

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 150

May 2015

May Calendar

May 3

Jane Dwinell

May 10

Jane Dwinell

Children's Dedication

Farewell reception for Jane following service.

May 17

Jennifer Tissot and Kara Munn

"Gratitude and Forgiveness"

Sharing the Plate goes to benefit Tri Lakes
LGBTQ Student Mixers

May 24

Phyllis Magnus

"You Might be a UU if..."

May 30

Joe Dockery

"History of Rock and Roll"

Sharing the Plate for May

The Tri-Lakes LGBTQ student mixers being held at the Saranac Lake Youth Center are the brainchild and dream of Kelly Metzgar who is a dynamic part of our AUUC community. The mixers are open to all Tri-Lakes area LGBTQ students and their Allies & Friends. The mixers provide an evening of fun, activities and discussion in a safe & supportive place to get together, be oneself and enjoy meeting other area middle and high school LGBTQ students. Pizza and soft drinks are provided with no admission charge. The first mixer was a great success with 15 students from Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake attending.



auuc facebook news

Sue Grimm-Hanley has agreed to post our news on the AUUC facebook site. Please forward any articles, news items or photos to Sue at saranacsue@roadrunner.com. Our outgoing minister, Jane, has thankfully brightened our pages with weekly news. It's all up to us now.

Words From the Minister

This is my last column to all of you, and I want to say how much I have enjoyed our time together. You are a fabulous bunch of folks, very committed to your church community, and to the larger Tri-Lakes area. I remember when I was interviewing for the position -- being impressed with all you do, and how you do it, and wondering why it was you thought you needed a minister. I have worked with many small congregations over the years, and have seen all kinds, both good and not-so-good. AUUC certainly ranks among the best.

You've done great things this past year:

You've instituted "sharing the plate" -- donating a once-a-month offering to a local non-profit (they are very much appreciative!). You have taken on a relationship with Grace Pantry, donating very generously to their good work. You have been seen in the community taking on environmental issues, support for BGLTQ adults and teens, and delivering meals once a week for elderly shut-ins. You have started a small group ministry group, which I know has been important to its members. You have provided quality worship every week, year 'round. You have provided religious exploration classes creatively for the children who do come. You have cared for one another in times of illness and personal stress. You are doing all that needs to be done to be a strong, healthy, small congregation.

You have a bunch of very committed volunteers who do the hard work of keeping everything together. The bills have to be paid, and the checkbook balanced. The landlord has to be coordinated with. The newsletter and orders of service must be done. The worship services need to be scheduled, created, and coordinated -- along with the religious exploration classes (whether or not any kids show up!). Financial contributions and membership numbers have to be given to the UUA and the District. Chairs need to be set up, coffee needs to be made, snacks need to be provided, and someone has to clean up! Never mind planning and putting together your various fundraisers. There is much to be done, and it's nice to see everyone volunteering to help with something.

It is exciting that you are working on a partnership with the Canton UU church. There are many new and creative models out there to help our small congregations be strong and important in their communities. I expect you will have a great time working with the folks in Canton, figuring out what will be most helpful to everyone. I know they are excited to work with you.

I will miss all of you, and will think fondly of our time together. I know you will continue to do good things as the wonderful Community that you are.

See you in church... two more times!

Jane



Video Conferencing With the Canton UU Community May 3rd

On Sunday, May 3, a group of AUUC trustees and members will be carpooling to Canton to take part in the premier of the Unitarian Universalist Association's video-conferencing service which is a live streaming of a sermon in a remote location. This is a reminder to Jean Chamberlain, Phyllis Magnus, Kelly Metzgar, Carolyn Alexander, Sue Hanley-Grimm, Elaine Holmlund and Susan and Glenn Arnold that we will be meeting on May 3 at 8:15 at AUUC's parking lot to organize for car-pooling to Canton. If you would like to join our group, please meet us in the parking lot. We'd love to have you join us. If you have questions, please call Susan at 891-3744.

Susan Arnold

President's Letter

It's DaffFest Weekend in Saranac Lake, and like you, I'm wondering where that predicted "partly sunny" day is and missing the daffodils which are most likely still frozen in seven feet of frost.

From our perch overlooking Petrova Avenue on a wintery Thursday, students walked by with their shoulders hunched, lacrosse players ran in straight lines with masks on, sticks in the air while clothed in bulky gear, track team members came slogging by with road sand blowing in their eyes and adults persevered in shorts while walking their dogs. Ah, springtime in the Adirondacks.

While we wait for warmer days the energy in AUUC is ramping up. A quick review of the articles submitted for May's Communitarian indicate we are a welcoming, creating, sharing, premiering, thanking and delivering community.

It's pretty astonishing that a small community of people such as we are can do so much. Thanks to all and especially to our parents with young children who give up their Sunday mornings to join us for services. That is your gift to our congregation.

April, often slow and dismal, has been a hot bed of planning for AUUC's future without Jane and weekly services to fill. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend both our May services on May 3 and 10 which will bring to closure Jane's year with us. And, remember May 10 is a special celebration to mark Jane's time with us and to perform our yearly children's dedication service.

Here's what's on tap for the spring, summer and fall.

Spring:

Sun. May 3: Trip to Canton UU for video-conferencing preview

Sun. May 10: Jane's farewell & child dedication & celebration

Fri. May 15: Jumbo Junque-a-Rama set up & arrival of your boxes and bags full of treasures for marking

Sat. May 16: Junque-a-Rama and all hands on deck. We need your help!

- May 31: Joe Dockery and the history of Rock and Roll – straight from performing at Pendragon
- June 13: Junket to Albany for a UU Partnership Mini-Conference

Summer:

- Visioning and planning a year of weekly services (Worship Committee)
- Discussing RE programs and activities for 2015/2016 (RE working committee)
- Looking into a possible mini-congregational partnership with Canton UU to enrich our ministry
- Researching equipment should we decide to invest in the live-streaming of sermons
- Purchasing “Soul Matters” - a new resource from UUA for volunteer-led worship services

Fall:

- Holding a Silent Auction for fundraising purposes
- Planning a “new look” stewardship campaign straight from the St. Lawrence District Assembly
- Researching becoming a UUA “Welcoming Congregation” and a “Green Sanctuary” congregation

It's almost mind-boggling, isn't it? But most of the items are already in motion and the new options coming from UUA for worship came just at the right time. Now if only we could get Jane to live-stream a few worship services here and there, especially from a river boat in France! I'm relieved to have this done on paper for all to see.

All my best,
Susan

Creating Open Space for AUUC's Children

Working together in three teams during the spring, fall and winter of 2014 and 2015, Jean Chamberlain, Phyllis Magnus, Joan Kelly, and Laura Reid spent more than 12 hours organizing and cleaning out 12 years of AUUC accumulations and unused equipment to open up additional space for our religious exploration and nursery programs. Many thanks for their tireless efforts. An extra note of gratitude goes to Jean and Phyllis for cleaning out all three rooms, cleaning the dirty hallway and taking carloads to Lake Placid. They did a fabulous job creating more space.

For those of you who have never ventured upstairs from our worship space in the John Black room, we also rent three rooms which accommodate an office, nursery and an RE/meeting room. They were stuffed to the gills with our collections which have now been recycled at the Lake Placid Landfill and Recycling Center. Several items will make their way to our Junque-a-Rama sale.

Our major purchase will be a long table with foldable legs which will allow our educators to move the table in the hall if they wish to do a group activity with the children. If you have a

table or wish to make a donation to help with the purchase, please speak with Susan Arnold or call 891-3744.



St. Lawrence District Assembly UUA, 2015

On March 27 and 28, Sue Grimm Hanley and Phyllis Magnus represented our AUUC congregation at the 2015 District Assembly in Niagara Falls. The St. Lawrence District is comprised of 34 UU congregations in New York State and northern Pennsylvania. The assembly was a joint annual meeting with the Ohio-Meadville District. As a small congregation, we were entitled to two voting delegates. We were among approximately 600 participants. On Saturday morning a rousing worship service was conducted by the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, featuring their Saturday evening worship service house band, Orange Sky. We also attended the second Sunday service at the Rochester Church, on our way back to the North Country (they have three weekly services for their 1000 plus members), and were **hosted by our very own Communitarian editor Courtney Miller**.

Our badges displayed ribbons identifying AUUC as an "Honor Society" and "Annual Program Fund Honor Congregation" for meeting our fair share contributions to the district and UUA. AUUC members are also one of the more generous givers to the Chalice Lighters Fund. It was disappointing that our badges did not show us to be a LGBTQ "Welcoming Congregation" or a "Green Sanctuary". Both of those designations are achieved through planned programs that we might wish to accomplish in the next few years.

Getting down to business:

With Rev. Jane leaving, there has been concern regarding how we will continue to provide stimulating and meaningful Sunday services. We had the opportunity to learn of a number of resources to assist AUUC's continued enthusiasm and worship service experience.

- **Congregational Partnering.** Congregations across our region are benefitting from sharing resources, often with larger congregations providing leadership and worship assistance to smaller congregations. We met over lunch with ministers from Canton, Saratoga Springs, Watertown (living in Cranberry Lake) and a member of the Plattsburgh Congregation. *AUUC's exploration of this opportunity will continue on June 13 at a Partnership Mini-Conference at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Albany, NY.*

- **Soul Matters Sharing Circle.** Over 80 UU congregations use similar worship themes and share resources. Each month a packet of resource material on a theme is provided to participant groups, e.g., The February 2015 theme is "What Does It Mean to Be a People of Faith?" *Seven years of archived monthly packets are available to provide inspiration and material for services.*

- **Live Streaming of Sermons from Remote Locations.** The equipment needed to take advantage of this opportunity was discussed, *and on May 3rd a live streamed sermon from*

MA will be hosted by the Canton UUC. A number of AUUC leaders plan to attend this demonstration.

We attended workshops on Stewardship, learning of outcomes of *mission-based campaigns* vs. the traditional “pledge drive” model. Also of interest was a workshop on skillfully matching congregants with the volunteer opportunities which utilize their talents well – helping to avoid “burnout” among the volunteer corps.

We look forward to discussing these ideas with the Board, Worship Committee and members – Phyllis and Sue



Our AUUC board and friends!

WELCOME BACK TO AUUC

We are happy to announce that Adrian, Eli and Murphy Moran and their Mom, Becca have returned. Becca, an amazing and wonderful mother, has gone back to school along with working full time and raising her three boys on a farm on the Fletcher Farm Road in Bloomingdale. Good luck with your studies, Becca.

And just last week we welcomed Clementine, Freya and Zane Guenette along with their parents, Kat Harkins and Sean Guenette back to our AUUC fold. Last summer they returned to their home in Loon Lake where they brought baby Zane into the world. Following this very long winter they made the move back to Saranac Lake where they are living on Margaret Street. Loving and compassionate parents and people they are.

We all are so happy to have you with us again as we worship and become a family of Unitarians.

Meals on Wheels for May

Our AUUC volunteers' schedule for May's "meals on wheels" deliveries is as follows:

May 1: Jean

May 8: Kelly and Alexander families

May 15: Phyllis

May 22 and 29: Arnolds and Henri.

Rental Lease With Historic Saranac Lake

Many thanks to Amy Catania, director, and the board of Historic Saranac Lake for approving our rental lease for 2014. Do you know we've been paying the same rent for seven years with no hike in the cost? If you see anyone from Historic Saranac Lake, please thank them and let them know how important their space is to our Unitarian community.

ONE LAST PUSH FOR YOUR JUNK & TREASURES!

This message is for you. We need, need, need your spring clean-out items for our sale on Saturday, May 16th. Just no shoes, underwear or grimy cookwear. We'd love to receive your clothing on hangars. Several of your UU friends are using this sale as a golden opportunity to lighten up their burdens of too much stuff. **Just imagine the relief you'll feel by getting rid of your unwanted items.**

Please deliver on Friday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. across from Casa Del Sol and next to Cassidy's antiques. We'll have two trucks available if you need us to pick up your items. We'll take photos of your large items and post them on a bulletin board at the sale. People buy anything that's a deal. **We're bending over backwards to make this easy for you.**

We'd love to bring in \$1,300 to make our 2015 budget. **Come by and visit from 9:00 until 4:00 p.m.** It's the most fun we have all year. Even if you think your items won't sell, bring them to the sale.

We need volunteers – **please sign the sign-up sheets the next two Sundays.** We especially need cashiers and clean-up crew. We'll make it worth your while.

Call Emily Warner at 637-3422, Phyllis at 354-1379, Susan at 891-3744 and/or Joan and Richard at 523-1133.



A Note of Thanks

A special note of thanks goes to the following:

New speaker:

- Thanks to Phyllis Magnus for finding just the right sound system speaker for our needs

For her time:

- Thanks to Ginger Slater, trustee, for attending the Ecumenical meetings

For their time and volunteer efforts during AUUC's Junque-a-Rama:

- Gail and Jason Brill for the loan of their truck
- Emily Warner for driving their stick-shift vehicle
- Gail Brill for creating the Junque-a-Rama posters and helping with online distribution
- Joyce Henklein for notifying NCPR and local papers for publicity
- Stacy DeClerque for agreeing to donate some of Carrie's unneeded treasures for selling
- Gail Brill again (!) for donating her left-over items from her giant house sale for us to sell
- Linda Scheefer for donating her used-furniture structure for our use.

For giving up a weekend:

- Sue Grimm-Hanley and Phyllis Magnus for traveling to Niagara Falls for the St. Lawrence District Assembly. Their information gathering will lead us into the future.

For enriching our music for services:

- Sue Grimm-Hanley for purchasing a CD containing favorite UU hymns which will help out during our worship services or a hymn sing-along.

Message from the Editor/ A Pleasant Surprise!



Hi AUUC! This issue is out a little later than usual, but life has been busy! On April 28th I traveled to Albany with a bus full of friends and acquaintances for Equality and Justice Day to lobby in support of GENDA (Gender Expression Non Discrimination Act), banning conversion therapy for minors, and supporting the legalization of surrogacy.

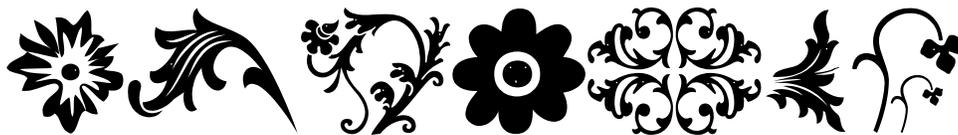
Much to my surprise, as I flipped through the day's programs for workshops, I discovered that AUUC's own Kelly Metzgar was presenting a workshop on trans advocacy in rural areas. It was a pleasure to meet Kelly in person after months of only corresponding through email. I was also happy to learn about her advocacy work in the region.

The whole day was a wonderful experience, including a first for me, lobbying my senator! The only downside for me was waking up at 3:30am so I could be on the bus by 5. Everything else was fantastic! Weather was ideal, breakfast and lunch were covered, and I spent the day both in the company of friends and standing for things I believe in.

In other news I have been up to quite a bit. First Unitarian started a newsletter for their Social Justice Council, and I have been contributing to it with articles of some of my activities. I'm nearing the end of my second year of volunteering at The Children's School of Rochester. As some of you may already know through Sue Grimm and Phyllis Magnus, I'm excited about First Unitarian's plans for the future, including a satellite branch in Rochester's downtown.

That's all I can think of for now. Hoping I can make it up some time this summer for a visit.

-Courtney



TO MY MOTHER

Robert Louis Stevenson

You too, my mother, read my rhymes
For love of unforgett'n times,
And you may chance to hear once more
The little feet along the floor.

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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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