

# THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

**Volume 163**

**August 2016**

## **Calendar**

**August 7**

**Huutenanny @ Meacham Lake**

Joyce Henklein  
"Thoreau and Birds"

**August 14**

The Poetry of Mary Oliver  
Coordinated by Phyllis Magnus

**August 21**

Doug Rubio  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton  
Topic TBA

**August 28**

AUUC Re and Board  
Religious Expectations

## **Events Calendar**

**August 9**

Welcoming Congregation Meeting  
5:45 with Potluck

**August 21**

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Following service

**August 28**

Worship planning meeting  
Following service.

## **Bicycles for Refugees**

On Sunday, July 10th, AUUC raised \$213 for "Bicycles for Refugees". To refugees settling in countries like the Netherlands, having a bicycle is major form of transportation! This gift will be handled through St. John's in Essex, NY.

## President's Message

Few people have seen into the depths of the spaces we rent and share with Historic Saranac Lake. Up a winding stairway are two rooms. One is where our children's Religious Explorations (RE) takes place and has also served as a meeting room for AUUC committees or work projects. The other is our Sunday child care space, brightly decorated with a rug and book/toy cases, and separated by a divider, our office. There is a laser printer, a file cabinet with our history and business documents. The office area contains our little known treasure...a library. A few weeks ago I did a review and reorganization of our print resources.

Do you recall someone recently questioning whether Unitarian Universalists have a theology? There are books on Unitarian and Universalist history, on what Unitarian Universalists believe, on UU religious education, and social justice. The latter include study guides on "How Much Do We Deserve: An Inquiry into Distributive Justice", and "The Prophetic Imperative" on spirituality and social action. We have a large selection of meditation manuals. These are small manuals of writings by some of our more literary ministers, useful for opening and closing words and readings for worship services. In addition to denominational materials, there are a large number of books on world religions and favorite books on spirituality which were contributed by members.

Due to the location of the library access has been limited. We have Emily Warner to thank for setting up a distribution process with sign out cards. For a long time Emily brought a selection of books to our worship area on Sundays to encourage readership. I invite anyone who wishes to become acquainted with our library to make a visit some Sunday.

In peace, Phyllis

## Welcoming Congregation Committee Update

The committee has met twice since last month. We plan to present a experiential exercise for the congregation at the service on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The tentative focus is twofold: to clarify the difference between sex and gender, and to illustrate the social nature of gender roles. We guarantee it will be fun, and personally and educationally stimulating.

In order to prepare for this exercise, those of us on the committee have been engaging in a sort of "consciousness raising" ourselves.

We've been sharing our own personal experiences and feelings about gender and gender roles and talking about the difficulty in assuming the role assigned to us. The idea is to bring what each of us has experienced from the inside to the outside in order to understand it all more clearly. It's been an exciting and moving process, and that's what we want our service in September to be for all of you. We've also been doing a lot of interesting reading!

In August, we'll be sending out some preliminary materials to all of you to read and ponder in advance of our first congregational exercise. (Of course, the advance reading is optional.)

We will also be leading a service on November 20<sup>th</sup>, in solidarity with the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which has been held since 1998 to memorialize the transgender people who have been assaulted and killed because of their gender expression.

-Ann Mullen

## Ecumenical Council Updates

### Transitional Housing:

- We've passed the zoning hurdle. Thank you to the Saranac Lake Town Council for passing the section of the code that allows us to operate Samaritan House within the village. Now, it's on to the next step...
- ...the submission of a site plan. The site plan is a document that contains a map and description of the property as well as a outline of the operations of Samaritan House. This outline includes the way the house will be administered and operated, as well as the rules for the residents. It will be submitted by July 15<sup>th</sup> to the Planning Board. Many, many thanks to Skip Outcoul for drawing up this plan.
- The membership of the Implementation Committee was announced. This committee will supervise all the details needed to get S.H. up and running.
- The Council will be asking the local churches to "adopt a room." which means taking responsibility for repairing, cleaning, painting and furnishing a bedroom or other room in S.H. There are eight bedrooms, five bathrooms, a utility room, kitchen and living room, as well as an apartment which will, in the future be quarters for a live-in manager.
- Rich Loeber announced a matching grant program. A donor has agreed to match any contribution over \$100 on a one-to-one basis, up to \$5,000.
- A donor has offered to underwrite the first year's operating expenses.
- Fundraising will continue to be a big focus of the Council's to ensure that S.H. can continue after the first year to offer shelter and services to the homeless.

### Grace Pantry

- Grace Pantry received a substantive grant from the Church of the Open Door and another contribution from the Women's Auxiliary.
- The Methodist Church held a drive for personal care produces.
- In June, the Pantry served 67 unique families that totaled 177 people; it gave out 160 rolls of toilet paper, 120 bars of soap, 60 packages of diapers.
- Needed are: cleaning products, shampoo and large size diapers.

### Salvation Army Funds Update

- These funds are the proceeds from the Christmas Kettle Campaign. They are used for rental assistance and other one-time grants to help those in need. There were three requests since the last meeting.

The Council's next meeting will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. Location is the Adirondack Alliance Church. All are welcome.

-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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