

# THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 174

July 2017

## Calendar at a Glance

**July 2**

Craig Milewski  
"A Sense of Wonder"

**July 9**

Eric Lawson  
"Conscience, Integrity, Courage"

**July 16**

Jen Curry  
"A Zen Perspective"

**July 23**

Joyce Henklein  
Conversational Service  
"Separating History from Theology"

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
11:30am. All are Welcome.**

**July 30**

Jan Hutslar  
"Said the River I Am Part of Holiness"

**August 6**

**HUUTENANNY at Meacham Lake**

**Come to the HUUTENANNY!  
August 6<sup>th</sup> at Meacham Lake**

A Special Summer Service, Picnic, Camping

The UU Fellowship of Plattsburgh will be hosting a service and potluck picnic for us and the Canton congregations on Sunday August 6 at 11 AM at the Meacham Lake Campground. This service is an annual event and an opportunity to worship and socialize with our partner congregations from Plattsburgh and Canton. We encourage everyone in our congregation to attend. They have reserved a pavilion at lakeside. Bring canoes, kayaks, lawn chairs etc. There is a great playground. Carpooling is encouraged. Please bring your own picnic and a dish to share. This is a really nice campground. Saranac Lake members will be camping as will Plattsburgh & Canton. You are encouraged to join them.

## July Schedule: A Closer Look

### July 2

#### **10 am SERVICE**

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*A Sense of Wonder*

*Craig Milewski*

What is a sense of wonder? It is a gift. So, what happens when we cultivate a sense of wonder or open ourselves to its greatness? In youth, cultivating a sense of wonder is an inoculation against boredom in later life and a booster to the awe and curiosity that make life rich. Wonder serves as an antidote to the anesthetic effect of daily living: news, schedules, and expectations. A sense of wonder is the thread that leads us into direct experience: a wilderness often forgotten. In this Contemplative Sunday service, we will explore our sense of wonder.

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### July 9

#### **10 am SERVICE**

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*Conscience, Integrity, Courage*

*Eric Lawson*

*Conscience*: that presence within us which permits moral decision making. *Integrity*: that personal attribute which compels us to reliably act morally.

*Courage*: that which permits us to act with integrity especially when acting requires that we triumph over fear.

### July 16

#### **10 am SERVICEA**

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*Zen Perspective*

*Jen Curry*

Jen has been studying with Joel Baehr and other renowned teachers. Jen has become a student/teacher in her own right and I know we will benefit from her knowledge and experience.

### July 23

#### **10 am CONVERSATIONAL SERVICE**

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*Separating history from Theology*

*Joyce Henklein*

Bring the story of your journey that brought you to the UU community. I present some old arguments of mine. Join in. Note: There will be no 'Time for Children' story at this service.

#### **11:30 MEETING**

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**AUUC Board**

All invited

### July 30

#### **10 AM SERVICE**

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*Said the River I am Part of Holiness*

*Jan Hutslar* We will explore the gifts and responsibility of being a part of the interconnected web of life, the holiness of all things and the teachings of ecologist, Joanna Macy.

## President's Message

I scanned last year's July Communitarian looking for our announcement of the Meacham Lake HUUtenany (cut and paste syndrome). I found as well reminders of momentous events for AUUC and our congregants. AUUC led a vigil for Orlando victims in Riverside Park. Bob Sior was left with major injuries following a motorcycle accident. We'd like to see you back Bob. Kelly Metzger had had her transgender surgery. The vigil was organized by the Welcoming Congregation Committee which had just been formed toward gaining official certification by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Susan Arnold provided much of the compassionate care to Bob and Kelly as well as organizing other supports. It helps to be reminded at times of how much AUUC contributes to our and the larger community through the good works of members.

What sometimes gets set aside is the ongoing organizational and service needs that will continue to keep AUUC vibrant and growing. As I scan the last six months, I note how much of our programs and communications have focused on justice issues. Yes, we are a part of a larger community of the UUA and our American culture. That will continue individually and together, just because of who we are. What we need more of is our community building activity.

A nice start at this turn of the mid-year was the service organized by Sue Grimm-Hanley June 25 that engaged us in getting to know a bit more about each other. The Board, with Joyce Henklein's leadership will offer our newer visitors formal membership invitation and education toward formal membership. Our name tags are being redone to identify Board members, members, and 'friends' (not yet members). We will be recruiting assistance for the Sunday morning children's care and activity with the loss of Elodie Linck's services, to better connect with and support our young families. The Worship Committee and Board members are in need of assistance in setting up for Sunday services. Members or 'friends', let us know of how we can help you become more engaged and/or ways you can assist the activities of our AUUC community.



## Congratulations to Graduates

Three of our youth who were participants in Religious Explorations in the early days of AUUC graduated from Saranac Lake High School. Twins Silas and Witter Swanson were Valedictorian and Salutarian respectively. Elodie Linck was a recipient of three scholarship awards particularly acknowledging her artistry in drama and dance. Elodie will be attending Skidmore, Silas Columbia and Witter Amherst. We wish them much continued success.



## Welcoming Congregation Committee Update

As you know, the Welcoming Congregation Committee has been a visible presence since it was formed, both in our congregation and in the Saranac Lake community. Right now, we're watching a lot of films in preparation for our Fall LGBTQ Film Festival. We have at least two events planned in addition – a slide show about the rise of the modern LGBTQ rights movement and a service supporting the National Transgender Day of Remembrance in November.

We've gotten wonderful support from you, the members of our congregation. I know we, the committee, are grateful for that. Solid, widespread support by the congregation is absolutely necessary to demonstrate to the UUA that this work is not just the special interest of a few, but rather, represents our entire church community. Thank you for your support!

## UU World

*UU World*, the magazine of the [Unitarian Universalist Association](http://www.uuworld.org), celebrates liberal religion and the people it inspires. A print copy of this magazine is sent quarterly to official Members of UU congregations. Congregations are assessed UUA dues in the amount of \$60 for each member for the Annual Program Fund. Non-members do have access on the *UU World* website to news and original online-only content every week, also a weekly email newsletter and audio recordings of selected stories.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-public-witness> A great photo from the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans.

## UUA President Elected

During the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans last week, Susan Frederick-Gray won a three-way race to become UUA's ninth elected president and the first woman elected to the office. She has served as lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona, since 2008.

"Throughout her campaign, which she launched in March 2016, Frederick-Gray championed the UUA as "a voice for love and justice." She promoted a three-point vision of a "spiritually vital" movement "grounded in relationships" and "organized for impact."

Christopher Walton in *UU World*



## Ecumenical Council Update from Ann Mullen

Samaritan House is up and running, and smoothly, too! We've received a number of referrals from various sources and the house has been full nearly every night since we opened. We've served a total of 17 men and women as of mid-June. Most stays are short term, as the residents work toward some sort of independent living and/or housing assistance. The operation of SH is overseen by the staff of Lakeside House, who have also helped the residents with other needs: food; missing papers such as birth certificates; and assisting one resident in obtaining a GED. There have been no tensions or issues between the residents. There are always chores and painting to be done, if you're interested in volunteering. By all signs, Samaritan House is a success! Thanks to all of you in the AUUC community that helped make it a reality.

Grace Pantry is humming along, as well, still serving around 200 people a month by providing household and toiletry items not available at the Food Pantry. Always needed are dish and laundry detergents, shampoo, diapers and pull-ups. If you'd like to donate any items, please contact Ann.

The CROP Walk will be held again this fall. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Services. The date is to be determined, but we'll let you know as soon as we know. Ann is coordinating the planning amongst the local churches.

*There will a November Coat Drive again this fall. We're looking for gently used zip-up or button-up coats that are clean and in good repair. We will begin collecting the coats in November for distribution that month. Volunteers are needed because of the volume of donated coats and the demand. Contact Ann if you are interested. Last year, the Coat Drive gave away 300 coats to people in the Saranac Lake area.*



### Immigration Navigator Training

On Saturday, June 17th a small cadre of AUUC's headed to the Canton UU Church for an Immigration Navigator Training, Defending Immigrant Rights In Our New York. The day long event was well attended and taught by two professionals from the New York Immigration Coalition. The presenters sought to explain what today's political reality means for immigrants in New York, teach us about basic immigration history, laws and policies, provide us with information and training on how we can be more aware as citizens and assist others in the community through trained community support agencies. We learned about "unauthorized practice of law" and how not to provide it.

Immigration law pertains to both benefits and law enforcement, each with its' own national agencies. As we reviewed our rights, we came to understand that immigrants share all of the same protections; our rights as citizens are extended to all people regardless of status. Adherence to policy and procedures by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and law enforcement were discussed as variable in practice. There are agencies tracking rights infractions by ICE and law enforcement, we have their phone numbers now. The morning provided the fundamentals of immigration processes, laws, and education about the current administration's changes to immigration policy and enforcement.

The afternoon had a segment presented by a speaker from No One Is Illegal, an agency in Toronto that advocates for immigrant rights in Canada. He shared with us the realities of emigration in his current political climate, a difficult to nearly impossible process for an undocumented immigrant to successfully navigate. His message was clear that Canada's system is not necessarily easier for the undocumented migrant to change their legal status or gain citizenship.

The end of the training focused on how to support the creation of a Safety Plan should an undocumented immigrant anticipate pick up by ICE. Guidance about what documents should be gathered, and the plans that can be in place to address childcare, household responsibilities, initiating contact with a lawyer and getting documentation to legal advocates.

Further training is available, but they also recommended partnering with a recognized organization (or church) and advocating at the policy level. Organizations in New York working to support immigrant rights include, New York Immigration Coalition, Immigrant Defense Project, the Immigration Advocates Network, <http://ourny.info>, <https://protectingimmigrants.org/>, [www.USCIS.gov](http://www.USCIS.gov).

It was surprising to learn that our rights are impacted by our geographic relationship with the international border. Border Patrol has enhanced search privileges throughout the 100 mile border zones. They can without warrant, suspicion of wrong doing, or consent, search us, our vehicles, and our possessions. Border Patrol has the right to ascertain citizenship, and request documentation proving lawful presence within the entirety of the "border zone". Incidentally, this includes almost all of New York State. Immigration is a huge subject to cover but we left with a much better understanding of the systems that exist, and how best to approach navigating them.

Kierstin Egge

**Note: The workshop was attended by Kierstin, Carolyn and Gary Alexander, Vincine Fallica and Phyllis Magnus**

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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

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