

Lo and Behold

MARCH 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*

MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

- Mar. 3** - Guari, who is a member of the Albany Hindu Temple will speak. Guari is an advocate for the educational needs of Indian children.
- Mar. 10** - "Prayer in Music, from the Heart and from the Scripture" - recorded music presented by Sally Strasser.
- Mar. 17** - Rev. Barbara Threet - "The Quest for Truth" - "Truth" seems to have become a very fluid concept in these days of 'alternative facts'. And yet, there are some Truths in life. How might we find them, name them, and claim them?
- Mar. 24** - Michelle Galo - "Ashes, Ashes: a Theology of Absence"
- Mar. 31** - Andy Houtman - title to be announced

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

**The 11th Annual Hudson-Mohawk Cluster Sunday Celebration
will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
at Doane Stuart School, 199 Washington Ave. in Rensselaer, NY**

"Is It Too Late? Healing the Earth and Our Spirits"

What does it mean to engage climate justice as individuals, families, congregations, and a region? Using story, music, poetry, reflections, and visual arts, we will explore what it means when resources are depleted, how to address systems that harm the interdependent web, what it means to say yes to change, where to reclaim hope in ourselves, our communities and the planet.

After the service, plan to join in a pot luck lunch, a time of fellowship and conversation, and some discussions about various aspects of climate justice (class, patriarchy, white supremacy, conservation, capitalism, advocacy, green sanctuary, etc.).

Nursery care will be available, along with service-related activities for elementary-aged children.

FROM REV. BARBARA'S DESK

Recently I've been reading a lovely little book called 'Silence in the Age of Noise', written by Erling Kagge, a Norwegian explorer and the first person to reach the South Pole alone. I'm discovering all sorts of gems. Here's one that struck me:

Scientists and maintenance workers reside there [at the American base at the South Pole] for several months at a time, isolated from the outside world. One year there were ninety-nine residents who celebrated Christmas together at the base. Someone had smuggled in ninety-nine stones and handed out one a piece as a Christmas gift. Nobody had seen stones for months. Some people hadn't seen stones for over a year. Nothing but ice, snow, and man-made objects. Everyone sat gazing at and feeling their stone, holding it in their hands, feeling its weight, without uttering a word.

That's an amazing image, all these people being lost in appreciation, memory, even magic, each by a simple stone.

I write this in my living room, and as I look out, I see a soft, thick blanket of white, gentle undulations of snow. There are some larger undulations: they cover the large rocks around which I'll plant flowers in a few months. In the field behind my house there are a few trees and remains of tall grasses, along with the sheep, and on three sides of the field are tall pines with snow-decked branches, the edges of the forest. It's beautiful, and very still. In a few months, when the grass is green, the flowers are up, and there will even be a few lambs frolicking in the pasture, it will be beautiful too.

But stones. The wonder of simple pebbles. I am struck by all the things I take for granted, so much so that I absolutely do not notice them. When I travel, I have sometimes been where the absence of trees is very clear, or the absence of abundant streams and lakes: I remember how much I missed little streams when I lived in southern California. Stones have always seemed so ubiquitous that I've barely noticed them (expect to grumble at how many of them there are when I'm trying to establish a garden).

One of the readings in our hymnal contains the words: When seasons come, as seasons do, old and known but somehow new/when lives are born or people die/ when something sacred's sensed in soil or sky/mark the time. / Respond with thought or prayer or smile or grief.../ For all of these are holy things we will not, cannot, find again.

Each spring I watch carefully for the first hint of tiny flowers and buds. This spring, I want to pay more attention to the re-emergence of small stones, and little streams, the things so common they're almost overlooked. For all of these things - are holy things.

Shalom and Salaam,
Rev. Barbara

BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Dear UUCGF Community,

Although it is still February, having to sit down and write something for the March newsletter portends that better weather is on its way.

Conjoint Service

Our annual combined UU service at Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer, NY will be held April 7. You should have gotten an e-mail about this service. This is an opportunity for us to join together in worship and get to know other UU's from Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga and Kingston. The focus of the service is on climate change. Tentatively a pot luck is being planned following the service. Volunteers are needed for parking, ushering and clean up. If you are able to volunteer, please contact me.

Support for Immigrants

Steve Baratta forwarded an e-mail from Jean Poppei who is trying to develop a coalition of congregations to support immigrants having problems with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The coalition is an informal agreement with First Unitarian Society of Albany, Albany Friends (Quakers), Unity Church of Albany, the Presbyterian New England Congregational Church in Saratoga and Saratoga UU. Our UUCGF Board agreed to join this coalition. At our monthly Board/Minister/Congregation conversation after the service on Sunday, February 17, the congregation unanimously concurred with this decision. Terence Diggory from PNECC sent me the following e-mail to clarify what the coalition currently entails:

Bob—Thanks to you and the members of your congregation for taking a stand in support of sanctuary. I'm not sure what you have in mind when you speak of joining "the Sanctuary Coalition," since there is no single organization that represents the sanctuary movement. Some congregations "register" at <https://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org/>. Or perhaps there is some body within the UU network that you want to report to.

What Jean Poppei is describing is a network of local sanctuary coalitions within the greater Capital Region. Both my church, Presbyterian—New England Congregational (PNECC), and Joe Cleveland's congregation (UUCSS) are members of the Saratoga Immigration Coalition (SIC). Diane Collins has been involved with SIC from the start, so she will be a good liaison going forward. You or anyone else from your congregation can join the SIC email list simply by letting me know. And if your congregation might like to become a member of the coalition, I would be happy to describe the simple process for doing so. The next general meeting of SIC will take place on Thursday, March 14, 6:30 PM, Temple Sinai, 509 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Anyone may attend. You can also follow SIC on Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/Saratoga-Immigration-Coalition-458540114506608/>

As the two sanctuary congregations within SIC, PNECC and UUCSS have an understanding that they will offer each other mutual support. PNECC is able to offer physical sanctuary, and members of UUCSS have volunteered to serve as companions to a sanctuary resident, should the need arise. From time to time we hold training workshops for sanctuary companions (in the spirit of readiness that Jean mentions). Anyone from your congregation would be welcome to volunteer to serve as a sanctuary companion, simply by notifying me.

When PNECC and UUCSS decided to become sanctuary congregations, we did so quite publicly and received a good deal of press attention. We saw that as a means of spreading the word of welcome. I

would urge you to consider similar publicity for your congregation's action, although I understand that not all sanctuary congregations decide to "go public."

There are a number of outlets for immigration support in the Glens Falls area. The group that you mention, based at St. Joseph's Church in Fort Edward, is one of them. They are included, as North Country Immigration Support, in a brochure published by SIC that lists services available to immigrants in Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties. You can access the brochure at: <https://www.mlksaratoga.org/saratoga-immigration-coalition>

We are not able to house any immigrants but we can offer support. I am not able to attend the meeting of SIC in Saratoga on Thursday March 14, but perhaps some other members of the congregation might be interested in attending. I will consult with the Board about publicizing our joining or not.

I signed the following pledge at sanctuarynotdeportation on our behalf:

As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

~ Bob Rockwell

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Total Revenues for July-Jan. 2018 were \$ 89,168.39

Total Expenses for July-Jan. 2018 were \$ 71,607.54

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!!

STEWARDSHIP TIME

A FRIENDLY REMINDER from the BOARD of TRUSTEES about PLEDGE FORMS

Please mark your calendars that **March 24th, 2019** is the last day to return your pledge form. We need to have this information in order to finalize the budget that will be presented to the congregation for a vote on May 5th, 2019.

If you cannot bring your form in person to UUCGF, be advised that you can email the pledge you wish to make to Elayne Leonelli at eleone31@roadrunner.com any time **before or on March 24th**.

Thank you for your cooperation and your support.

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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Will Aitcheson, Catherine Atherden, Katy Butler, Nancy Corliss, Pat Decker, Elayne Leonelli, Debbie McNally, Marian Mojzer, Julie O'Rourke, Mary Phillips, Kendra Schieber, Bob Taft, Jacquiline Touba

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Since our last newsletter, not only will Jack Abbott serve on the committee, but Sue Abbott will also join us. Thank you, Jack and Sue!

Our winter weather has brought extra snow and ice this month. Rich cleared a path from the back kitchen porch to the parking lot, and he and Will provided additional sand and ice melt for the entryway.

The committee purchased two more snow shovels and an ice chopper. The ramp off the designated EXIT door to the Fellowship Room will be cleared of snow to enable a safe escape, should it be necessary.

Work continues to seal areas in the kitchen to limit access for our church mice. Rich added door strips to the back door and pantry door. The large open area under the stainless steel tables has also been sealed.

Many of us are looking forward to spring already! Rather than having a designated day for outdoor cleanup, we hope to have a week set aside for volunteers to come and go as they are able to work on the grounds.

~ Jean Grant and Rich Myette

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee will be hosting several "Friday Night Forum" events in the next two months:

March 15, 2019 Friday, 7 p.m. "The Economic and Social Implications of Legalizing Marijuana" - Steve Ruzbacki, 2016 Green Party candidate for State Senate, recently earned a Professional Certificate in Cannabis Science and Medicine from the University of Vermont's Larner School of Medicine. Steve will present an overview of the history of cannabis prohibition in the United States, and how the details of cannabis regulation will impact residents of New York State.

March 29, 2019 Friday, 7 p.m. "Silent Spring" (55 minute film about Rachel Carson)

This will be the first of a series of five films celebrating climate champions.

Caring for the Earth film series with guest speakers leading discussions:

March 29 Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"

April 5 Pete Seeger's "The Power of Song"

April 12 W.S. Merwin's "Even Though the Whole World is Burning"

April 19 Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power"

April 26 Wendell Berry's "Look and See"

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be Sunday, March 10th after service. On the agenda will be criminal justice issues and actions. Please join us.

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, March 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

UUCGF MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY

Please make the following corrections.

Please change Rich Myette's address to 22 Hunter St., Glens Falls, NY 12801.

March 2019 Coffee Hour Schedule

1st Sunday, March 3rd

Team Coordinator

Betty & Harvey Noordsy
518-798-0330
noordsyb@roadrunner.com

Team Members

Bob Bradley 518-222-9053
Nancy Kimball 518-668-0115
Lynn McDonald 518-494-8001
Claire Epworth 518-656-9534

bobbradley1957@gmail.com
nmkimball@live.com
birches27@aol.com
Claire@ice-makers.com

2nd Sunday, March 10th

Team Coordinator

Jane Kana
518-792-6024
janezee@roadrunner.com

Team Members

Diane Collins 518-792-2811
Jean Grant 518-798-8291
Elayne Leonelli 518-793-3081

dc.wildflowers@gmail.com
jeanne421@hotmail.com
eleone31@roadrunner.com

3rd Sunday, March 17th

Potluck Day

4th Sunday, March 24th

Team Coordinator

Pema Reed
518-474-9713
pritaji@yahoo.com

Team Members

Felice Best 518-361-4774
Beth Shropshire 518-791-7861
Julia O'Rourke 518-668-3190

fclauder@hotmail.com
bshropsh@nycap.rr.com
vzez64rs@verizon.net

5th Sunday, March 31

Team Coordinator

Martha Torregrossa
518-798-0286
lottot@roadrunner.com

Team Members

Joyce Smith 518-793-6379
Linda Westlake 518-636-3306
Kim Yazic 518-409-4163

smithpjny@gmail.com
llwestlake@roadrunner.com
kikifalcon27@yahoo.com

If you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled date, and time permits, please contact a volunteer from another team to trade Sundays with. If there is an emergency, please notify your team leader, if possible.

Thank you for volunteering your time and delicious treats to UUCGF's Sunday coffee hour.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Present at this month's meeting were: Rev. Barbara Threet, Julia O'Rourke, Betty Noordsy, Andy Houtman, and Jean Grant

After many years of serving on this committee, Jack Abbott has resigned and will now be serving on the Building & Grounds Committee. Krystyne Wozniak has resigned to take some well-deserved time for herself. UUCGF wishes to thank Jack and Krystyne for volunteering their time and talents to the Membership Committee. We'll miss you both.

Lynn McDonald has agreed to join the Membership Committee. Welcome and thank you, Lynn.

Julie has been mailing, even delivering, cards and little gifts to members and friends of UUCGF. She enjoys doing it, and we greatly appreciate her love and caring thoughts. In Julie's words: *We send out birthday, congratulation and condolence cards to our Beloved Community when the occasion calls for it. Sending greeting cards gives joy both ways from us to others.*

As the group is actually called the Membership / Hospitality Committee, members discussed the possibility of creating two separate committees to divide the many tasks the present committee is responsible for. However, it was agreed that due to the smaller number of people involved with UUCGF than in the past, it is necessary to keep the two combined.

The committee discussed taking part in future Farmer's Markets and selling Fair Trade coffee. In addition to raising funds, it would be wonderful publicity for UUCGF.

The committee reviewed several handouts used in the past. Two will be updated and prepared for visitors.

Thank you to all who helped set up, clean up, and bring wonderful dishes to share for our Sunday Pot Luck.

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

NIPPER CLUB

The group will be meeting on **Sun., Mar. 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.) **The theme is "Spring's Awakening".**

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY CLASS

The monthly **Building Your Own Theology** class will be continuing with the next meeting on **Sat. March 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.

ADIRONDACK FRIENDS OF JUNG

The Adirondack Friends of Jung meeting will meet at UUCGF at **7 p.m. on Friday, March 8th**. A biographical film on Carl Jung will be shown. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact Bob Rockwell at 518-796-9879 for more information.

MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Monthly Reading and Discussion group will meet on **March 11th** at the Church at **noon**. Read Part II of "**When More Is Not Enough.**"

~ Harvey Noordsy

NIPPER CLUB

The group will be meeting on **Sun., Mar. 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.) **The theme is "Spring's Awakening".**

UU CAFÉ

UU CAFÉ will be meeting on **March 30th**. 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).

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE EVENT IN ALBANY

Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment will be holding a forum entitled "What You Eat Affects the Environment". The event, co-sponsored by the *Green Sanctuary Committee* will take place on **March 13, 2019 in Channing Hall at the First Unitarian Universalist Church located at 405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

The forum will feature an educational, edited version of the documentary, "Cowspiracy, The Sustainability Secret" and two short presentations by Mr. Demosthenes Maratos, Communications Director at the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College and Dr. Mary Ellen Mallia, Director of Environmental Sustainability at SUNY Albany. **Call Diane Collins (518) 792-2811 if interested in carpooling.**

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!**

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Our long-time member (30 years), Marilyn Babich, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 30th at The Pines. There will be a memorial service for her on Saturday, April 6th, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. *(This date is a change from one announced earlier.)*

Ruth Fish, a former member of UUCGF, who was injured in a hit and run accident in Nov. recently fell and broke her hip. She had to have hip replacement surgery and continues her recovery at her sister's home.

CONDOLENCES TO:

- Mary Phillips whose husband passed away recently after a long illness
- Maureen Dye whose sister, Pat, died unexpectedly on Feb. 5th

SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO:

- Joseph Kern who is recuperating from a broken hip. It was good to see him at church on Feb. 16th

THANK YOU TO:

- Everyone who helped with set up, clean up and food for our Feb. 16th potluck
- 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.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Mar. 3

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Fri., Mar. 8

7 p.m. - Adirondack Friends of Jung

Sun., Mar. 10

CHANGE CLOCKS - SPRING FORWARD

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - Social Action Committee

4 - 7 p.m. Nipper Club

Mon., Mar. 11

12 noon - Book Discussion Group

Wed., Mar. 13

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

Thurs., Mar. 14

12 Noon - Membership Committee

Fri., Mar. 15

7 p.m. - Friday Night Forum

Sat., Mar. 16

10 - Noon - Building Your Own Theology adult RE class

Sun., Mar. 17

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Board/Minister/Congregation meeting

Wed., Mar. 20

FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!

Sun., Mar. 24

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Mon., Mar. 25

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

Fri., Mar. 29

7 p.m. - Friday Night Forum - "Silent Spring" film

Sat., Mar. 30

7:30-10:00 p.m. UU Café