

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 167

December 2016

Service Calendar

December 4

Adam Klyczek
"Upstander / Bystander"

December 11

Jean Chamberlain and Rosalie Fontana
"Simplicity" forum

December 18

Rev. Dave Weissbard
"Why I Believe in Santa Claus"

Weds. December 21 6pm

The Swanson Family
Solstice Service

December 25

Merry Christmas!
No service

January 1

Craig Milewski leads a contemplative service.

Events Calendar

Friday, December 2 9-1

Decorating the John Black room and
accepting donations for Jingle Junquerama.

Saturday, December 3 9-2

Jingle Junquerama

Sunday, December 4

AUUC Board Meeting
Open Meeting Following the Service

Monday, December 5 6PM

Welcoming Congregation Meeting
John Black Room

Sunday, December 11

Worship Committee Meeting
following the service

**Reminder: Please return your pledge cards by
December 11 to help us prepare for 2017**

President's Message

November has felt like a very long month. It has been long in reaching the outcome of a national process of conflict and hope, long in the turmoil of emotions seldom stirred to such levels of passion, long in the outpouring of energy in little acts of protest.

Through it all I have been felt blessed to be a part of movements within our AUUC community as well as the Saranac lake community. On November 5th many of our AUUC members and friends participated in the Climate March. Our Welcoming Congregation Committee initiated the Transgender Remembrance service held November 20, joined by the Presbyterian and Episcopal congregations and Adirondack North Country Gender Alliance. Despite the first heavy snow storm more than 30 people turned out and AUUC was well represented. The Samaritan Homeless Shelter is nearing being ready for occupancy. For a small congregation, many contributed labor and resources to this community project.

December ends my term as President of the AUUC Board of Trustees. I had not imagined how much time and diversity of tasks would be required. I have extreme gratitude for our hard working and generous Board members. We will sorely miss the leadership contributions of Jean Chamberlain and Joan Kelly whose Board terms are ending, though I know they will continue their active participation.

I'm thankful for all who have participated on committees and task groups, provided worship services and music, represented AUUC on the Ecumenical Council and in Refugee action, and persisted with children's programming, and provided caring outreach to members. We have been pleased to welcome several new members and friends who have quickly become engaged in the activity of AUUC.

A new website is in process of being built with the hope of being more able to extend AUUC's message and welcome. Your Stewardship Chair, Joyce Henklein, and Board urge your financial support to continue and expand our capacity to provide satisfying worship experiences and projects in support of our Unitarian Universalist principles.

Thank you for all you have done, and just being here, in this year. Phyllis

Why are Some People Wearing Safety Pins?

In the lead to and following the Brexit vote in Great Britain, skin heads and others took to beating up Muslims and others who didn't look English enough to them. In response many English citizens began wearing safety pins, emphasis on the SAFETY, to indicate that they were no threat to any immigrant, and that they would stand by, support and protect them if needed.

This symbol has jumped the Atlantic and is being used here to indicate to immigrants and others, who is an ally and will support them from our own homegrown racists and white supremacists.

We have a number of immigrants and others here in the Tri-Lakes who may be targeted by racists as they have been in other areas of the country.

There has been some criticism, valid I think, that the wearing of safety pins is just another empty gesture by white people to make themselves feel good, without actually having to do anything to fight the problem.

IF YOU ARE WILLING to COMMIT to stand against hate incidents, and are willing to provide protection or other concrete support to anyone threatened by, or who has become a victim of, racists and white supremacists, provide me your contact information and I'll give you your very own safety pin! ;-)

Vincine Fallica
vinfallica@roadrunner.com

Service on National Transgender Day of Remembrance

Over thirty people turned out for our first annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service in Saranac Lake, despite the late hour and the first snow storm of the season. We – the AUUC Welcoming Congregation Committee – sponsored the service along with St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Saranac Lake. Members of each of these three congregations participated in the planning. St. Luke's generously offered its space.

It was a beautiful service. Lisa and Klaus Meissner provided guitar accompaniments to two songs and Frank Jacobson, St. Luke's organist, played four short pieces. The most moving part of the service was the reading of the names of those transgender people who died by violence in the United States over the last twelve months – 26 of them. Reverend Joann White contributed a lovely prayer in which she spoke of a "God of no gender" who knows the real names of all transgender people.

Violence directed at transgender people is a world wide phenomena. It was startling to me to discover that 68 people had been murdered in 2016 in Brazil alone. Kelly Metzgar also talked briefly at the service about suicide. **Suicide attempts among trans men (46%) and trans women (42%) are much higher than suicide attempts by the general population** -The annual age-adjusted suicide rate is 12.93 per 100,000 individuals in the United States.

Speaking for myself, I think the three-congregation planning did a great job on short notice.

Ann Mullen

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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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