

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 161

June 2016

Calendar

June 5

Jean Chamberlain, Rosalie Fontana and
Joan Kelly
Blessings

June 12

Todd Moe and Paul Siskind
"Which One of You Does the Cooking;
SameSex Marriage, from Hoopla to HoHum"
June is LGBT Pride Month and we'll share
part of our story as a same-sex couple --
more than 20 years of couplehood and our
2004 government-sanctioned, legal marriage
in Canada.

June 19

Craig Milewski
Philosopher's Camp

June 26

Russell DeFonce
Alternative Economics

July 3

Russell DeFonce
Forum on Alternative Economics

Events

June 11

Multi-Site Meeting 10 - 3 PM
Location Unitarian Universalist Church of
Canton
3 Main Street

June 18

**Junque-a-rama
8 to 3 PM**
Followed by a cookout.

June 19

Congregational Meeting
Strategic Planning

June 26

Board meeting.
11:30, following service

President's Message

"Being part of a religious community is a personal commitment that reflects a theological vision—namely, a sense of the fundamentally interdependent, or covenantal, nature of existence. Being in community, then, is not incidental to being a Unitarian Universalist, but intrinsic and inescapable. The religious community is the vital matrix of the formation of its members' diverse personal ministries."

"Diversity becomes an important goal where there is commitment to a vision of the church as fully inclusive; such a vision exists in faith and hope before it can exist in reality, thus we call it theological. The religious community we believe in must represent the whole, glorious diversity of humanity."

statements from the UUA [The Congregation Handbook](#)

A congregational meeting is scheduled for June 19, following the service. Our Treasurer, Sue Grimm Hanley, has provided a statement in this newsletter on the purpose of the meeting. AUUC does not have a long term planning committee. We do however, individually or collectively, have hopes and visions. At various times AUUC has entered a search for a property that would allow more growth. We hired a part time minister. We are also a part of a larger religious community. We participate in Multi-site meetings with our neighboring UU communities. Recently, we have been invited to consider shared ministry. The Plattsburgh Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has inquired if we might contribute support for a quarter of a shared three-quarter time minister.

As we decide the disposition of our building funds, please consider any projects or needs that might enter into a decision. I can share that Amy Catania, Executive Director of Historic Saranac Lake (HSL), has proposed the possibility of some additional space becoming available at HSL in the future.

Two other items are being put forth for your vote.

- The congregation must approve going forward toward becoming a Welcoming Community. Ann Mullen led a dynamic meeting following the service May 22nd which resulted in nine of thirteen participants volunteering to be on a Welcoming Congregation Committee. See her proposal in this newsletter.

- Steve DeHond has agreed to be our Environmental Action representative in concert with the Canton and Plattsburgh Unitarian Universalist congregations. He will keep us apprised on the Unitarian Universalist Association resolutions and projects as well as participate in multi-site planning. At its May 15 meeting, the AUUC Board recommended that a congregational vote be taken to support his work and to authorize him to make a stand on specific environmental actions for AUUC.

Twenty percent of members of the congregation are required to constitute a quorum at an

AUUC business meeting.

The congregational meeting will round out a busy and grand weekend for AUUC with the Junque-a-rama and cookout.

Hurrah for what a small community can accomplish.

Blessings, Phyllis

Mark your calendars for June 17 and 18

for

Our famous annual jumbo Junquerama!

We need you to volunteer a few hours
and to box or bag up all

your unused or unwanted treasures

Deliver to 62 Petrova Ave on Friday
June 17th any time,

For Pick-ups call 891-3744 (Susan)
asap

Hours are 8:00am – 3:00pm
Clean up 3:00-4:00

AUUC Barbeque follows!



From Your Treasurer

On Sunday, May 8th, a “double collection” was taken in our beautiful two-pocket basket. President Phyllis Magnus made a special request, for funds to buy more “teal” hymnals (Singing the Journey). The attendees that day answered the request with \$185! This amount will buy 12 new hymnals (thanks to a 20% discount we received for buying more than 10), plus covering half of the postage. What a great success!

We would also request that everyone check at home for copies of Singing the Living Tradition (black hard cover.) We have been coming up short on them, on large attendance Sundays! They can be returned to the shelf, or come back and forth with you ... but we often need every one that we own!! Thanks for checking into this. Anyone who is interested in buying their own black (or teal) hymnal can contact Sue Hanley for assistance – or visit the inSpirit book and gift shop site (www.uuabookstore.org) A warning: the site is soooo interesting and tempting, you'll see lots of desirable purchases!

As your Treasurer, I am very sorry to miss the first part of our **Strategic Planning Meeting, on June 19th**. (I will be providing music for the Keene Valley congregation that day, and will be attending our meeting asap after that.) An important part of Strategic Planning for our AUUC is discussing responsible stewardship of money that was earmarked for building/buying our own building. Therefore, I would like to share my thoughts on this, so that you all can also be considering this important issue. The Board very much wants to hear your opinions and ideas!

Thanks to the great generosity and foresight of a few members, AUUC has a fund of ~\$60,000 -- originally gifted (and partly fundraised) for the purpose of a permanent home for AUUC. Previously, this fund was invested through Vanguard Mutual Funds. Permission from the donors was sought (and granted) to use some of the funds for needs in regard to finding/supporting a minister, as well. When both having a minister and looking for a permanent home were current situations, the funds were withdrawn. Rev. Dwinnell, during her tenure here, advised us that it takes 80 paying members to support a minister (which we do not have), and a suitable home was not found. While the Board is recommending reinvestment at this time, the congregation is invited to present their thoughts about long term planning. Also, we have had proposals from the Plattsburgh and Canton UU congregations concerning shared staffing. An update on those proposals may follow a Multi-site (Canton, Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake) Meeting in Canton on June 11.

In terms of possible re-investing, I would like to suggest the following split: **1)** Keeping ~\$10,000 in our regular account against unforeseen emergencies, and as an easily accessible down payment, should a wonderful buying opportunity arise. **2)** Investment of the remaining amount. (\$50,000 and above is a key amount which often carries benefits, i.e. a percentage savings on service fees, with investment firms – so investing at least that amount would be advisable, if possible.)

After some initial research, I was dismayed to read some negative aspects of using Vanguard as our investment vehicle. Our President, Phyllis Magnus, brought **Trillium Funds** to my attention, and I find this firm to have the same high moral standards and social/environmental justice agendas that AUUC does, with an excellent track record. I would so appreciate it if any others would take some time to search/read about Trillium Funds, or talk with their own investment advisors, if possible, **before our June 19th meeting**.

I am very excited to think of how much good we could do in the world with our money, through

Trillium Funds, as well as growing our account for our future! But I am equally excited to hear any input our members have – I believe that together, we will find the best solution. In UU Fellowship, Sue Grimm Hanley



Welcoming Congregation Workshop

About 15 AUUC members attended a workshop after services on May 22nd designed to introduce the “Welcoming Congregation Program” to our community. The term refers to a deliberate and thoughtful welcoming of LGBTQ persons into our congregation. For about an hour, the folks attending learned about the history of the program, what the program entailed, and the UUA process to attain the status of Welcoming “Congregation.”

We took the first step in the process by starting a committee which will design a plan, carry it out and document it. The committee will shepherd the program through the congregation, and at the end, take a vote of the congregation to apply for this recognition.

Ann also explained the requirements of the program which focus in three areas, congregation life, education and community outreach.

Congregation life: this includes making certain that our bylaws and other documents reflect our inclusivity, providing guidelines on inclusive language guidelines for speakers at our services, highlight our welcoming status in our website, orders of service and other documents, and ensure that we reflect the requested status of all individuals in the way in which they see themselves. An example would be to make certain we use the pronoun “she” to refer to a woman who has transitioned from male to female.

Community: this includes celebrating and affirming LGBTQ issues and history during the year; for example, having a Pride Service, and a program or service on or around November 20th, National Day of Transgender Remembrance, a day in we remember transgender people who have been the victims of violence, including murder. It also includes supporting and participating in efforts to create justice for LGBTQ people in our area and in the greater society, and advertise our welcoming status as a way of reaching them. The manufactured issue of “bathroom safety” that is being pushed as the latest battleground of the culture war is spreading and it will require religious leadership to stand up for transgender people.

Education: The committee will design an educational program for our congregation to learn together, and in an inside-out, personal way about the rapidly changing LGBTQ world, the issues, challenges and definitions. The main areas of focus will most likely be: gender - the social construction of gender and new ways of looking at gender; Lesbian and Gay sexual/affectional preference; Bisexuality and the myths around it; the various groups that identify as “Queer,” including people who define themselves as a “third gender” and intersex

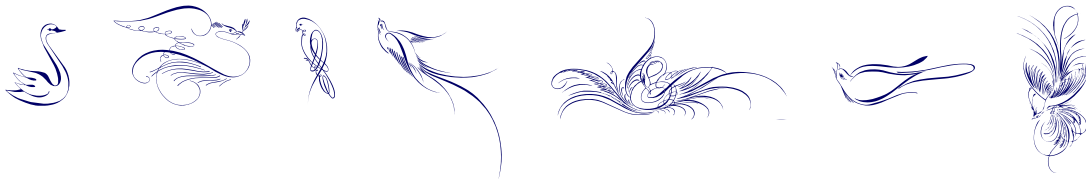
individuals - and more. The education will include the congregation and it will be experiential - based on exercises that allow for group learning.

The group attending the workshop also did a short sample exercise in which they broke down into smaller groups to discuss the term "queer," how they felt about it, what they thought it meant, who might be included in the term "queer." It was a fun and intellectually stimulating discussion.

At the end, a committee was formed. Our first meeting will be on May 27 at the John Black Room at 6:00. Pizza will be provided. **There is room for more people to participate on the committee, so give Ann Mullen a call at 891-5735.** This program will be exciting, stimulating and fun! In addition, we'll be moving toward an important differentiator, one that will make us stand out from every other faith community in town.

We'll also be providing a short report on the congregational meeting on Sunday, June 19th, and asking the congregation to endorse the launch of the program.

-Ann Mullen



A BEAUTIFUL MAY RIDE TO ESSEX

Susan Arnold and I took a beautiful ride on May 22 to Essex community Church to attend a public forum sponsored by the Champlain Valley Friends of Refugees. (We belong to the North Country Refugee Collaboration Project, headquartered in Keene Valley.)

Lynn Barrett, from the CV Friends, introduced the three guest refugees who were from Congo, Nepal and Burma. She mentioned ways that we could help with this effort: bringing personal hygiene articles to the meeting, which many attendants did, contributing to the fund to buy bikes for the Syrian refugees in Germany, contributing gently used pots and pans, knives, and double mattresses. Larger mattresses will often be too big for the first apartments.

She then introduced the main speaker, Laurie, who is a retired architect now serving as the case manager for the refugees in Burlington. She opened with a touching video featuring former refugees who have done very well in this country after starting out in Burlington. Laurie works under Health and Human Services. Each incoming refugee is given \$925 which is designed to get them through the first 90 days; after that, they're on their own and must find work. They cannot come just for an education, although many do get educated down the road. After the first year, the refugee is expected to apply for residency; after five years they may apply for citizenship.

Laurie talked about what a huge difference the influx of refugees has made in the area as far as adding to the work force. Rev. Dudley has told us about how refugees helped remake Utica; also, the Bosnians in Lake Placid and here in Saranac Lake have done much to revive the restaurant business.

Forty-nine states are now participating in resettling refugees (not Wyoming!) The President and State Department decide how many will be sent to the states. Vermont is now working with 350 individuals from Butan, Burma, Iraq and the Congo. No Syrians as of yet but they are expected to arrive soon.

Some of you may have read about the efforts of the Rutland, Vt. mayor to admit 100 refugees. After the meeting, I spoke with our leader, Rev. Dudley; he thinks that this particular program is beyond us at this point. They require reliable public transportation and sources for good jobs. Our group will explore other possibilities. We are in the process of hiring someone to do this for us.

-submitted by Elaine Holmlund



In our Comuunity

Volunteer News

Thanks to Terry Hanley, Russ DeFonce and Bob Sior who helped to pick-up and deliver items to be stored for the June 18Junquerama. Special thanks to Joyce Henklein, Joan and Richard Kelly and Vini Fallica who have donated many valuable and varied items to be sold. And to Phyllis, Joan and Richard and Glenn Arnold who provided much-needed storage space.

Marketing Talents

Joyce Henklein, Jean Chamberlain and Sue Grimm-Hanley pull together the advertising which appears in the ADE's weekly calendar, classified ads, Facebook, Free Trader and NCPR's calendar. Now it's up to all of us to spread the word to friends, family and neighbors!!

AUUC Members on the Move

Joyce Henklein has moved to a beautiful apartment at Will Rogers where she joins other UU's Henri Trapp, Mary Reid and Carrie DeClerque. Joan and Richard Kelly have purchased a home on Callawassie Island just off the coast of Beaufort, SC where they will spend the winter months and have found a UU church to attend.

Get Well, Vivien Lane

Vivien fell and broke her leg while playing with a friend. It's hard to imagine anything lessening Vivien's outgoing and loving spirit. May she heal well and quickly!

Membership Service

Russ and Liz DeFonce will be joining our AUUC congregation as members in the next month. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Susan Arnold or Phyllis Magnus for further information.

AUUC Summer Picnic Barbecue Celebration

Following the Junquerama, a barbecue for our Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community will be held at Susan and Glenn's home at 62 Petrova Ave. Bring a pot luck item to be shared along with lawn chairs or a blanket to share. More news will follow. Arrive around 5:00 pm or come early to help us clean up. A sign-up sheet will be available at our Sunday services.

Ecumenical Council Update:

Perhaps the most exciting news from the Ecumenical Council is that we are waiting only for a new zoning code to be put in place and we'll be able to proceed to the next step - getting the transitional housing building ready for use! We'll be looking for people to attend the public meeting about the zoning code and support the effort, now known as Samaritan House, with the Village Board. Stay tuned.

Grace Pantry can use: bathroom/household cleanser; dishwashing liquid; bars of soap. Drop them off in the boxes in the kitchen. Volunteers are always welcome, too. Contact Maggie Mortensen at maggiemortensen5551@gmail.com

-Ann Mullen



Selections from Soul Matters June theme 'Simplicity'

De-Clutter Your Decision Life!

Simplicity is not just about materialism. For many, the most oppressive clutter is not the stuff packed into our physical space but the millions of decisions we have to make each day. Psychologists have even given this struggle a name: "Decision Fatigue":

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/21/magazine/do-you-suffer-from-decision-fatigue.html>
<http://www.businessinsider.com/decision-fatigue-and-productive-mornings-2015-4>

They see willpower functioning like a muscle that can get quickly exhausted. Too many decisions, they show, quickly weaken our ability to think clearly, and even be kind. Spending too much will power on the inconsequential stuff ends up damaging our ability to address the

important decisions of our lives. For this reason, many people - including President Obama and Mark Zuckerberg - are now simplifying their “decision life” by routinizing basic daily activities, for instance wearing the same outfits or eating the same breakfast or lunch:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/barack-obama-mark-zuckerberg-wear-the-same-outfit-2015-4>
<http://www.becomingminimalist.com/wear-one/>

Think Junque-a-rama!!

I have just three things to teach:
simplicity, patience, compassion.
These three are your greatest treasures.
Simple in actions and in thoughts,
you return to the source of being.
Patient with both friends and enemies,
you accord with the way things are.
Compassionate toward yourself,
you reconcile all beings in the world.
— **Lao-Tzu**

My Hero

Just as the hare is zipping across the finish line,
the tortoise has stopped once again
by the roadside,
this time to stick out his neck
and nibble a bit of sweet grass,
unlike the previous time
when he was distracted
by a bee humming in the heart of a wildflower.
— **Billy Collins**



Contact Numbers

www.adkuu.org

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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
Saranac Lake, NY 12983**