

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 197

January 2020

Sunday Services

January 6 - Diane Fortado: Raising Children of Color in the Adirondacks

January 13 - Rev. Wayne Walder: Spiritual Maturing

January 20 - Rev. Wayne Walder: Spiritual Community

January 27 - Ginger Slater: What about Trust? Soul Matters Service and Group Discussion

Events

Annual Meeting – January 26

after services

President's Message – January 2020

Dear AUUC Members and Friends,
What a lovely holiday season it was! Our Winter Solstice celebration gave us a chance to come together to reflect on the calm and quiet of the darkest time of year, to share in a wonderful banquet of delicious treats, and to spend some time in conversation with our Adirondack UU community.

Our Christmas Eve Carol Sing was a marvelous time, as well. A small group of us shared an hour or so singing old favorites while enjoying the talents of Sue Hanley and her mother Jean Grimm's piano playing, and sharing memories and stories of Christmases past. These two events made my holidays truly special and memorable.

And now a look forward! Our Annual Member Meeting is scheduled for January 26th and there's much we need to discuss and figure out for ourselves. We'll be reviewing last year's budget and finances, discussing our visions for the future of AUUC and choosing our leadership.

It's a new year and a new decade. The Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community is facing changes and challenges. For years we have depended on a core group of dedicated enthusiastic folks to shoulder the load. These folks made crucial decisions, gave generously of their time, talents, energy, and money to make sure that AUUC thrived. We owe much gratitude to these devoted members. Over the last decade or so the size of this core group has gradually diminished as folks have moved away to enjoy warmer climates or to be closer to family. Some who have stayed in the area have found that their own circumstances have changed; they are no longer able to contribute as much financially or physically. This is a natural progression of a group such as ours. If AUUC is going to survive and flourish we will need to come together, fill in the gaps, and take on the responsibilities of those who've served us in these crucial roles.

Our UU community has given Saranac Lake and the surrounding area a place for liberal, open-minded, like-minded folks to gather and grow intellectually and spiritually together. Our Religious Exploration program has the potential to offer families of young children that free and open-minded outlook on spiritual growth, that is so different from other churches and organizations out there. And (to paraphrase) our service each week gives each of us a place, set aside from our daily concerns, to come together in the search for meaning and truth. It's wonderful and precious thing.

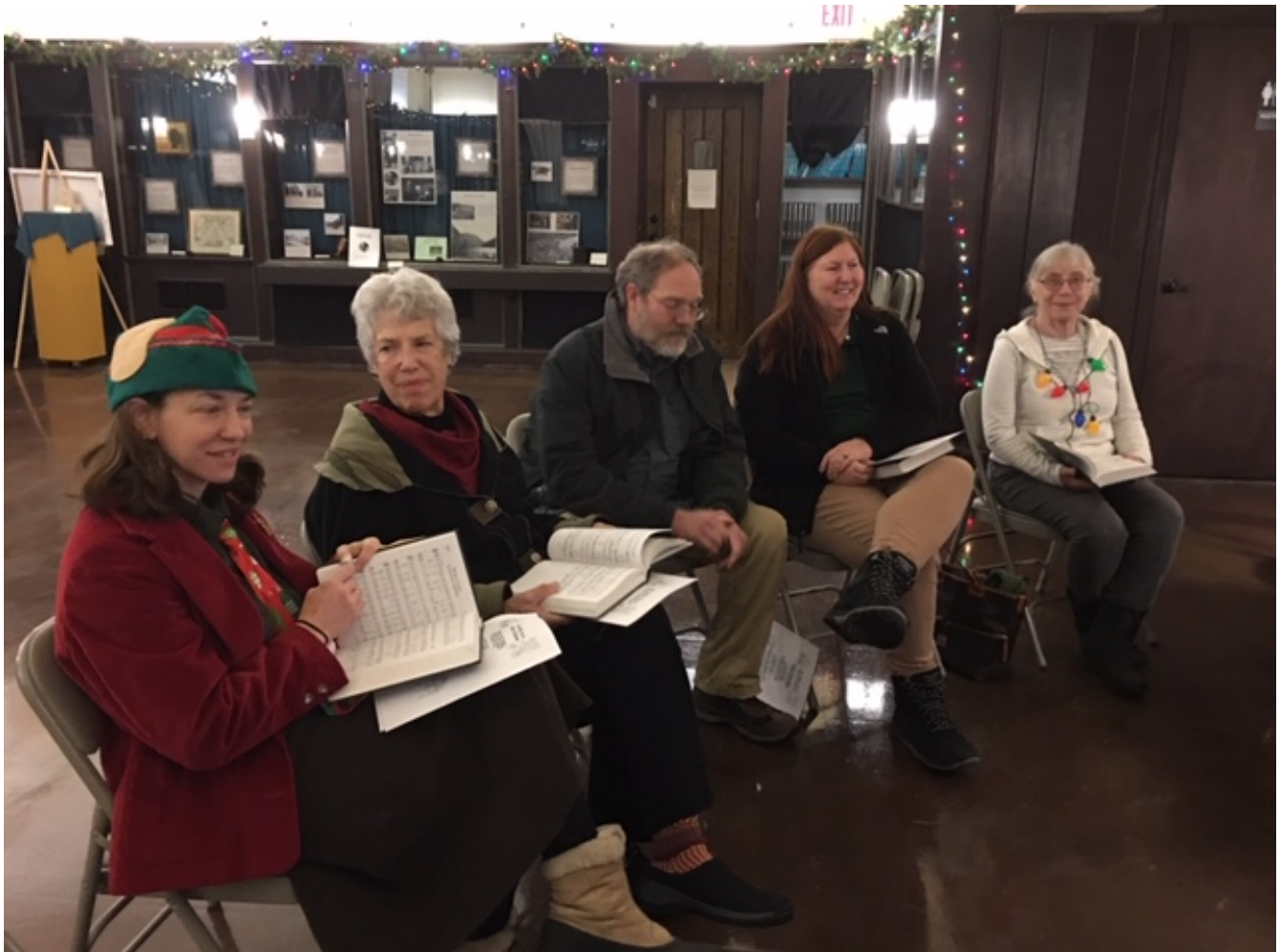
I hope that each of you will consider for yourselves the role AUUC has played in enriching your life and the role you play in helping this community thrive. Now, more than ever we need you, your time, talents, energy and money. Please consider volunteering in any capacity you can. Join the worship committee. Help out the RE coordinators. Become a member of the board of directors. Fundraise. Up your pledge. Get involved!

We need you and I promise, the more you give, the more you get. It just works that way.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy productive new year!

Much love,
Laura Reid
AUUC President





Christmas Eve 2019 Carol Sing

Jim Bevilacqua of the Post Office Pharmacy Donation to Grace Pantry

Jim Bevilacqua has donated 10+ cases of household cleaning products and personal care items from the inventory of the Post Office Pharmacy. The donation, consisting of household cleaning products, personal care items - first aid kits, lotions, etc. - is a big boost to the Pantry. Please be sure to thank Jim if you see him.

Religious Education

Starting in January, our children will be focusing on exploring the Seven Principles of our UU faith. Adults who are interested in helping out with teaching once a month can reach out to Julia: jgorenster@gmail.com

We're also looking for a few items to help with our exploration: round wooden beads in rainbow colors. Thanks!

Compassion & Choices New York Medical Aid in Dying legislation A/2694/S.3947

This is the year it is hoped that this legislation will pass. New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act would authorize medical aid in dying for terminally ill adults with less than six months to live and found by two doctors to be mentally capable to make this medical decision. The law would give eligible patients the option to request a prescription for medication they can take to shorten a difficult, painful dying process.

In 2016, AUUC became an organizational sponsor of this legislation which closely follows Oregon's 1997 Death with Dignity legislation, largely initiated by a Unitarian Universalist member Barbara Coombs Lee following her husband's agonizing death. Legislation passed since then has closely modeled Oregon: California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, and Vermont. Fourteen states including New York are considering death with dignity passage this year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!

- Join a Statewide Campaign Call January 13 at 7 pm, open to all supporters. Sign up for the call on the site Compassion & in any or all. Choices Events.
- Join me for a trip to Albany on a day January 21 – 23 (date to be decided) to hang out by C&C lobby displays to chat with legislators and their staffs.
- Volunteer to phone bank known supporters of this legislation to remind them to contact legislators, lobby, etc. Lists will be provided by C&C. Nancy Murphy, long time AUUC member now in PA, devotes 2 hours each weekend to such phone calls.
- Contact your legislators urging their support.
- Plan to attend Spring Lobby Day April 20, 2020.

Please contact me with your interest in participating in any or all.

Phyllis Magnus
518 354-1379
phylmag000@gmail.com

UUA On-line Course: Co-Creating Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in our Congregations

How do we interact across difference in a way that promotes diversity, inclusion and equity in our congregations that builds deep relationship and an inviting congregational culture? Intercultural Organizational Development Consultant **Beth Zemsky** shares how we can use a tool called the Intercultural Development Continuum as part of faith development in our congregations.

These training materials are designed to be used by individuals or groups. Could be a great way to spend a freezing cold night or two!

For a brief intro to the course, click here: <https://www.uuinstitute.org/courses/co-creating-inclusion-and-equity/>.



Contact Information

www.adkuu.org

Board

President: Laura Reid (651-1654)
Vice President: Gary Alexander (354-7823)
Secretary: Liz DeFonce (424-5314)
Treasurer: Sue Grimm Hanley (637-2794)
Trustee: Carolyn Alexander (354-7823)

Committees

Welcoming Congregation: Ann Mullen (891-5735)
Worship: Elaine Holmlund (891-6717)
Communitarian: Karen Graff and Ann Mullen (891-5735) kegraff@yahoo.com
Place: Randall Swanson (891-3512)
Religious Education: Donna Wood (946-2275) and Julia Goren (845-216-3810)
Environmental and Social Action: Steve DeHond
Sdehond@hotmail.com
Social Media: Sue Grimm Hanley (637-2794)



**The Seven Principles of
Unitarian Universalism**

**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 the 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.*

**Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community
89 Church St.
Saranac Lake, NY 12983**

From the “church of the open mind, loving heart, and helping hand” to:

