling countless cars and trucks with left-overs to be distributed or taken to recycling. Amazing feat with a satisfying ending. Thanks to all.

-Susan Arnold

## **Small Group Ministry at AUUC shares its first year's experiences in Our Circle Program June 21**

AUUC's Small Group Ministry (SGM), which began in October 2014, will conclude its first season with a Worship Service for the AUUC Congregation on June 21. "Our Circle," the title of the Service, will provide a look inside the workings of our first SGM.

SGM is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Groups of 7 to 12 people meet monthly to reflect on and discuss significant topics. Not to be confused with support groups or discussion groups, SGM requires no preparation such as study or reading. Participants bring their deepest listening skills and come "as they are" to share insights on a variety of topics from serious to whimsical in a confidential and safe space. It also does not seek to solve problems or to teach. Meaningful sharing among members is at the heart of this program.

As a UU group with its own covenant, most SGMs have an "open enrollment" time once or twice a year, and request a commitment of seven to eight months. AUUC will begin a second SGM in October 2015 at a regular monthly date and time set by the group in coordination with its facilitator, who must be a member of the congregation. The existing and new SGM groups are open to members and friends of the congregation.

AUUC SGM participants all will contribute to the June 21 Service. They include Vincine Fallica, Richard Kelly, Joan Kelly, Max Riley, Jean Chamberlain, Susan Arnold and Mary Riley, facilitator. The format will include an exhibition of SGM in action.

Those who want to sign-up for our new SGM (contingent on dates and times chosen) may contact Mary by email, [mary\\_riley\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_riley_us@yahoo.com) or telephone 873-6598. Also, if you want more information about taking part in SGM, we urge you to reach out to any of the current participants listed above.

-Mary Riley

## Donation to Grace Pantry



Pictured from left to right are Jean Chamberlain, Maggie Mortensen, Ann Mullen, Susan Arnold, Joan Kelly, Gary Alexander and Vance Mortensen.

On May 10, Grace Pantry organizers, Maggie and Vance Mortensen, received a donation of \$500 from the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community (AUUC) located on Church St. in Saranac Lake. The congregation members chose Grace Pantry as its mission for 2015.

Grace Pantry provides, at no charge, household and personal care items to Saranac Lake area residents. These include diapers, detergents, soaps, deodorant, and dental care supplies. It is located in the Baldwin House on Church Street in Saranac Lake and is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-4:30pm.

-Jean Chamberlain

**'DON'T COMPROMISE YOURSELF. YOU ARE ALL YOU'VE GOT.'**  
**JANIS JOPLIN**

## Worship Committee Notes

After a lovely spring capped with Nancy Murphy's "Flower Power" service, we look forward to an interesting and varied summer. As you may remember, we do things a little differently in the summer: no child care or refreshments. Last year, we sang a cappella but this year, Susan Grimm Hanley has come up with a CD of favorite hymns for our use! Thank you, Sue!

Many of the summer services will be short presentations followed by a forum or group discussion of the topic. We will start with Elaine Holmlund presenting "Psychic Energy" on July 5, followed by the music of "Magpie" on July 12, "A Sense of Wonder" honoring Rachel Carson. Rev. Wayne Walder, our visiting minister from Canada will present two sermons on "Our Shadows" on July 18 and August 16. Try not to miss these as they promise to be very thought-provoking.

On July 26, Glenn Arnold will lead off an economic injustice forum. Joel Baehr, our Buddhist friend, will present on August 2: "When the World is Full of Difficulty, Transform it All in the Path of Awakening." Kelly Metzger will present on August 9, Phyllis Magnus on August 23- both in forum format. Finishing out our summer will be Gary Alexander and Richard Kelly leading a forum on "Stirring the Melting Pot." WOW! All of these promise to be very enlightening and not to be missed!

Submitted by Elaine Holmlund, Chair

## Rising Light Sangha Retreat and UU Service

Rising Light Sangha is a local Buddhist Group that meets twice a month to study the teachings of Buddha.

Joel Baehr is the founding teacher. Joel will be in Saranac Lake to lead the sangha on August 1st for a day of teachings, discussion and meditation with a pot luck lunch in-between. He will also be leading UU on the 2nd of August in Saranac Lake.

If any of the UU members are interested in attending sangha's or this years retreat call Jen Curry 891-3652

-Jen Curry

## Newsy Bits

Henri Trapp, accompanied by her daughter, Susan, will be traveling to Arizona to see her sister of 99 years. We wish her a safe journey and healthy homecoming!

Jean Chamberlain is a new grandmother to "Alexandra Jean who arrived in Seattle on May 24 at 8:21 pm. She is 7 pounds and 3 oz. and 20 inches long. She is perfect and beautiful! It was a tremendous experience and what a blessing she is!" We're very happy for you, Jean.

Many of us received our **UU World** magazine this month. Check out the opportunities for B&B and house accommodations for UU members at a low rate in major cities and vacation areas. Plan your trips now for the summer and fall.

Ann Mullen and Karen Graff have returned to their Church Pond home. Ann will be attending the Ecumenical Council monthly meetings and Ginger Slater will take her place when she is away. Look for a report in July's Communitarian.

## **Babysitting Team**

Will and John Holmlund will be joining our nursery babysitting team of Elodie Linck and Mary Reid. Babysitting will be available through June 28 and will commence again on September 6.

### **I'm a Unitarian Universalist because:**

I need to run barefoot in the sands of the spirit. I need to lie among green leaves, to let myself respond, without plan or rule, to soft earth and the fragrant promise of morning. I need to love with wonder. I need to feel my flesh breathing and the pulse beat of all life. I need to feel my smallness.

Somehow, I need to know, to sense in every cell, that fringed mystery in which I live. I want to be breathless before the universe. I want exultation and hallelujahs and ecstasy... I want to live pressed against the edges of the unknown.

I want to hold hands with others in a dance of celebration... I want to embrace, surrender and live...consciously...a part of it all...

The very words...Unitarian Universalist imply all that I have said. The seamless web of creation is a unity. We can seize it by dogma, stretch it by fanaticism and twist it by terror, but we cannot break it. We cannot escape the mystery.

Choosing to be a Unitarian is to me an acceptance of that mystery, and affirmation of both life and of mystery in life.

Anonymous

Submitted by Joyce Henklein

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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  
89 Church Street  
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