

Lo and Behold

SEPTEMBER 2018



*Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Glens Falls
21 Weeks Road, Queensbury, NY 12804*

*Our mission is to CREATE BELOVED COMMUNITY:
NURTURE the mind and spirit, INSPIRE peace and justice, SERVE with love and compassion*

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 2 - Dan Berggren - "A Service in Word and Song"

Sept. 9 - **Water Communion Service / Ingathering** - The water communion service is a tradition we have when we each bring a little water from somewhere in our summer travels and speak very briefly about the experience.

Sept. 16 - **Rev. Barbara Threet - "Try a Little Tenderness"** - There are lots of ways to love another: devotedly, diligently, efficiently, passionately, unreservedly, companionably, even resentfully or manipulatively. This Sunday we'll explore what it means to love tenderly, with a good measure of compassion and wisdom.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING TODAY'S SERVICE
QUORUM OF MEMBERS IS NEEDED**

Sept. 23 - Nancy Kimball - "Lessons Learned from Animals" - she will be accompanied by several of her non-releasable raptors.

Sept. 30 - Harvey Noordsy will be the speaker at today's service.

ORDER OF SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit announcements for the Sunday Orders of Service **before Wednesday noon** to Sally Strasser by phone 260-8313, or email salstrasser@verizon.net.

INFANTS & TODDLERS ARE WELCOME IN THE SERVICE. AN ADJACENT QUIET PLAY ROOM IS AVAILABLE.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE DURING SUNDAY SERVICES FROM MID-SEPT. - JUNE

LO AND BEHOLD

The UUCGF newsletter is **published monthly except July** and is distributed to members and friends of the Congregation. **THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.** Articles may be

given to Elayne Leonelli or sent to eleone31@roadrunner.com. For questions, call Elayne at 518-793-3081.

FROM REV. BARBARA'S DESK

Mid-August. The days are still longer than the nights, the trees are still overwhelmingly green, and the children still run about in shorts and bare feet, at least in the country. School hasn't started up yet (or regular services at most UU churches either), and anything that closes after Labor Day is still open. But still, we know that autumn is coming, and after that, the winter.

"How softly summer shuts," Emily Dickinson wrote, "without the creaking of a door." And David Blanchard, in his UU meditation manual *A Temporary State of Grace*, writes, 'Even now, leaves have begun to drop from trees, green and brittle. Gardens are about ready to give up. Sunflowers slouch as if they'd like to lie down and rest for a while. And, of course, the light is changing. The shadows come earlier, and stretch out longer on our lawns. We humans begin our short migration indoors. It happens. It's already begun.'

And so it has.

I love this time of year, this season of slow and significant transition. As a child, August meant it was almost time for school to start again, and new clothes for that first day; a new pencil box, and my brain shifting from the lethargy of summer to the sharp and wonderful discoveries of the autumn. There were clear markers - the school bus appearing again, a new teacher. Much of life has clear markers for children: a first step, losing the first tooth, a first kiss, a driver's license, the day one leaves the confines and predictability of home for the freedom (and terror) of a college dorm.

But now, it's a slower migration from season to season. The sunflowers slouch for weeks before they eventually drop. The lettuce has long since given up, and the peas - but those zucchini may go on for months yet! My knees slowly creak a bit more from year to year: I can't sit cross-legged on the floor any more, let alone get up gracefully, but I can still hike most anywhere. The changes are slower, the migration to winter a lot softer, whether it's the winter of one year's calendar or the winter of a life.

And the challenge becomes not so much to grasp each milestone and march quickly from one to another, but to slow down and notice how softly summer shuts, how softly children grow (and grandchildren too), how softly knees begin to creak, how softly leaves and then snow falls and how softly buds open again, and how softly life flows on. Oh, there are still plenty of stand-out milestones - a birth, a death, a move, a discovery - but there's also a softness, a recognition that life is a finely-woven tapestry with all sorts of inter-weavings and references back and forth, not a series of individual events in a careful straight line. And the doors, where there are any at all, close softly, not with a final bang.

May your August end gently, and may we gather again in September in joy.

Shalom and Salaam,
Rev. Barbara

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES

Rich Myette: richmyette@gmail.com 518-232-3351
Will Aitcheson: aitchesonw@yahoo.com 518-791-9307
Joan Reid: spiritualreid@gmail.com 518-744-0641

You may call any one of them when you are in need of pastoral care.

SEPT. BIRTHDAYS

BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The nights are getting longer and cooler. Fall is on the horizon which means Rev. Barbara Threet returns to her regular monthly visits and Sunday sermons-- usually on the third Sunday. This will happen on:

Sunday, September 16th. This month there also will be a Congregational Meeting following the service instead of a Board/Minister/Congregation conversation.

There will not be a potluck this month.

Based on the report the Short Range Planning Task Force (see report below) presented to the Board at the August Board of Trustees meeting, there are 2 items in particular that the congregation needs to hear about so that decisions can be made by a vote regarding: 1) possible rental of part of our building space, and 2) possible purchase of solar panels. **It is a very important meeting and we need a quorum of members so that a vote can take place.**

We will have a Board of Trustees retreat the day before, Saturday, Sept. 15th to evaluate this past year and make plans for the coming year. One of the issues that the Board and the Congregation need to deal with is the sustainability of the congregation. We are being challenged with our small membership and our limited financial resources.

There are some Building and Grounds projects that need attention and hopefully we can get some of them completed before winter arrives.

Thanks to the creative efforts of Michelle Galo we have an impressive new website: glensfallsuu.com. Check it out. We need to keep this and our Facebook page current, so please e-mail any pictures or announcements to Michele for the website (website@glensfallsuu.com) or me (robertrockwell1938@gmail.com) for Facebook.

~ Bob Rockwell

REPORT FROM THE SHORT RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE

At the August UUCGF Board of Trustees, the Task Force submitted a report about the work it has been doing since being appointed by the Board in April. The members of the Task Force are Pema Reed, Martha Torregrossa, Susan & Jack Abbot, Rich Myette, Jane Kana with Elayne Leonelli and Rev. Barbara Threet serving as co-facilitators.

The following are some of the topics we considered: Growing our membership - Assessing current costs of maintaining our building and grounds - Real estate estimate of current value of property and possible salability - Search for possible buyers - Options for renting some of our space - Current and future space needs - Visibility needs - Options for renting, buying or sharing a new space - Purchase of solar panels and financial issues associated with it. Needless to say our report did not reflect solutions to most of these issues.

However, what we have found out is that there are next to none properties available, if we were to decide to move to a new location. In order to make a move we would have to have a definite buyer available and a definite building to move to. That does not seem possible at this time. So our next approach was to consider if there is space in our current building that could be rented, how much it would cost if renovations were needed, and if we would be able to find a reliable renter. More details about possibly renting some space in the RE area will be available at the **Congregational Meeting scheduled on Sunday, Sept. 16th following the service.**

A second item on the agenda concerns the installation of solar panels. Since it seems most likely that we will be in this building for a while it seems to make sense for us to install them. However, the major problem with this plan is the cost. Since UUCGF is a not-for profit organization we cannot take advantage of the 30% Federal Tax

credits and the 25% State Tax credits that are available to individuals and for-profit companies. We would have to pay the entire cost of about \$27,000 (except the \$3,000 NYSEDA grant we could get), unless there were one or more members or friends of the congregation who would pay a portion of that amount and then they would each get the benefit of the tax credits.

This is a lot to think about so this meeting is very important for members and friends to attend. Only members can vote, but if friends are interested, they are welcome to attend the meeting for informational purposes. Please plan to attend the meeting so that we can decide how we want to proceed. This is your chance to have a voice.

~ Elayne Leonelli

IMPORTANT NEWS!!!

Hello friends!

I'm very happy to announce that last month we launched our brand new UUCGF website. The address is the same as always, glensfallsuu.com, but you will now find a fresh site design (thanks to a site theme created by the UUA) and lots more information about our congregation! Visit the site when you have a chance and take a look around! In particular, you may want to check out glensfallsuu.com/blog and glensfallsuu.com/events to see recent news and upcoming events.

The website can always use fresh content, so if you have photos from services or events that you're willing to share, please send them to website@glensfallsuu.com. This is also where you can direct any questions, new information, corrections, etc. In particular, I'm interested in expanding information about our committees and small groups, so if you are a committee or group leader and you have information you want to add, please get in touch at the address above, or talk to me at coffee hour!

~ Michelle Galo

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Here is a brief summary of July 2017-June 2018 revenues and expenses for **FY 2018**

Total Revenues for July 2017 - June 2018 were **\$112,289.10**
Total Expenses for July 2017 - June 2018 were **\$100,061.73**

Here is a brief summary of July 2018 revenues and expenses for **FY 2019**

Total Revenues for **July 2018** were **\$13,012.66**
Total Expenses for **July 2018** were **\$ 6,771.38**

If you have any questions, please contact Elayne Leonelli at 518-793-3081 or eleone31@roadrunner.com or Stephen Baratta at stephenbartt346@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee will resume monthly meetings after their summer break on Sunday, September 9, 2018 following service. The purpose of this meeting will be to greet and connect with each other, and start the planning for actions in the coming year. Midterm elections are November 6th. Voter registration ends October 12th. A vital contribution to our community might be to help "get out the vote". There is a website TurboVote.org providing on-line help to voters and potential voters.

Open Door Soup Kitchen

Our UU commitment is for 3 volunteers to assist with serving meals at the Open Door located at the corner of Lawrence St. and Walnut St. in Glens Falls on the **4th Monday of each month** from **4:15 pm to 5:45 pm**. Three volunteers will be needed for **Monday, September 24th**. Please contact Diane Collins (518-792-2811) to sign up. Contact Diane at dc.wildflowers@gmail.com or (518) 792-2811 to volunteer to help. Please let her know ASAP.

Many thanks to Michelle Gallo for developing an excellent UUCGF website this summer. We look forward to finding our place in it.

~ Diane Collins

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee took the summer off and did not have any meetings for the months of July and August. During this time, and due to so many being away on vacation, we ditched the coffee hour teams, switched to instant coffee for ease, and just winged it on a week-by-week basis. It all worked out perfectly! Every week we had plenty of refreshments and treats for all. Many thanks to all that helped out during the summer, your help is greatly appreciated!

We will now be creating new Coffee Hour Teams, and ask that those who can, please sign up! To me, coffee hour is important because it is a wonderful time to really connect with fellow members, friends, and guests, and to really feel like you are a part of a community. The Coffee Hour Teams are important so we can be organized, know what to expect on a weekly basis, and so that it doesn't all fall on just a few to make it happen. Team members provide snacks (you can make it or buy it, whatever you like to share is good!), set up and make the coffee, and then clean up afterwards. The more teams we have, the better! If you are able to participate, please contact me at krystyne444@gmail.com

Our next Membership Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, Sept 13th, at 12 p.m. ... all are welcome!

~ Krystyne Wozniak

MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please change the email address for **Margaret Whittaker** to: whittakerm899@gmail.com.

Please change the contact information for **Jean-Marie Donnelly** to: Morningside House, 316 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, VA 20175. Her phone no. is 571-577-3191.

There will be a new Members & Friends Directory available in late September or early October. If there are any changes you wish to make, please contact Elayne Leonelli at eleone31@roadrunner.com or call 518-793-3081.

UU WEEKEND AT SILVER BAY — 25th ANNIVERSARY — October 12-14, 2018

Come experience amazing fall foliage views while making new friends and deepening connections with fellow UUs. There are many activities (indoor and outdoor) planned, workshops, music, talent show, and silent auction.

For more information, look at the flyer on the bulletin board in the UUCGF Fellowship Hall or go to: albanyuu.org/events

Contact Beth Shropshire (bshropsh@nycap.rr.com) at UUCGF for more information about the event.

CRANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY
In the Public Interest Film Series

Decoding the Weather Machine
Monday, Sept. 10, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

*Climate change is now accepted by most people.
But do we really understand the science
underlying the profound weather changes affecting our planet?
This fascinating NOVA film explains it for us.*

*Films presented by TriCounty NY Transition in collaboration with
Crandall Public Library.*

Films are free and post-film discussion welcomed.

UU CAFÉ

UU CAFÉ will be meeting again Saturday, September 29th from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Call Sally Strasser at 518-260-8313 for information.

NIPPER CLUB

This group is a monthly gathering of lovers and collectors of recorded music. We share our favorite LPs, CDs, MP3s, cassettes, and smart phone downloads, Round Robin style. We bring to vivid life records from the 118 year history of recorded music on this planet, and we marvel at what we hear. **We will be meeting Sunday, September 23 from 4 - 7 p.m.**

Come for a spell or come for the whole session and help make our meeting special. Call Sally (518-260-8313) for information.

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

CONDOLENCES TO:

- Cheryl & Keith Inglis - Cheryl's mother, Norma Hearn's died on June 20 at the age of 94 (Cheryl & Keith were members of UUCGF for several years)
- Barbara (Green) & George Cardinal - Barbara's mother, Bernadette Marie 'Bernie' Green died on June 29 at the age of 94 (Barbara was a member of UUCGF for a number of years)
- Donna Garvin and her family whose mother died in Michigan recently at the age of 96

SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO:

- Jean-Marie Donnelly who has moved to Leesburg, VA to an assisted living facility near her daughter, Cherie - she has been attending the UU Church of Loudoun in Leesburg which is near where she lives

THANKS TO:

- Michelle Galo for setting up our new UUCGF website (glensfallsuu.com) - **GREAT JOB!!**
- Julie O'Rourke, Jean Grant, Krystyne Wozniak for setting up our summer coffee hours each week and to others who brought snacks and helped with cleaning up
- A team from Community, Work & Independence who come weekly to clean the bathrooms and public areas of our building

Board Members

Robert Rockwell, *President*, Carol Strasser, *Vice-President*
Felice Best, *Secretary*, Stephen Baratta, *Treasurer*
Will Aitcheson, Andy Houtman, Elayne Leonelli

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

For further information about these items, please check the UUA web site at www.uua.org
and www.uua.org/ceer for the Central East Region

Music Accompanist: Ray Savastano

Worship Chair: Sally Strasser

Website: www.glensfallsuu.com

Office phone: (518) 793-1468

Mailing address: P.O. Box 534, Glens Falls, NY 12801

REGULAR BUILDING USE

Mondays at 7 p.m. - Jungian Discussion Group facilitated by Bob Rockwell - RE room
Mondays & Wednesdays at 5 p.m. - AA meetings - Fellowship Hall
Tuesdays from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. - Yoga classes - Fellowship Hall and
6:00-7:30 p.m. - Belly Dance classes - Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
every two weeks - Margaret Lampasi's voice lessons - large RE room

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTACT Donna Garvin at drGARVIN@outlook.com before scheduling **ANY UU** meeting or event to insure there are no conflicts that might reduce attendance at both events.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Sept. 2

10 a.m. - Sunday Service
Ingathering Service

Sun., Sept. 9

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Mon. - Sept. 10

6:30 p.m. - Film at Crandall Public Library - "Decoding the Weather Machine"

Wed., Sept. 12

6:30 p.m. - Board of Trustees meeting

Thurs., Sept. 13

12 Noon - Membership Committee

Sat., Sept. 15

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - UUCGF Board Retreat

Sun., Sept. 16

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - No potluck

Sun., Sept. 23

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

4-7 p.m. - Nipper Club

Mon., Sept. 24

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

Sat., Sept. 29

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. - UU Café
Sun., Sept. 30
10 a.m. - Sunday Service