

# Lo and Behold

JUNE 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*

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## JUNE SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

June 2 - Harvey Noordsy - "Report from the God Seminar"

June 9 - Rev. Nikki Williams - "The Hippies Were Right: Lessons from the Flower Children" -  
The hippies of the 1960s and 1970s changed the way people looked at peace, love,  
community, women's issues and spirituality. What parts of this legacy still resonate  
today? Were the hippies right?

June 16 - Rev. Barbara Threet

June 23 - "The Longest Day: Reflections on the Summer Solstice" - Worship Committee

June 30 - "The Divine Imagination" - John O'Donahue (recorded)

### 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](mailto:eleone31@roadrunner.com). For questions, call Elayne at 518-793-3081.

### ORDER OF SERVICE ANOUNCEMENTS

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

FROM REV. BARBARA'S DESK

Not too long ago, a grandson came across mention of a very famous artwork, and decided to ask me about it. "What's the Sis-tine Chapel?" he asked. So we got out books and looked online and explored many pictures and comments. We imagined what it must have been like to paint such a fresco - the inconvenience for the artist, the knowledge of Biblical scenes, the challenge of working inside a dome shaped-space, the planning involved in such a massive painting. We speculated on what it must have meant for Michelangelo to have been asked to paint it, and on how dedicated he must have felt - how close to his faith, in fact, to have made such a work. And I'll admit, we held him in quite a pious and perfect light. We imagined him communing with the Sacred as he planned and painted, having a religious experience simply in its creation.

So it was an unexpected delight when just a few days later, someone gave me a book of the translated 'Complete Poems of Michelangelo'. I did not know much about his poetry. His sculptures, his paintings, his buildings - but not his poems. There are over 300 of them: love poems, sonnets and madrigals, a series of funeral epigrams, and more. They've been interesting reading. But one especially struck me, in light of my grandson's and my recent discussion and speculation. It's the only one that specifically refers to the process of painting of the Sistine Chapel - and it's not at all what I expected! Here it is:

A goiter it seems I got from this backward craning  
like the cats got there in Lombardy, or wherever

- bad water, they say, from lapping their fetid river.

My belly, tugged under my chin, 's all out of whack.

Beard points like a finger at heaven. Near the back  
of my neck, skull scrapes where a humpback's hump would be.

I'm pigeon-breasted, a harpy! Face dribbled - see? -  
like a Byzantine floor, mosaic. From all this straining  
my guts and my hambones tangle, pretty near. Thank God  
I can swivel my butt about for ballast. Feet are out of sight,  
just scuffle round, erratic.

Up front my hide's tight elastic; in the rear it's slack  
and droopy, except where the cramps have callused. I'm  
bent like a bow, half-round.

Not odd that what's on my mind, when expressed,  
comes out weird, jumbled. Don't berate:  
no gun with its barrel screwy can shoot straight.

Giovanni, come agitate for my pride, my poor dead art!  
I don't belong! Who's a painter? Me? No way! They've got me wrong.

Apparently, we all struggle, even great artists. Not even the Sistine Chapel could be born without some discomfort and complaining! What a relief! I've been chuckling at the physical reality he presents in that poem, and at its contrast to our delusions of his piety, for days. And yet - from those tangled guts and hambones, and the callused cramps, and the obvious uncertainty as to whether anything at all can arise from all of this, came astonishing artistry.

It gives me hope.

Shalom and Salaam  
Rev. Barbara

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

All the papers have been signed for Apex Solar to go ahead and install solar panels on our south facing roof. Peter Kronau, the project manager, assures me that they will be installing the panels on Wednesday, May 29. A few days after installation we should have the go ahead from National Grid to turn on the system and produce power from the sun for ourselves and any excess National Grid will buy back. This should reduce our electric bill considerably.

The few trees shading part of the roof have been removed exposing more of the south face of our building and opening up more ground area west of the labyrinth. What to do with this new open area is a question for the congregation to decide. What kind of ground cover? Plant flowers, myrtle, grass or low shrubs? This can be a topic of discussion for our Congregation/Minister/Board conversation.

On Saturday, May 11 about 20 members and friends of UUCGF met with four members of Rutland UU in Whitehall. Herb Ogden from Rutland determined that where we had planned to for a hike was too wet and muddy. We decided to hike the railroad trail going south from Castleton University parking lot. The weather was pleasant. The trail passed through interesting woods and swamp. How long one walked was up to each individual's stamina. Afterwards we stopped by an ice cream stand for refreshment. It was a fun outing.

Our annual meeting went well without any great controversy. We passed the budget and elected new leadership for the coming year. I wish incoming President Will Aitcheson and the new people coming on the Board, Beth Shropshire, Pema Reed and Mike Goodwin all the best. I do not plan to fade into the sunset but will still be active as a member of the Board.

~ Bob Rockwell

#### **PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES**

Rich Myette: [richmyette@gmail.com](mailto:richmyette@gmail.com) 518-232-3351

Will Aitcheson: [aitchesonw@yahoo.com](mailto:aitchesonw@yahoo.com) 518-791-9307

Karen Johnson: [dooddust@yahoo.com](mailto:dooddust@yahoo.com) 518 796-5674

Rev. Barbara Threet: [brthreet@gmail.com](mailto:brthreet@gmail.com) 978 855-7236

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

#### **UUCGF HISTORY TIDBIT**

**On May 27, 1959, the Unitarian Fellowship of Glens Falls was welcomed as a member of the American Unitarian Association.**

**On Sunday, May 26, 2019  
Elayne Leonelli showed a copy of this document  
and brought a cake for the potluck decorated saying  
"Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to UUCGF"**

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We'll be closing out this year's R.E. program quietly after Memorial Day. I'll be using any students to help setting up the room for next year. Taking care of all of those boxes! On June 23 all the children are invited to a party to celebrate the year that was and get ready for the summer. Honestly, it's been a rough year maintaining momentum. ... We'll see what next year brings.

~ Chuck Schiltz

#### **UUCGF ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS**

At the UUCGF Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5, we elected the following people serve on the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee.

The new members of the Board of Trustees are:

- **Mike Goodwin - two year term**
- **Pema Reed - one year term to complete Carol Strasser's term**
- **Beth Shropshire - two year term**

The following Board members were re-elected for two year terms:

- **Felice Best**
- **Andrew Houtman**
- **Robert Rockwell**

The following Board members were elected to one year terms as officers of the Board of Trustees:

- **President - Will Aitcheson**
- **Vice-President - Beth Shropshire**
- **Secretary - Felice Best**
- **Treasurer - Mike Goodwin**

The following people were elected to the Nominating Committee for two year terms:

- **Jane Kana**
- **Martha Torregrossa**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS OF JULY 1, 2019**

**Will Aitcheson (President)  
Beth Shropshire (Vice-President)  
Felice Best (Secretary)  
Mike Goodwin (Treasurer)**

**Stephen Baratta, Andrew Houtman, Elayne Leonelli, Pema Reed, Robert Rockwell**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE AS JULY 1, 2019**

**Jane Kana  
Martha Torregrossa  
Dan Westlake**

**WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING:**

**Bob Rockwell** for serving as our Board President for the past three years  
**Carol Strasser** for serving as our Board Vice-President for the past three years  
**Stephen Baratta** for serving as our Treasurer for the past two years  
**Sally Strasser** for serving on the Nominating Committee for the past two years

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Here is a brief summary of July 2018-Apr. 2019 revenues and expenses for FY 2019  
**Total Revenues for July 2018-Apr. 2019 were \$ 118,483.70**  
**Total Expenses for July 2018-Apr. 2019 were \$ 112,984.41**

**THE FY 2020 BUDGET WAS APPROVED AT THE UUCGF ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>.  
REV. BARBARA THREET WILL BE SERVING AS OUR 1/4 TIME MINISTER.  
WE APPROVED 3% RAISES FOR REV. BARBARA THREET AND FOR RAY SAVASTANO.  
THIS NEW BUDGET IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

**THE END OF OUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IS NEAR. IF YOU STILL OWE MONEY ON YOUR PLEDGE,  
PLEASE SEND AS MUCH OF THE BALANCE AS POSSIBLE BY JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>.  
THERE WILL BE A FOURTH QUARTER PLEDGE STATEMENT SENT MID-JULY.**

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

**THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

**Carolyn Cyr, Linda Eckstein, Megan Hammill, Joseph Kern, Margaret Lampasi**

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Rich Myette has been busy in recent weeks contacting tree service companies about taking down the trees so that our solar project can go forward and provide as much solar power as possible. Tree Masters was the chosen company. They removed quite a few trees at the right edge of the parking lot in front of the labyrinth and cleaned up the debris from the area. Apex Solar will be installing the solar panels the week of May 27<sup>th</sup> with production of electricity to begin SOON after that. National Grid has to install a new meter before it is fully operational. We look forward to this project being completed.

**Thank you again to everyone who contributed toward this project. We have the full amount we need to pay for it.** If we are lucky and get more solar available having had the trees cut, we might get the benefit of an increased incentive from NYSERDA. If that happens, any extra money we have left can go toward the cost of having the trees cut!

**SOCIAL ACTION**

Diane Collins shared with the group at our May meeting that she will be resigning as the chairperson. Her almost three year tenure has been thoroughly gratifying. Her initial involvement as chair was sparked by the films shown in the spring of 2016 by Bob Rockwell about our UU history and the strong commitment through the years of UU Social Justice advocates. Diane intends to focus her future community work on the climate crisis, but will remain active on the committee and will help the new chair(s) settle in. She awaits knowing who that will be.

The committee members agreed that the upcoming presidential elections will need our attention and action. Jackie McConnell volunteers with the League of Women Voters and reached out to our committee to help on National Voter Registration Day, September 24th. Ten on the committee signed on for registration training by the League.

We normally do not meet in the summer months and anticipate coming together in September. We will continue to provide **Open Door volunteers throughout the summer on the 4th Monday of every month.** Please contact Diane at (518) 792-2811 to volunteer in July, August and September.

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month** from **4:15 pm to 5:45 pm**. Three volunteers will be needed for **Monday, June 24th**. Please contact Diane Collins at [dc.wildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:dc.wildflowers@gmail.com) or (518-792-2811) to sign up. Please let her know ASAP.

~ Diane Collins

**MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

*Present at this month's meeting were: Betty Noordsy, Julie O'Rourke, and Jean Grant.*

The committee wishes to thank Chuck Schiltz for kindly donating the large RE cabinet, which is now housed in the Fellowship Room to store our large collection of tablecloths.

The updated pamphlet "Becoming a Member or Friend" is on display in the entry area. Friends and visitors are encouraged to take one to learn more about UUCGF and what it means to be a member or a friend. In addition, new name holders / lanyards are now available for members who would like one.

A Directory has been created for people who have completed the "Welcome Visitors" card, as well as others who are attending more or would like to join UUCGF.

Julie continues to send cards to members and friends, as well as make home visits in some cases. Thank you, Julie, for your care and compassion.

**Reminder:** During the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will be cleaning out the kitchen refrigerators.

Anything not labeled / dated will go. Notes have been posted on both refrigerators.

While visiting another church, one of our members saw this note: "The mice will love it if you leave the lid off the garbage cans!" The committee thanks everyone who has worked to keep our kitchen much cleaner, leaving our church mice fewer treats!

**The Membership Committee's June meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

~ Jean Grant

### **MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

There will be no book discussion this month. We will resume in October.

~ Harvey Noordsy

## **June 2019 Coffee Hour Schedule**

### ***1st Sunday, June 2nd***

#### **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  
orourke191@verizon.net

### ***2nd Sunday, June 9th***

#### **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

### ***3rd Sunday, June 16th***

## **POTLUCK DAY**

### ***4th Sunday, June 23rd***

**Team Coordinator**

Will Aitcheson  
518-791-9307  
aitchesonw@yahoo.com

**Team Members**

Jack & Sue Abbott 518-654-6140  
Michelle Galo 518-955-5114  
Andy Houtman 845-233-1152

jabbott7@roadrunner.com  
michelle.galo@gmail.com  
agh1053@gmail.com

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>****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

*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.*

**MOONBEE THANKS**

Thank you to all that were able to attend the Moonbee several weeks ago. Ellie von Wellsheim, founder of the Moon Catcher Project, designed a washable, reusable menstrual pad for girls who live in very poor countries to stay in school and live up to their full potential. We also collected disposable pads for our local girls. Ellie was delighted that so many took time from their busy lives to take part. For more information, please contact me at 518-494-8001.

~ Lynn Mc Donald

**NIPPER CLUB**

Starting in June the Nipper Club will be meeting at Sally's studio, "Audio & Art" in Glens Falls. Refreshments. Call SALLY at 518-260-8313 for more information. Thanks to all who attended at UUCGF and contributed recordings.

**UU CAFÉ**

**UU CAFÉ will be taking a break for the summer. There will be no sessions for June, July, or August.** Join us again on **Sat., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30-10:00 p.m. It is the oldest Open Mic Café in Glens Falls.

**MEMBERS & FRIENDS****THANK YOU TO:**

- ..... Harvey Noordsy for donating a new hearing loop for use in our sanctuary
- ..... Sally Strasser and John Lawrence for installing the new hearing loop and also for upgrading and organizing the audio-visual area in the sanctuary
- ..... Jack & Susan Abbott for organizing the clean-up day on May 18<sup>th</sup> and for all the people who helped them make the outside of our area look so much better
- ..... Karen Johnson for serving as our Parliamentarian at our annual meeting in May
- ..... Chuck Schiltz for teaching our children in Religious Education, whether there was one child or several children

### **NEW HEARING LOOP**

A Hearing Loop has been installed in the sanctuary of our congregation. Any member who has hearing aids with a Telecoil included can make use of it by switching to the Tcoil program built into their hearing aids. Everything spoken into the microphone will be streamed directly to your hearing aids. The hearing loop includes the left half of the seating area, as you face the lectern. **To get the benefit of this, all persons should use the microphone when they speak.** If you plan to get new hearing aids be sure to ask for a model with the Tcoil installed."

Harvey Noordsy

### **DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**

For further information about these items, please check the UUA web site at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and [www.uua.org/cer](http://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](http://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](mailto:drgarvin@outlook.com) before scheduling **ANY UU** meeting or other event to insure there are no conflicts that might reduce attendance at both events.

### JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sun., June 2**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Sun., June 9**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Wed., June 12**

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

**Thurs., June 13**

12 Noon - Membership Committee

**Fri., June 14**

**FLAG DAY**

**Sun., June 16**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

Board/Minister/Congregation meeting

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

**Fri., June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**SUMMER BEGINS**

**Sun., June 23**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Mon., June 24**

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

**Sat., June 29**

**NO UU CAFÉ UNTIL SEPT. 28**

**Sun., June 30**  
10 a.m. - Sunday Service