

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 148

March 2015

March Calendar

March 1

Jane Dwinell

March 8

Jane Dwinell

March 15

Sue Grimm

"Music that Moves the Soul"

March 22

Martha Swan

March 29

Kim Bouchard from the Canton UU Church



JUNQUERAMA NEWS!

Can't stand it any longer?
Purge your home of unwanted:

- Furniture & Cabinets
- Antiques and nice old things
 - Shabby chic items
- Winter coats & sports stuff
 - Jewelry and clothing
 - Pottery and dishes
- Garden and lawn supplies
- Kid's clothes, toys, books
- Good small appliances
- Holiday and craft items
- CDs/DVDs/working tech equip.
 - Bric -a-Brac and good junk
- Anything you have ever loved!
 - Paper and art supplies
- Linens, towels, sewing materials

New Junquerama Date: May 16, 2015
Storage space an issue? 891-3744

"A space station we can build but peace on earth takes more brains."

-Charles Balfour

Sharing the Plate News!



Lena Bombard, shelter manager of the Tri-Lakes Humane Society, accepts the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community's "Share the Plate" check of \$137.00 from Jean Chamberlain.

March's Sharing the Plate goes to **Wounded Warriors**. The Wounded Warrior's mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors by raising awareness and enlisting the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, helping injured service members aid and assist each other and provide unique direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

Oh, Happy Day!

We are thrilled to welcome back Becca Moran and her children Adrian, Eli and Murphy and their friend, Gabe. Becca's life is full with working full time, going to school and raising her boys. Her ability to find time for AUUC is remarkable. Vivian is delighted to have their company.

Words from the Minister

Exciting things are happening at AUUC. The leadership of the congregation met to discuss growth and came up with some good ideas. Soon, you'll see posters around town inviting people to join us. There is a more detailed report elsewhere in the *Communitarian*. Be sure to read it and share your ideas and concerns with the leadership.

Whether or not this growth campaign is "successful" -- that is, it brings in more visitors who choose to stay as members -- it will definitely be "successful" in other ways because growth is not all about raw numbers. It's about personal growth, relationship growth, spiritual growth -- all of which AUUC members and friends can do without more people joining us. Through meaningful worship services, engaging religious exploration for the children, small groups ministry gatherings that allow for more intimate conversation, tasty social hours, and those all important phone calls, emails, and notes when people are ill or going through a personal crisis, the congregation can "grow" in so many deep and meaningful ways.

The main reason for AUUC to "grow" -- in numbers and/or in depth -- is to share in the promise of Unitarian Universalism, a liberal religion where you are in charge of your own spiritual beliefs. We are here to support one another, not tell one another what to think or do. People are looking for spiritual meaning in their lives, and many people have been pained by their childhood faith, or have not participated in a religion at all. Visitors may be startled or amazed when they come to AUUC. This unique religion may ring true for them, or it may not. UUism is not for everyone, and we need to be open to visitors choosing to continue their search elsewhere.

As the sun gets stronger, so does AUUC. There is much to look forward to.

See you in church!
Jane

Away for the Season

From all facebook indications Karen Graff and Ann Mullen are enjoying their time away from winter. Beautiful and radiant online photos show the change and new activities have been good for them. Richard and Joan Kelly along with Carol and Robert Scofield are heading to Florida for a winter break.

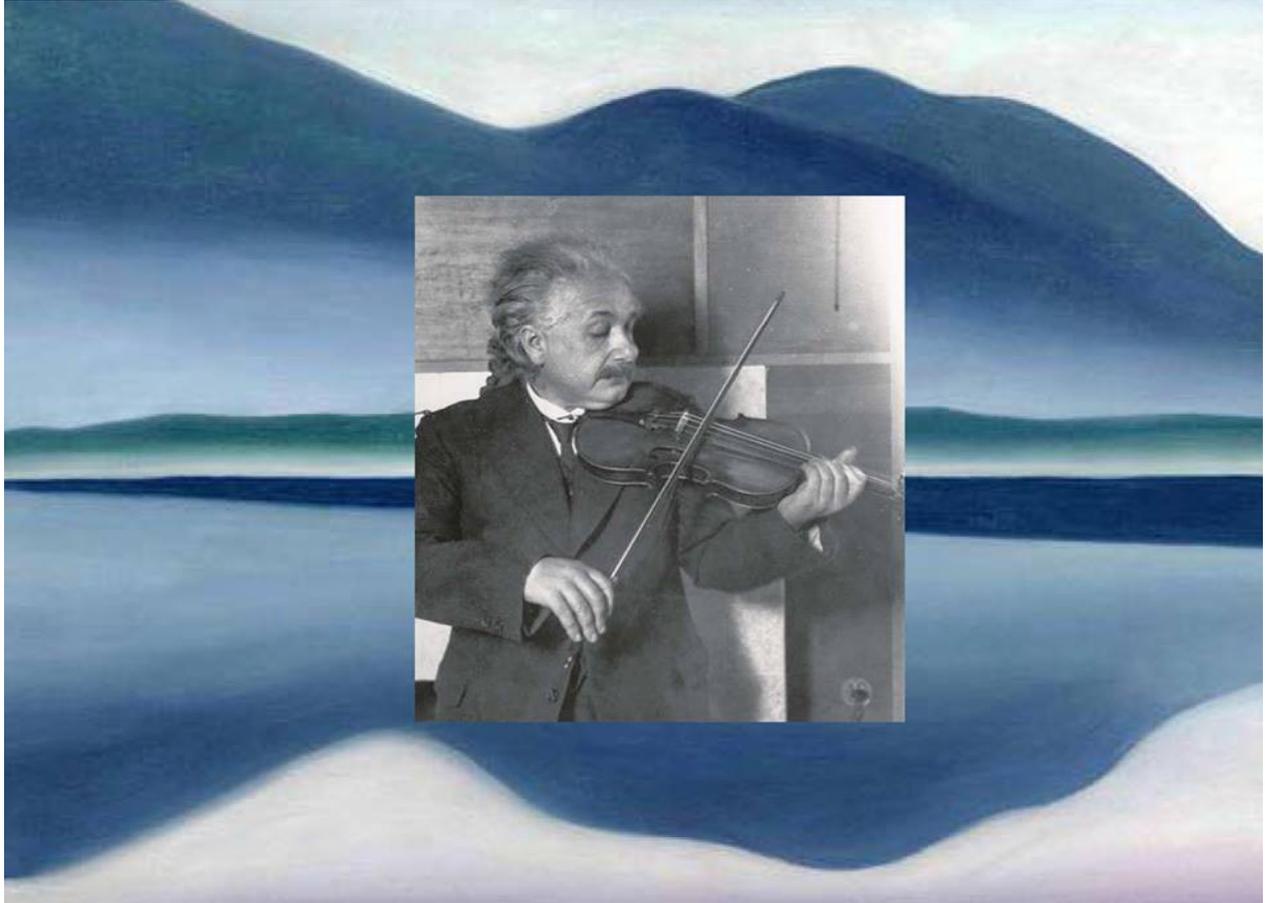
MEALS ON WHEELS

What a good thing this has turned out to be! The recipients are fun and friendly, the drive beautiful...The March schedule follows:

March 6-Jean Chamberlain
March 13- Joan Kelly and Gary Alexander
March 20-The Arnolds
March 27-Henri Trapp

PS During my absence, Susan Arnold will chair the group.

Science-Art-Music Festival



Curt Stager from Paul Smith's College's department of Natural Science is organizing an interesting event. Details are below:

You are all invited to attend the final presentation on Saturday, April 18, at the Paul Smiths VIC - the event will be open to the public as well. We're calling it the "Science Art Music Festival," and here is a link: <http://www.samfest.org>. In addition to the student "TED-talks" there will be musical performances, an art gallery, food, and various guest speakers including Gerry Gacioch, MD, the Catholic Climate Ambassador for NYS.

The event again is at the Paul Smith's VIC on April 18th and runs from 10:00 to 5:30. Admission is only \$5 for the whole day. Friends of the VIC an PSC Community members can attend for free. There will be a wealth of discussion ranging from the sciences to the role of faith communities in climate discussion, art, music, a screening of *Butterflies and Bulldozers*, and even some delicious maple syrup to celebrate maple season!

Butterflies and Bulldozers is a documentary that examines the challenges of economic growth and ecological preservation. It examines the fight to preserve San Bruno Mountain in the San Francisco, CA area, and its status as the first Habitat Conservation Plan, a plan that allows for land conservation in an urban area. San Bruno Mountain is also unique for the rare butterflies that call it home.

President's Letter

Returning to our worship services and writing my monthly Communitarian column after a month's absence due to foot surgery has been a remarkable experience.

Although I've enjoyed endless hours of relaxation, reading, hearing the cat purr and spending time with Glenn while my foot healed, the isolation has been a humbling sensation for someone so inclined to being with people and making things happen.

My appreciation for the kindnesses of people who lead busy lives has moved to the top of my gratitude list, along with my loving debt to Glenn for taking such good care of me. With my world sized-down to the length and width of our couch, I found I loved the silence and how little I needed to keep myself alive and well.

I can't say that I've had any major revelations, but the richness of watching the snow fall and the moon rising, the glow from our pellet stove and conversations with family and AUUC friends was enough to keep my spirits high and my soul fed.

Returning to my first Sunday service was filled with hugging embraces and joyful expressions of happiness. Confined to my chair I had a greater awareness of how many hands and team players it takes to pull everything together before the welcoming music is played and the coffee hour goodies are ready to be devoured. And then magic happens, the stellar clean-up volunteers clean, wash, sweep, turn off the lights, lock the doors and leave behind a museum.

Our congregation is filled with good, loving, welcoming and caring human beings. Thank you all for your caring and support.

With much love,
From your president who is ever thankful to be a member of AUUC.
Susan



Babysitting Service

Thanks to Mary Reid for taking over babysitting duties while Elodie travels to audition for a summer ballet school. She's had one acceptance and continues to audition each weekend. Mary is now attending Saranac Lake High School and we must say we're happy to have her closer to home. Mary and Elodie made the school's most recent honor roll. Aren't we lucky to have them?

*"Give us a child's faith, that we may be cured of our
cynicism"*

-Sara Moores Campbell

GROWING AUUC

As a successful outcome of AUUC's decision to hold worship services each Sunday and to hire Jane Dwinell as our minister, the board of trustees decided at our January 4th meeting to enter the third phase of our strategic plan which is to "Grow AUUC".

In the last few weeks we have seen an upsurge of new visitors trying us out. We have enjoyed the visits of Shavon Jenkins, Anna Brewer and her parents, Amelia Gelnett and Caroline Pearson, a friend of Kelly Metzgar's. We can witness how their visits enhance our worship services and time together during social hour.

Luckily for our AUUC community, Richard and Joan Kelly initiated and called together a working potluck dinner at their home in late January 2015 to invigorate our ongoing discussion about how to grow AUUC. Thank you for your leadership, Joan and Richard.

The discussion was driven by everyone's passionate desire to grow our Unitarian community and give a face to all we stand for in our local and global communities. In fact it took two people to take minutes and record the conversations and action steps.

The outcome was a list of goals and in many cases an outline of action step tasks. Right off the bat, we've had a poster and tickets designed by Jane's daughter, Dana, and UU bumper stickers are in the works.

The following outline provides a summary of what our AUUC community has been talking about for several years. Take a look and see what you like and don't like and what ideas you might have and tell us about them. We'll be holding an AUUC Community Meeting at a date to be announced.

In the meantime, here's a list of the "Grow AUUC" participants. You might want to corner them soon to let them know what you're thinking.

Richard and Joan Kelly, Jane Dwinell, Gary and Carolyn Alexander, Jean Chamberlain, Joyce Henklein, Steve DeHond, Elaine Holmlund, Phyllis Magnus, Emily Warner, Amelia Gelnet



Growing.....Excitement

Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Here you will find **the freedom to pursue your religious convictions** and join others in a spiritual journey. As a community, we offer **caring and support** for those who need it, and challenge everyone to do what they can to bring **justice, equity, and peace** to the world as a whole. **We welcome individuals and families** of all beliefs, abilities, racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and general identities.

How do we spread our message?

What comes to your mind?

Here's what comes to our minds.

- Publicize AUUC's presence in our communities
- Offer a liberal religion and talk publicly about our services
- Focus on high quality Sunday morning services
- Provide a solid Religious Exploration experience
- Promote and support our burgeoning Outreach activities
- Plan exciting fundraising activities to support our growth

How can you help?

- Bring a friend to services
- Raise a hand and have fun helping us out
- Let your secret out.... "I am a Unitarian"
- Volunteer to lead religious exploration classes
- Sign up for social hour. Good food and conversation fill the soul and nurture all who attend.
- Offer your ideas for growing AUUC



notes from the worship committee

Again, Rev. Jane started out the month with a moving sermon: "Black Lives Matter." In the light of all the unrest of Ferguson, Mo. and close to home in NYC, the topic was very welcome. She closed with a powerful poem regarding what it's like to be a black woman. Her second February sermon was entitled "Friendship" reminding how important friends are in addition to family.

Doug Rubio from our sister church in Canton spoke on "Heaven on Earth" on the third Sunday. (Doug teaches classical guitar at Crane.) A polished speaker, he reminded us that

heaven is indeed here on earth which is so lovely and inspiring that this life is enough if lived to the fullest.

We closed out February with a visit from Larry Hamm, gifted pianist, composer and arranger. His professional career began in the 80's with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra. He has performed for three US Presidents and was a US State Department Jazz Ambassador to West Africa in 2001 and 2002. He and Susan Grimm Hanley met while at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Thank you, Sue!

This month we "shared the plate" with the Transylvania Unitarian Church. Next month, "Wounded Warriors."

Upcoming: Sue Grimm leading a personal favorites music program (March 15) Martha Swan from "John Brown Lives" (March 22) and Kim Bouchard from Canton on March 29. Rev. Jane will preach on March 1 and 8.

Phyllis Magnus will chair the committee in my absence: March 13-April 26.

Submitted by
Elaine Holmlund, Chair



AUUC gets a new addition to its sign, announcing the service time and name of our minister to the public.



Adult and Family Programs at Unirondack

Unirondack, our UU camp and conference center in the Western Adirondacks of NYS, has added exciting new opportunities for fellowship for adults this summer, in addition to their usual family and youth camps.

Two special Monday to Friday programs are planned.

The first is a [Womens' Week](#) from August 24 to August 28th. The week will focus on creating community and intentional self care. Women will gather to share the warm days and cool nights in great conversation, art-making, yoga and meditation, music, and nightly campfires.

The second new opportunity is an [Outdoor Adventure Week](#) from August 31 to September 4. Participants can rock climb with a certified instructor, hike in the forever-wild Adirondacks and learn about foraging and plant identification, join in the the worldwide game of “geocaching”, take day-long excursions by canoe or kayak, or just relax and enjoy being in nature with new friends.

Both weeks are being offered at a special first-time cost of only \$350 for the week, which includes housing and Unirondack's usual outstanding food.

In addition to these two week long programs, Unirondack will be offering a weekend retreat for [Young Adults](#) age 18-30 from June 5-7 in collaboration with the UU Congregation of Binghamton. As part of Unirondack's commitment to supporting the participation of young adults in our faith, the weekend is being offered to young people at only \$45 if registration is completed before April 1.

Of course Unirondack continues to offer extraordinary summer camp programs for [youth](#) from ages 9 -18, as well as a wonderful week for [families](#) from August 16-22, a [weekend for families and friends](#) over Memorial Day, and a [Mens' Gathering](#) on the weekend of June 12-14.

Programs fill up fast so if you are interested visit Unirondack's website at Unirondack.org to learn more and to register.

And don't forget to also check out all the wonderful programs offered by our other UU Camps and Conference Centers, [Rowe](#) in Western Massachusetts, [Star Island](#) in New Hampshire, [The Mountain](#) and [Shelter Neck](#) in North Carolina, [DeBenneville Pines](#) in California, [Ferry Beach](#) in Maine, [Unicamp](#) in Ontario, and [Murray Grove](#) in New Jersey.

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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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