

Lo and Behold

MAY 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*

MAY SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

May 5 - Rev. Barbara Threet - "Those 'Wild Frontier' Women" - Back 150 years or so ago, when Iowa and Michigan were the 'wild frontiers' of our country, there were a few decades when most (yes, most!) of the Unitarian and Universalist ministers 'Out There in the West' were women! How did that happen, and why is it that 100 years ago, there were almost none?

May 12 - "Mother's Day: 1879 to Today; Striving towards Love" - presented by the Worship Committee and

May 19 - Bernice Mennis - "Why History Matters / Why Not Lie?"

May 26 - Rev. Barbara Threet - "What We Remember, and How" - On this Memorial Day weekend we'll reflect on how we UUs, who tend to object to at least many military actions, support those who have served in our military, and how we remember them.

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

FROM REV. BARBARA'S DESK

Each year, the UUA's Skinner House Books publishes at least one meditation manual. Some are written by UU clergy, some by lay members, and some are anthologies. I use them a lot for meditation,

as sparks of inspiration, and as readings for services. One particular poem has stuck in my heart recently. It's from *How We Are Called: a Meditation Anthology*, published in 2003, and it's called *One Wish*, written by Lisa Friedman.

If you had but one wish,
what would it be?

Take your time thinking about it.
So much is at stake -
an end to all suffering,
a stop to all violence,
a solution to poverty and all of its ills.

Would you wish for love?
For forgiveness or for healing?
Would you wish the world joy?
Or the wisdom to change?
Would you wish to understand everything?
Or to know less than you do?

Take your time thinking about it.
So much is at stake,
for a wish is a thought,
and a thought is an idea.
An idea leads to commitment,
and a commitment cries out for action.

A wish can be a dangerous thing,
something daring.
And it need not be witnessed by the stars
to come true.

Let us be glad that we're not given just one wish in our lives
but many.

Let us be grateful not for wishful thinking,
but for the discipline of the thoughtful wishing
that can lead to change.

What would your wish be?

So for us here at the UUCGF, especially as we prepare for our Annual Meeting and the next church year, what would your wish be? For you, for us as a congregation, and for our world? I'm struck by the phrase 'the discipline of thoughtful wishing': what would you thoughtfully wish for?

Shalom and Salaam
Rev. Barbara

BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is past mid-April and spring seems late in arriving. We have made great strides in improving our building. We had a new roof put on two years ago. March 29 Adirondack Basements installed a commercial dehumidifier, sealed the inside baseboard perimeter of the basement and crawl space under the sanctuary, covered the vents in the sanctuary crawl space and installed new windows in the basement. This should reduce our heating costs and make it a bit harder for mice to get in the building. We have just re-connected with Apex Solar. They will be making a reassessment soon and let us know

what trees need to come down, so we should have solar panels on our south facing roof sometime this spring. The RE wing has been painted and is awaiting having the carpets cleaned and then hopefully we will get a tenant and a regular rental income.

If we have a stretch of warm weather I will get out my power washer and wash the building. Then we should have a clean-up and painting party.

The UUCGF Annual Meeting is scheduled for after the service and coffee hour on Sunday, May 5. I discussed the new officers that are up for election in the last newsletter. I failed to mention that the Pastoral Care team now consists of Rich Myette, Will Aitchison and Karen Johnson. Joan Reid stepped down because of family health demands. The budget for approval has a short fall of about \$2,000 which according to Elayne should be manageable. However, this means that we need to be serious about fundraising projects in the coming year.

Herb Ogden, president of Rutland UU has contacted me with the suggestion that we join him and members of Rutland UU on Saturday May 11 for a hike on Tim's Trail, in the Nature Conservancy's Buckner Preserve in West Haven, VT, about a five-minute drive from Whitehall. For more information see:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/helen-w-buckner-preserve-at-bald-mountain/>. This seems like a great opportunity to get to know some people from Rutland UU and vice versa. I will announce this on Sundays and have a sign-up sheet for people who are interested.

Many thanks to Diane Collins for organizing a wonderful series of films dealing with the environment for Friday Forums in April.

~ Bob Rockwell

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES

Rich Myette: richmyette@gmail.com 518-232-3351
Will Aitchison: aitchesonw@yahoo.com 518-791-9307
Karen Johnson: dooddust@yahoo.com 518 796-5674
Rev. Barbara Threet: brthreet@gmail.com 978 855-7236

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Bob Bradley, Diane Collins, Bob Rockwell, Beth Shropshire, Carol Strasser, Rev. Barbara Threet

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Here is a brief summary of July 2018-Feb. 2019 revenues and expenses for FY 2019
Total Revenues for July 2018-Mar. 2019 were \$ 107,014.78
Total Expenses for July 2018-Mar. 2019 were \$ 100,305.64

THIRD QUARTER PLEDGE STATEMENTS WERE SENT OUT ON APRIL 17.

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 TO ONE AND ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Rich has started to work on the poison ivy that grows in the Labyrinth, as well as in the grassy areas around the building. He'll be using some vinegar solutions and will try to treat ivy as it comes up.

The worm compost bin has been "retired", and the empty bin now sits on the back porch off the kitchen, along with a wood crate, small black plastic table, and a blue covered storage bin. Please check out these items to reclaim or give them a new home. We're trying to keep the back porch clear of clutter. Thank you.

Jack and Sue Abbott have agreed to organize a spring cleanup in May. Work will be done on the outside grounds. More information will be available once dates are set. Everyone is welcome to help in any way they can.

~ Jean Grant and Rich Myette

SOCIAL ACTION

The next meeting of the UUCGF Social Action Committee will be on Sunday, May 12, 2019, after service. All members and friends are welcome to attend. We will be discussing:

1. May 14 - major Compassion and Choices Lobby Day in Albany
2. September 24 - National Voter Registration Day - UU participation
3. Injustice at the Mexican border and actions we can take
4. Participation with Catholic Charities and NAACP on the Criminal Justice Committee - update
5. Summer plans
6. Open Door volunteers

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, May 27th**. 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 for May** will probably be rescheduled because of Rev. Barbara's May schedule with us. She will be touch with class members with further information

May 2019 Coffee Hour Schedule

1st Sunday, May 5th

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

2nd Sunday, May 12

Team Coordinator

Betty & Harvey Noordsy

Team Members

Bob Bradley 518-222-9053

bobbradley1957@gmail.com

518-798-0330
noordsyb@roadrunner.com

Nancy Kimball
Lynn McDonald
Claire Epworth

518-668-0115
518-494-8001
518-656-9534

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

3rd Sunday, May 19th

Potluck Day - Might be changed to May 26th because of Rev. Barbara's May schedule

4th Sunday, May 26th

Team Coordinator

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

Team Members

Diane Collins
Jean Grant
Elayne Leonelli

518-792-2811
518-798-8291
518-793-3081

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

THANK YOU!!

The Board would like to thank all the people who have been involved in decluttering, moving things around, disposing of things no longer needed, prepping the walls for painting, and painting the walls and woodwork in this former RE space. Now we are just about ready to seek someone who can put the space to good use and provide us with some additional revenues.

GREAT TEAMWORK FOR A JOB WELL DONE!!

MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Present at this month's meeting were: Rev. Barbara Threet, Betty Noordsy, Andy Houtman, Steve Baratta, Lynn McDonald, and Jean Grant

The committee reviewed an updated pamphlet for becoming a Member or Friend of UUCGF. The pamphlet was approved and additional copies will be made.

Since Julie has been overseas, Betty sent a get well card to a UU member. Please contact a member of the committee if you know someone is not feeling well or has a special occasion to celebrate. Thank you.

There will be a New Member Welcoming ceremony during the service on Sunday, October 20th. Prior to the ceremony, there will be two "Learning about UU and UUCGF" sessions on September 29th and October 13th. Both classes will run from 1:00 - 2:30. Anyone wishing to join UUCGF should meet with Rev. Threet.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep the kitchen picked up and clean. Since we don't have a sexton or custodian to do this, it's critical that anyone who uses the kitchen washes their dishes and puts them back where they were found. The sanitizer isn't necessary for a small amount of dishes. Soap, hot water and a sink is all that's needed. Our mouse traffic has been greatly reduced, but when dirty dishes and food are left on the counters, they return and contaminate everywhere they go. The refrigerators will be cleaned out following the last Sunday in June. In the meantime, please label foods and take home items you want. Reminder notes will be put on the refrigerators.

The Membership Committee's May meeting date may be announced later.

~ Jean Grant

RE SPACE UPDATES

Pema Reed reported to the Board of Trustees at their April meeting that the RE space is now freshly painted. There is one window that needs to be repaired and the carpets need to be cleaned. Pema has three quotes for the carpet cleaning and Rich Myette will be contacting these businesses soon to select one of them to do the job.

The large space could be for teaching classes or a reception area for offices. The three former RE rooms are ideal for office space or healing/massage rooms. **She suggested that we let our congregation know that these spaces are available for UUCGF building use revenues. If they know of anyone who might be interested, we have a small team, Rich Myette, Pema Reed, Bob Rockwell and Steve Baratta, set up ready to handle any initial inquiries.** We expect we will also be in contact with Bob Sears, a local commercial realtor, asking him to advise us as we explore our options for the use of this building space that we now have available.

NIPPER CLUB

The group will be meeting on **Sun., May 19th 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: "Planting the Garden".**
Birth month of: Bob Dylan, Brahms, Tchaikovsky & Wagner.

MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Monthly Reading and Discussion group will meet on **May 13th at the Church at noon.** We will discuss the Pulitzer Prize Awarded Book, "The Overstory".

~ Harvey Noordsy

UU CAFÉ

UU CAFÉ will be meeting on May 25th. 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, May 10th.** Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact Bob Rockwell at 518-796-9879 for more information.

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

Special thanks from Elayne Leonelli to Lini Marcotte Tatar and Neil Tatar for their support in taking care of after Marilyn for the last 3 plus years of her life and for their help with her memorial service.

CONDOLENCES TO:

..... Carol Strasser & John Lawrence whose elderly cat passed away recently

SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO:

..... Joan Reid's partner, Michael, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery

..... Sandy & Ruth Lamb whose dog, Max, is having some health issues

THANK YOU TO:

..... **Everyone** who helped with set up, presentation, and clean up for Marilyn Babich's memorial service

..... Diane Collins for organizing the April Friday Forum Film series

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.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., May 5

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - UUCGF ANNUAL MEETING (quorum needed)

Fri., May 10

7 p.m. - Adirondack Friends of Jung

Sun., May 12

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - Social Action Committee

4 - 7 p.m. Nipper Club

Mon., May 13

12 noon - Book Discussion Group

Wed., May 15

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

Thurs., May 16

12 Noon - Membership Committee

Sun., May 19

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Sat., May 25

7:30-10:00 p.m. UU Café

Sun., May 26

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

***POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

Board/Minister/Congregation meeting

Mon., May 27

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

**"BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY" ADULT RE CLASS MEMBERS - PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR
MAY CLASS DATE - Rev. Barbara will be touch.**

***Because Rev. Barbara will not be doing her May service with us until the fourth Sunday, May 26th, the May potluck will NOT be on May 19th. We will reschedule it to May 26th when she will be here.**