

Lo and Behold

APRIL 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*

APRIL SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

- APRIL 7 - THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT UUCGF THIS DAY -** There is a combined UU service in Rensselaer, NY at the Doane Stuart School at 11 a.m. (*see enclosed information on next page*)
- Apr. 14 - Pattrice Jones** - What can we learn from animals that might help us solve social problems like inequality, violence, and human-engendered climate change? Pattrice will share insights gleaned over more than forty years of social justice activism and nearly twenty years living alongside animals at VINE Sanctuary, an LGBTQ-led farmed animal refuge, that works within an ecofeminist understanding of the interconnectedness of different forms of oppression.
- Apr. 21 - Rev. Barbara Threet** - "Easter for UUs" - For Christians the world over, Easter is the Most Important Religious Celebration. For UUs, a group of people most of whom don't believe people can be raised from the dead (even Jesus), or that the death of one person saves humanity in any way, Easter can be a challenge. We can talk about the coming of spring and Easter, but that only works in the northern hemisphere: in the southern, they're moving into winter. So what does Easter mean for us as Unitarian Universalists? (A suggestion: it is an occasion to wear an Easter Bonnet, some grand hat you otherwise never have occasion to wear!)
- Apr. 28 - There will be a Passover Seder** - The entire service will be presented in the Fellowship Hall with a traditional meal. Felice Best and the Worship Committee will coordinate volunteer food providers.

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.

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

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 thinking a lot about plastic, and how much of it I use, and how I could use less.

I've made some changes long ago - switched to canvas shopping bags (except for when I forget to put them back in the car), stopped buying plastic water bottles (except when I'm traveling overseas and there's no good water source to refill my metal one), tried to buy drinks in cans rather than in plastic cups (except when I'm feeling too lazy to go into a store and just settle for fast food). You get the picture: all too often, my actions don't follow my intentions. I drive an 11-year old hybrid car though, I'm careful to turn off lights, my garden is pesticide-free, and my blanketed water heater is set such that I don't automatically need to add cold water to make the temperature bearable. I try.

I suspect you do too. And I suspect that at least some of you, like me, struggle with how complicated or how inconvenient it is sometimes to do the right thing. And recent news that much of what we've so carefully sorted into the recycling bins just winds up in trash anyhow makes it all feel so much more frustrating!

So, once again, I'm trying to pay more attention to creating less trash to begin with. I'm reminded of a video one of my grandsons showed me: There's No Such Thing as Waste (only stuff in the wrong place). And it's so easy for things to wind up in the Wrong Place - like the estimated 5 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean. Over a tenth of our litter comes from drink-related refuse: plastic bottles and coffee cups and straws.

Acrylic and polyester release fibers into the water when you do laundry, which go out with the rinse water and don't break down. Cotton releases fibers too, but they're organic: they break down. Plastic spoons and forks don't break down either, but it's not difficult to carry a spoon in my purse, rinse it off in a restroom after using it, and stick it back in my purse for the next time. And I've gotten lots better at actually writing hard copy letters to companies who send me materials I don't want, with their mailing label to me attached to a request to stop sending me things.

But there are things for which I haven't yet found an alternative. I've switched from individual yogurts to quart sizes which, I tell myself, create a little less waste. But the obvious recycling sources, like donating them to a pre-school - how many plastic cups do they really use? I have some wonderful woolen socks that I actually do darn, but when lightweight socks wear through in the heels, what else can I do but toss them? Frayed towels can go to an animal shelter, but what about shirts with elbows worn through? It seems disrespectful to pass them on. And frankly, I have limited time and energy to agonize over every article.

I'll keep trying. There are a few boxes of books to go to the local used book store, and a pile of clothes I no longer wear to donate. But what about the dozens (OK, hundreds) of pretty obscure theological and religious books I have? Anyone who really wants a commentary on Haggai and Zechariah (they're books in the Old Testament), or a Concise History of the Early Church will probably just go on line. So what do I do with those many, many shelf-feet of books? (Leaving them for my daughters to deal with some day doesn't seem like a responsible or compassionate option either, and they emphatically agree!)

Living on this earth responsibly is not always easy, and it does require constant evaluation of what works and what doesn't. Once again this spring, though, I'm going to try to clean up my ecological house, and minimize what I bring to it, and especially what I toss out into it, as if it would disappear. It won't. What I do matters to our world, and what you do does too. Matter is neither created nor destroyed, but only changes form - and there's no such thing as waste.

Shalom and Salaam,
Rev. Barbara

BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Dear UUCGF Community,

The UUCGF annual business meeting is coming up soon-- after the Sunday service on May 5th to be exact. This is the opportunity to elect Board members, Board officers, and Nominating Committee members, as well as voting on the budget for next year and discussing plans for the future. Many pledges have been turned in and Elayne indicates that she thinks we will be able to meet our next year's proposed budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting for congregational approval. Preparations for renting out part of the Religious Education wing have progressed thanks to Pema Reed and her crew. Pema, Tony Krivitski, Rich Myette, Jean Grant, Sally Strasser, Maureen Dye, Martha Torregrossa, Steve Baratta, Heidi Kaufman, Lynn McDonald, and I completed prepping and painting to ready the space for a potential renter.

I will be completing my third year as president and am not eligible to continue as president. Will Aitchison has agreed to be nominated for president. *(A list of nominees for our next fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2019 will be sent out in a separate email in early April.)*

We have two major projects lined up to be completed this spring: 1) installing solar panels on our south facing roof with Apex Solar and 2) installing a dehumidifier in the basement along with sealing the baseboard of the cellar and crawl space underneath the sanctuary to be done by Adirondack Basements. We had hoped that the kitchen might also be sealed, but there is no crawl space underneath the kitchen, making this impossible. Thanks to Jean Grant and Rich Myette for sealing the holes in the kitchen floor and putting flaps on the bottom of the dish closet and back door, there are not as many church mice present. This along with a program of putting silverware, napkins, tea, crackers, sugar, etc., in sealed plastic containers and keeping the kitchen clean has helped reduce mouse calling cards in the kitchen.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT UUCGF ON SUNDAY APRIL 7th. Hopefully many of you will take the opportunity to join the combined service of UU ministers and members from Albany, Schenectady, Kingston and Saratoga at 11 am at the Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer. There will be a potluck after the service. People are encouraged to bring finger foods to reduce cleaning dishes and silverware.

~ Bob Rockwell

STEWARDSHIP TIME

Just to let you know that our Stewardship Campaign has been coming along, but we still have several members and friends we would like to hear from regarding a pledge for FY 2020. If you have not yet responded, please email Elayne Leonelli at eleone31@roadrunner.com to let us know whether or not you plan to pledge for our next fiscal year. We need to prepare the FY 2020 budget very soon and it helps to know how much money we can expect to receive before we finalize the budget.

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Haven Alessi, Michelle Galo, Bernice Mennis, Ray Savastano, Chuck Schiltz, Jean Thomas

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Total Revenues for July 2018-Feb. 2019 were \$ 95,692.98

Total Expenses for July 2018-Feb. 2019 were \$ 81,276.95

THIRD QUARTER PLEDGE STATEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY MID-APRIL.

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!!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

After receiving reports from the CWI crew who clean each Monday, Rich was able to secure one of the toilet seats in the ladies restroom, as well as re-hang the clock in the sanctuary. He also studied damaged areas along the wall/ceiling areas above the clock. Several areas of the ceiling are in need of repair by professionals.

The committee reported leaking faucets in the kitchen and ladies room, and shortly after, Elayne arranged to have them replaced. Thank you, Elayne!

The CWI crew has been using one of several vacuum cleaners owned by the church. It can be somewhat difficult to use, so Jean has been testing the others to see if it might be time to replace it with a new model. In the meantime, they now have a second cleaner to work with.

Volunteers continue to work in the RE rooms, cleaning and painting walls and trim.

~ Jean Grant and Rich Myette

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We've finished with the *Amazing Grace* sessions and will be doing free-form lessons throughout April and early May, concentrating on UU Values. We will be preparing for our participation in the Mother's Day service in May where the kids will be doing some readings.

I will be conspicuously absent from the March 31 services. I am getting married on April 1st and will be enjoying a Niagara Falls vacation.

~ Chuck Schiltz

UUCGF RECENT VISITORS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to several people who have visited our congregation recently. They are Beverly Lavick, Betty Hurley, Eileen Donovan, Hannah Joy, Yvonne LaFountain, and Xanath Bailey.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee will be hosting several "Friday Night Forum events during April. **Films start at 7 p.m. at UUCGF.**

Our UU Caring for the Earth film series called "Celebrating Climate Champions" with guest speakers leading discussions are:

- April 5th W. S. Merwin's "Even Though the Whole World is Burning" with Bernice Mennis, poet and activist. Merwin recently passed away so this evening will be a tribute to him.
- April 12th Pete Seeger's "The Power of Song", followed by a sing-along with Neal Herr, musician and songwriter.
- April 19th Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power". Catherine Atherden, Queensbury Town Board member, will share current local climate-smart initiatives underway.
- April 26th Wendell Berry's "Look and See" with speaker Harvey Noordsy, our own environmental scholar.

Two New York State legislative bills you may be interested to lobby for with our elected representatives:

1. **Medical Aid in Dying Act (A2694 / S3947)**
This Act would allow mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to have the option to obtain a prescription for medication they can decide to take if their suffering becomes unbearable, so they can die peacefully.
2. **Bill A5896** preventing homeowner associations from prohibiting residents to install solar panels on their homes, as it is vitally important for us to change our energy use from fossil fuels to renewable energy where we can.

Earth Day Celebration will be held on **April 20th** Saturday afternoon from noon to four at City Park next to Crandall Public Library. The event is sponsored by the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury. Look for the pre-event publicity in our local press.

The next **Social Action Committee** meeting will be **Sunday, April 14th** after service. All are welcomed.

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, April 22nd**. 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

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY CLASS

The monthly **Building Your Own Theology** class will be continuing with the next meeting on **Sat. April 21st**. 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.

April 2019 Coffee Hour Schedule

1st Sunday, April 7th

No UUCGF Services. The combined UU service for Hudson Mohawk UU Cluster will be held at Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer, NY at 11:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday, April 14th

Team Coordinator

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

Team Members

Joyce Smith
Linda Westlake
Kim Yazic

518-793-6379
518-636-3306
518-409-4163

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

3rd Sunday, April 21st

Potluck Day

4th Sunday, April 28th

Passover Seder

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 & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Present at this month's meeting were: Julie O'Rourke, Betty Noordsy, Andy Houtman, Steve Baratta, Lynn McDonald, and Jean Grant.

Updated "Welcome" cards are now on display in the Greeting area, and several visitors have completed the cards, as well as requested receiving the UUCGF Newsletter.

Julie has been busy mailing cards to members and friends of UUCGF. Since our last meeting, she has sent 20 cards for birthdays, get well, sympathy, etc. Thank you, Julie, for your passion, kindness and concern. She says it brings joy to the congregation and reminds everyone to let her know when cards should be sent out.

As always, UUCGF members and friends are invited to sign up to be **Greeters**. This is a nice way to welcome fellow members and friends Sunday mornings, as well as invite visitors to take a *Welcome* card and join us after service for Coffee Hour.

The committee continues to sort through and update materials created and collected by previous committee members, including several handouts for members and visitors. The committee wishes to thank everyone who served in the past and their dedication to UUCGF.

An updated "*Tips for Coffee Hour Volunteers*" has been posted in the kitchen, as well as emailed to volunteers. Elayne also sent it to outside groups who use our kitchen. Thank you to everyone for working so hard to keep the kitchen neat and clean.

Packets of Fair Trade Organic Sugar from Equal Exchange are now available with our other sweeteners for Coffee Hour. Rather than using loose sugars, the packets help to cut down on spilled sweeteners that fall onto the floor. Not only does it make clean-up easier, it provides fewer goodies for our church mice to enjoy.

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, April 18th at 12:00 noon.

~ Jean Grant

NIPPER CLUB

The group will be meeting on **Sun., Apr. 14th 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. at 518-260-8313.) **The theme is "April is the Cruellest Month" (T.S. Eliot).** April is also Ella Fitzgerald's birth month.

MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Monthly Reading and Discussion group will meet on **April 8th** at the Church at **noon**. We will finish the book When More Is Not Enough.

~ Harvey Noordsy

UU CAFÉ

UU CAFÉ will be meeting on April 27th. 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. at 518-260-8313).

ADIRONDACK FRIENDS OF JUNG

The Adirondack Friends of Jung meeting will meet at UUCGF at **7 p.m. on Friday, April 12th**. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact Bob Rockwell at 518-796-9879 for more information.

PROGRAM AT SUNY ACC APRIL 11th

Zoë Flowers, author, poet, actress, filmmaker and advocate, presents "**Ashes**" at **SUNY Adirondack Residence Hall on Thursday, April 11th from 6-8 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room**. Based on her book, From Ashes to Angel's Dust: A Journey through Womanhood, the ChoreoDrama explores original stories about historical oppression and violence against women using monologues, poems and vignettes. This personal look at the journey to healing from domestic and sexual violence is followed by a panel/audience conversation and light refreshments. It

is free and open to the community. The event is sponsored by the Domestic Violence Project at Catholic Charities and two other groups.

MOONBEE COMING TO UUCGF - April 28th - 1-3 p.m.

Ellie von Wellsheim, founder of the MoonCatcher Project, will again be leading us through making reusable, washable menstrual pad kits. These kits enable girls in very poor countries to continue their education and live up to their full potential. Everyone (including women, men, and children), skilled or not in sewing, are invited to attend. Also, donations of feminine products will be collected for our local girls. Handmade items made in Africa and India will be available to purchase. Be part of changing the life of a young girl and have fun at the same time! Check out MoonCatcher Project for more details.

~ Lynn Mc Donald

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

Ruth Fish is currently in Florida continuing to recuperate from several serious injuries after being hit by a car in early November. She is planning to venture back to work part-time April 1st.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

..... Chuck Schiltz and his bride-to-be on their upcoming marriage on April 1st

SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO:

..... Patty Decker who is recuperating from toe surgery
..... Bob Taft who is now a resident at the Washington Center in Argyle
..... Steve Ruzbacki who is currently dealing with some health issues

THANK YOU TO:

..... Everyone who helped with set up, clean up and food for our Mar. 17th potluck
..... Julie O'Rourke for all the St. Patrick's Day decorations for our potluck
..... **Pema Reed and her UU painting crew, Bob Rockwell, Steve Baratta, Jean Grant, Lynn McDonald, Maureen Dye, Martha Torregrossa, Tony Krivitski, and Heidi Kaufmann for their work in the RE wing**
..... Sally Strasser for her help advising the UU painting crew with her professional expertise

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

SEAWAY SPRING GATHERING (formerly known as District Assembly)

Website: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/2019-cer-st-lawrence-seaway-spring-gathering>

Drawing the Circle Wide
Pre-Emptive Radical Inclusion
2019 Seaway Spring Gathering

May 3-4, Ithaca, NY
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 N Aurora Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

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.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri., Apr. 5

7 p.m. - Pete Seeger's "The Power of Song"

Sat., Apr. 6

1:30 p.m. - **Memorial service for Marilyn Babich**

Sun., Apr. 7

NO SERVICE AT UUCGF

11 a.m. - Joint UU service at Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer

Fri., Apr. 12

7 p.m. - Adirondack Friends of Jung

7 p.m. - W.S. Merwin's "Even Though the Whole World is Burning"

Sun., Apr. 14

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - Social Action Committee

4 - 7 p.m. Nipper Club

Mon., Apr. 8

12 noon - Book Discussion Group

Wed., Apr. 17

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

Thurs., Apr. 18

12 Noon - Membership Committee

Fri., Apr. 19

7 p.m. - Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power"

Sat., Apr. 20

10-noon - Building Your Own Theology adult RE class

PASSOVER

Sun., Apr. 21

HAPPY EASTER

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Board/Minister/Congregation meeting

Mon., Apr. 22

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

EARTH DAY

Fri., Apr. 26

7 p.m. - Wendell Berry's "Look and See"

Sat., Apr. 27

7:30-10:00 p.m. UU Café

Sun., Apr. 28

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

PASSOVER SEDER