

Lo and Behold

FEBRUARY 2019



*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*

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

Feb. 3 - "Imbolc, Candlemas, Groundhog Day: Tradition and History" - presented by the Worship Committee.

Feb. 10 - Pam Collins - "Looking for the Open Heart in All the Wild Places"

Feb. 17 - Rev. Barbara Threet - "Striving toward Sustainability" - There's a lot happening at UUCGF that's very exciting - solar panels, potlucks, groups like Aging in Place and the Nipper Club, the Building Your Own Theology class, a much cleaner basement and kitchen, and the list goes on. Our challenge is to figure out how to keep it going, in terms of energy and in terms of finances. Historically, we've often had lots of energy and little money. What would it be like to feel less like we're hanging on by our fingernails financially, and how might we get there?

Feb. 24 - Bernice Mennis - "The Truth of History"

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

Poet Langston Hughes wrote:

In time of silver rain

The earth puts forth new life again,
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads

Of Life, Of Life, Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth new leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,

In time of silver rain
When spring And life Are new.

This may well be the only poem that appears twice in our Singing the Living Tradition hymnal: once as a song (#60) and once as a reading (#545). Neither includes every word of the poem, but both are beautiful. I rarely use either in a service though. In the song, the words are set to music by jazz musician George Walker, and the music is atonal and unfamiliar - truly beautiful when sung well, but too much of a challenge for most any congregation on a Sunday morning. If you look for the song on YouTube, you'll find several recordings of the poem as set to music by Audrey Snyder, which is much more common, and that song is beautiful too. The hymnal commission, though, chose Walker's music - quite possibly because both Langston Hughes and George Walker were black American men whose work was often overlooked, a jazz poet and a jazz musician. It's worth seeking out a YouTube of the song using Walker's tune - it is lovely, and you'll also quickly realize how challenging it would be as a congregational hymn. But then, our hymnal is a repository for music and words that carry our values, remember our history, or broaden our awareness, as well as a collection of resources for worship.

I rarely choose the poem for a different reason. It seems that the times when I've included it as I create an Order of Service on Monday or Tuesday, Sunday morning will dawn bright and sunny, or with a torrential downpour that doesn't feel at all like 'silver rain', or with a cold drizzle that promises more of mud and misery than green grasses and butterflies. And then, it just doesn't fit.

Still, I love the poem, sung or spoken, especially at this time of year when spring can seem far away. It reminds me that those almost-magically quiet, hopeful days and nights will come - and it reminds me to notice them when they do. 'Silver rain' feels ephemeral to me, and often those moments which promise such beauty and joy have that feeling. I know Hughes' life was not easy, nor Walker's, but still they wrote those words and that music. They recognized those moments of silver rain, when earth puts forth new life again and butterflies catch rainbow cries, when spring, and life, were new. May each of us be so blessed in coming months.

Shalom and Salaam,
Rev. Barbara

BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

In these past few weeks ice and snow have wreaked havoc on meetings and get togethers. Barbara Threet's scheduled Sunday service was cancelled. The wide fluctuations of temperatures are unlike any winter I recall. I hear and read talk about the reality of climate change, but sadly it seems that the lazy and disillusioned don't vote and have allowed our democracy to be taken over by the skeptics and "deniers". I am heartened by the many members of UUCGF who are actively involved in politics and trying to make the world better for all of us. Being an active part of our congregation is important for our education and for mutual support.

A few weeks ago we held a Congregation/Board conversation to discuss our congregation's budget and finances. The hard reality is that taking into consideration the level of our pledging has gone in the past we cannot afford to continue supporting Barbara Threet at one third time and are forced to reduce her commitment to us to quarter time. We have made decisions to improve our physical building by installing solar panels on our south facing roof which should reduce our electric costs over time and install a dehumidifier in the basement along with foam insulation around the perimeter which should save on heating and reduce or eliminate our mouse infestation. We are in the process of emptying out the Religious Education wing in preparation for painting and installing a new door. Hopefully we will be able to find an appropriate renter and have a consistent income from this rental.

Our **UUCGF Annual Meeting** is only three months away. It will be held on **Sunday, May 5th** following the Sunday service. We will be electing Board members, and officers, as well as two Nominating Committee members. Please explore among yourselves and talk with members of the nominating committee: Sally Strasser, Martha Torregrossa, and Dan Westlake, about your ideas of who you might like to have serve in these areas. We will also be voting on the budget.

Joe Kern recently fell on the ice and broke his hip. He is currently at Glens Falls Hospital and would appreciate visitors and support.

~ Bob Rockwell

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.

FEB. BIRTHDAYS

Louise Hanson, Lynn McDonald, Serena Ruzbacki Stone, Linda Westlake

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Here is a brief summary of July 2018-Dec. 2018 revenues and expenses for FY 2019

Total Revenues for July-Dec. 2018 were \$ 81,902.39

Total Expenses for July-Dec. 2018 were \$ 61,849.75

Pledge statements for the second quarter Oct.-Dec. 2018 have been emailed or snail mailed. They do also include all contributions made between January and December 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Elayne Leonelli at 518-793-3081 or eleone31@roadrunner.com or Stephen Baratta at stephenbrtt346@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!!

STAY TUNED!! STEWARDSHIP TIME IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Rich Myette arranged for a hauler to remove all the items on the back porch, so that area has now been cleared off. Thank you, Rich!

A new storage cabinet for cleaning supplies has been placed next to the back porch door, and two broom & mop holder racks have been installed on the wall next to the cabinet. This creates a healthier pantry area for dishes. A two-step ladder has also been added to the pantry to access items from higher shelves. A First Aid kit was found hiding in the pantry and is now on top of white storage cabinet.

While cleaning in the kitchen, Jean found two large openings for the mice to enter: one on the floor under the stainless steel tables and one on the wall under the sinks. The committee will cover / seal the areas with steel wool, metal plates, sealant, etc., to hopefully eliminate those two "ports of entry"!

The committee reminds all who use the kitchen to use Lysol wipes on all surfaces before any food prep. The church mice are having a ball and have traveled everywhere. Their droppings have been found in most church spaces, especially where even a few crumbs of food can be found.

~Jean Grant

SOCIAL ACTION

No meeting took place in January. Focus of this report is on the following **collaborative films being shown in the Crandall Public Library Community Room in February.**

Tri-County NY Transition opens their spring "**In the Public Interest**" film series:

2/4/19 - Monday - 6:30 pm - ***Truth to Power*** - Al Gore's second film about climate - reviewing the science, sharing positive solutions, and warning what we must still do.

Glens Falls Area NAACP presents their **Black History Month film series:**

(Guests are warmly welcomed, food is served, and discussion stimulated)

2/5/19 - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - ***The Waiting Room*** - Filmmaker Peter Nicks chronicles events at a public hospital ER where overworked staff and many uninsured patients must cope with disease, injury, bureaucracy and hard choices.

2/12/19 - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - ***The Mohawk Giants*** - The film follows the history of Negro League baseball in Schenectady and the Capital Region; a story of social change in the U.S. and the men who dared to dream to play baseball.

2/19/19 - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - ***Capturing the Flag*** - Director Anne de Mare describes voter suppression in North Carolina and the work done by resourceful activists protecting voters and bringing the human dimensions of democracy into focus.

2/26/19 - Tuesday - 6:30 pm ***Profiled*** - Kathleen Foster profiles the mothers of Black and Latino unarmed youth killed by the police discussing racial profiling and police brutality.

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, February 25th**. 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.

~ Diane Collins

ADIRONDACK FRIENDS OF JUNG

The next Adirondack Friends of Jung meeting is scheduled for **7 p.m. Friday February 8th** at UUCGF. Contact Bob Rockwell at 518-796-9879 for more information.

MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The February meeting of the Discussion Group will be on **Monday, February 11th** at noon.

~ Harvey Noordsy

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Present at this month's meeting were: Rev. Barbara Threet, Julia O'Rourke, Steve Baratta, and Jean Grant.

Elayne Leonelli suggested the committee remind all Greeters to make sure our guest speakers have a hymnal and copy of the Order of Service. A sign has been left on the greeting table.

The committee reviewed a list of guidelines / tasks from previous membership committees and updated, where needed. Also, the list of committee members was updated and include: Jack Abbott, Steve Baratta, Jean Grant, Andy Houtman, Betty Noordsy, Julia O'Rourke, Krystyne Wozniak (Chairperson), as well as Rev. Barbara Threet.

The committee now has master letters to be used in the future for updating the directory. A special thank you to those who participated in this project.

A shelf in the office will be designated for the committee to store materials, including files, pamphlets, mailing materials, etc. A special thank you to Elayne for helping us to locate materials that have been stored in multiple locations. The committee is working to update UUCGF handouts and brochures to give to visitors.

Jean will continue to order coffee from Equal Exchange. A supplies list will be posted in the kitchen so Coffee Hour volunteers can notify the committee when items are needed.

The Membership Committee and the Building & Grounds Committee continue to organize and clean the kitchen to reduce the activity of our church mice, reminding everyone who uses the kitchen to use Lysol wipes on all surfaces before and after any food prep. Also, pre-packaged sugar and sweeteners should only be used - no loose granulated sugar. All food must be stored in plastic containers or in the refrigerator.

Due to the storm on January 20th, Barbara's sermon and the Potluck will be rescheduled in the future.

The Membership Committee will meet again **Thursday, February 14th at 12:00.**

~ Krystyne Wozniak and Jean Grant

UUCGF MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY

We have a new directory available. It has been sent out to our Members and Friends. As is often the case there are already a few corrections to be made. They are:

Patty Decker's email is pdecker42@gmail.com.

Jackie & Mike Goodwin's address should be **18** Old Bend Road (not 19) as the emailed copy said.

Debbie McNally's address should be **28** Petrie Lane (not 30).

Kim Yazic's phone no. is 518-409-4163, her birthday is 10/27 and she became a member in Nov.

UU CAFÉ

UU CAFÉ will be meeting on February 23rd. Join us from 7:30-10:00 p.m. OPEN MIC for poets & musicians and folks who just want to enjoy the oldest OPEN MIC CAFE' in Glens Falls. (Call SALLY for info, 260-8313).

NIPPER CLUB

The group will be meeting on **Sun., Feb. 10th from 4-7 p.m.** Share your favorite LPs, CDs, cassettes and digital downloads with other music-loving friends. We now meet in the acoustically excellent sanctuary, with concert-hall seating and superb playback equipment. Everybody can join-in and share their recordings, or just enjoy the music. Come for the whole show, or for only a spell. Refreshments. (Call SALLY for info, 260-8313.)

FEBRUARY'S THEME: LOVE, lost and found.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER - WITH FOOD!

One of the ways that church members and friends can support one another is through offering help when illness or injury or tragedy strikes, and one of the most practical ways to do that is by providing meals for a few days.

To that end, Rev. Barbara is establishing a list of people willing to make and transport a simple meal when needed, so that we can offer this support to each other. Then, when she learns of an illness, injury, or loss, she can ask if meals would be helpful and if so, she'll contact those on the list to organize this service. We may not be able to offer as many meals as would be ideal for the recipient, and any of us may not be able to contribute in a given situation, but this is one concrete way we can 'serve one another with love and compassion', to paraphrase our Mission Statement.

If you'd be willing to be contacted to provide a simple meal, notify Rev. Barbara at brthreet@gmail.com - and thanks to those who have already volunteered to be on the list!

And the second part of this request: **if you learn of someone who's ill or injured or grieving who might appreciate meals for a few days, or who might appreciate a visit, card, or call, please let Rev. Barbara know. It is love and compassion - in action!**

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY CLASS

The monthly **Building Your Own Theology** class will be continuing with the next meeting on **Sat. February 16th**. For subsequent classes, materials will be provided at the previous month's class. Regular attendance will greatly enhance our discussions. At this point there are about 15 members and friends attending the class.

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

CONDOLENCES TO:

..... Bob Rockwell and Miranda Kyhill whose dog was injured and died.

SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO:

..... Joseph Kern who fell on the ice on Jan. 23 and broke his hip. He has had surgery and will be in rehab for four weeks with four more weeks of recuperation at home.

THANK YOU TO:

- Rich Myette for making arrangements to have the "stuff" on the back porch removed and the area cleaned up.
- Jean Grant for helping get the new cupboard set up for the cleaning supplies in the kitchen and the new hanging space for mops and brooms. Also thanks for your efforts with the "mice patrol".
- Chuck Schiltz and the Board members who have been decluttering the RE space, moving furniture around in preparation for possible use of the area by an outside group

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

Board Members

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

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
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
Thursdays at 4 p.m. - Scrapbook group - *Fellowship Hall*

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Feb. 3

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Fri., Feb. 8

7 p.m. - Adirondack Friends of Jung

Sun., Feb. 10

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - Social Action Committee

4 - 7 p.m. Nipper Club

Mon., Feb. 11

12 noon - Book Discussion Group

Wed., Feb. 13

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

Thurs., Feb. 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

12 Noon - Membership Committee

Sat., Feb. 16

10 - Noon - Building Your Own Theology adult RE class

Sun., Feb. 17

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Board/Minister/Congregation meeting

Mon., Feb. 18

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Sat., Feb. 23

7:30-10:00 p.m. UU Café

Sun., Feb. 24

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Mon., Feb. 25

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving