

Lo and Behold

SUMMER 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*

SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

- July 7 - Pam Collins - "Holy Wells, Sacred Gardens" - Drawing on the work of gardener, Mary Reynolds, this service will explore what makes a place sacred and how we can bring the sacred into the work of our own hands.
- July 14 - Sally Strasser - A St. Swithun's Day service featuring a selection of recorded music.
- July 21 - Rev. Nikki Williams - "The Contemplative Unitarian Universalist" - Unitarian Universalists are widely (and rightly) recognized for their dedication to and participation in social justice causes. Less visible among us may be the UUs who self-identify as mystics embracing a contemplative spiritual life. How do UU mystics and contemplatives respond to the Unitarian Universalists' call to be in the world?
- July 28 - TBA
- August 4 - TBA
- August 11 - Charles Hall - Mr. Hall is the chaplain at CDPC and is a trained Jungian psychoanalyst. He will speak about "spiritual direction".
- August 18 - "What Makes Your Soul Sing" - a service of poetry and song presented by the Worship Committee.
- August 25 - Rev. Nikki Williams

REMEMBER DURING YOUR TRAVELS THIS SUMMER TO BRING SMALL PORTIONS OF WATER FROM SPECIAL PLACES YOU VISIT SO THAT WE CAN SHARE THEM AT OUR WATER COMMUNION SERVICE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

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

SOLAR PANELS

Thirty-six solar panels were installed on our building on Wed., May 29th. On Thurs., June 20th, Bob Rockwell was informed by National Grid that we could activate the system so now we are using the sunshine to help provide the electricity we need for our building in a more ecologically friendly way. The seeds for this project originated from all of the memorial donations that were given in memory of John Davis in 2017 and 2018. We received \$6,125 in memorial donations for John Davis. We received \$18,670 from our investors and a \$3,000 GRANT FROM THE TOUBA FAMILY FOUNDATION. **WE ACTUALLY RAISED ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE \$2,400 FOR THE COST OF THE TREE REMOVAL AS WELL AS OUR COST OF THE TOTAL SOLAR PROJECT - \$26,395!!**

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE DONORS WHO HELPED SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

FROM REV. BARBARA'S DESK

Well, another church year is drawing to a close. Our 2019-20 fiscal year starts on July 1, and on that date, our new Board also steps in. And late June marks a very good time to reflect back on the past year and its accomplishments.

Among the most visible changes are the gorgeous solar panels on our roof, and the large, cleared space where trees were removed to provide access to enough sunlight! Several rooms have been cleared and painted as we prepare for the possibility of tenants in part of our building. And the state of our kitchen has improved markedly this year, with a lot more order and a lot fewer mice!

There are a few events that especially stand out as I look back. One is the December service when we learned about the many contributions that Unitarians and Universalists have made to Christmas traditions - complete with Santa's sleigh flying in, Chuck as Santa (with a slightly tattered suit), and sleigh bells that didn't want to stay on their ribbons! Another is the delight of the walk a month or so ago that about 18 of us took along with a few members of the Rutland congregation.

But for me, many of the best memories of this year come from the rich and thoughtful discussions during the Building Your Own Theology class, in which many of you participated. We explored what is holy in life, and what evil is, why we suffer, what God is (or isn't), what prayer means, and several other topics. We weren't seeking for any consensus - a wide range of opinions and experiences were evident at each class. We were seeking to explore more deeply what each of us believed, and to learn more about each other and the range of what it is to be UU. I especially appreciated the emails in between classes as members shared ideas and readings, poems and thoughts (and some of them have inspired sermons that I'm working on for next year!) It was truly wonderful to get to know more of our members, and to share these explorations with you!

Next fall, we'll probably hold a similar class. I suspect we'll continue the Building Your Own Theology series, probably on Saturday mornings, and I may also offer some shorter Friday evening classes too - maybe on exploring our individual religious histories, or articulating our UU faith. As many of you pointed out, it is rare to have time that's set aside to contemplate such spiritual questions and issues, and it is a special joy to do so in a setting which actively encourages personal exploration and discovery, and thoughtful sharing. In the words of our Principles, we offered one another

"encouragement to spiritual growth", in our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning". It is, I think, Unitarian Universalism at its best.

And now, it's time for a bit of a hiatus. There will be several services offered this summer, and there will be some informal gatherings. Many of us will venture off this summer for adventures near and far. I will be out of the area for all of July and much of August, for vacation and then for study leave. If you need to reach me in an emergency, please contact our Board President, Will Aitcheson, who will then contact me - I won't physically return to Glens Falls until September, but I do occasionally reach out by email. I don't usually answer emails over the summer unless they come through a Board President, though, so please use that route.

I do carry you all in my heart over the summer, and I wish for each of you at least a few moments of relaxation, reflection and renewal. I also very much look forward to reconnecting in September!

Shalom and Salaam.
Rev. Barbara

BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I understand that my trepidation for this first letter was on my face during Sunday's Congregational Conversation as a "deer in the headlights" look. Apparently, abject fear cannot be hidden. To be clear, it is not the letter that daunts me, but the role of the Board President in representing so many people honestly and effectively. What I said then and repeat now is that the congregation has loved me well, has served me faithfully, and nourished and inspired me to be my best self. This is the attitude I bring to my new role as Board President. I wish to return to you what I have received from you: love, nourishment, inspiration, and service.

Sunday's potluck and conversation provided a forum for us to say how much we care for each other. It also gave us the opportunity to talk about how we define Joys and Concerns in our worship. What I remember is that the group present agreed that Joys and Concerns is deeply personal rather than political, although we acknowledge that sometimes politics is deeply personal. Also heard was the need to be brief, but to have the opportunity to talk more at a later time. Another important question was what happens when a concern is brought to a board member? The short answer was that the homework begins. How many others share the same concern? What is the nature of the problem and its other parameters? What are the possible solutions already in congregational conversation? The bottom line is that each concern is listened to faithfully and thoughtfully so that the concerns that are most pressing and important to the congregation are addressed effectively through democratic process. Finally, the group decided that we will have a **potluck on Sunday, July 21st**. We will decide then as to the potluck for August.

Topics for the **Thursday, July 18th** board meeting are as follows:

- financial report
- update on the effect of solar panel generated electricity on our electric bill
- update parking lot lighting
- status of rental of RE space
- update on fundraising
- update on sexual harassment policy development
- update on clouded title of back 6 acres of our property

Please note that the above agenda will be updated and added to as needed and provided to the Board by **Sunday, July 14th**.

~ Will Aitcheson

Rich Myette: richmyette@gmail.com 518-232-3351
Will Aitcheson: 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Here is a brief summary of July 2018-May 2019 revenues and expenses for FY 2019
Total Revenues for July 2018-May 2019 were \$ 154,439.47
Total Expenses for July 2018-May 2019 were \$ 152,358.82

THE END OF OUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IS JUNE 30, 2019. IF YOU STILL OWE MONEY ON YOUR PLEDGE, PLEASE SEND AS MUCH OF THE BALANCE AS POSSIBLE.

**IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT YOU MAY STILL OWE,
THERE WILL BE A FOURTH QUARTER PLEDGE STATEMENT SENT OUT MID-JULY,**

THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

**Sylvan Alessi, Candice Galusha, Christopher Graham, Jean Grant, Jon Larson,
Jacalyn McConnell, Martha Torregrossa, Dan Westlake**

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jack Abbott, Harvey Noordsy

MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

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

Andy has agreed to represent the committee as the Board discusses future fundraising activities. Thank you, Andy.

The committee discussed the need to make our UUA and UUCGF brochures more visible to members and visitors. Jean purchased additional holders so brochures can be on display in several locations. The committee will be reviewing pamphlets we now have on display to see if more need to be ordered.

The committee hasn't had a chairperson for several months. Jean offered to take on the position, unless someone else would like it. Members agreed for her to be the new committee chairperson.

The committee continues to maintain a Directory of Visitors, which 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. Barbara and Jean will be contacting several visitors who have requested more information on UUCGF.

There will be a ***New Member Welcoming Ceremony*** to be held during the service on Sunday, October 20th. Barbara will be holding two "Learning About UU and UUCGF" sessions, 9/29/19 and 10/13/19, for those who would like to join. The committee discussed materials to be ordered and included in the packets.

Julie continues to send cards to members and friends, as well as make home visits in some cases. We all appreciate Julie's ongoing care and compassion.

Recently, greeters have been running out of service programs, so the committee will be requesting to have more printed.

Reminder: During the week of July 7th, volunteers will be cleaning out the kitchen refrigerators. Anything not labeled / dated will go. Notes have been posted on both refrigerators, and we'll continue to remind everyone during services and the June Potluck.

Since many people will be away for all or parts of the summer, the committee has decided to provide only hot water, tea, and cold beverages for *Coffee Hour*. Coffee Hour Teams will **not** be scheduled, as well. Those who would like to donate simple goodies for the table are welcomed to do so.

Our next meeting will be Friday, September 13th at noon (different day because of Rev. Barbara's different hours/days with us).

~Jean Grant

UU DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please change the entry for Kimberly Yazic. She has moved and has a new phone no. Kimberly Yazic, 493 Glen St., 2F, Glens Falls, NY 12801. Her new phone no. is 518-221-0013.

PIANO DOLLY

Thanks to generous donations of funds given in memory of **Helen Hayner, Lynn McDonald's mother, and Marilyn Babich**, we were able to purchase a piano dolly. That will save wear and tear on the legs of our piano as it gets moved from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall, especially for the UU Café.

FUND RAISING

In order for our congregation to grow we need to become better known in the area. In conjunction with increasing our membership, we also need to increase our revenues in any way possible. These goals can only be met if we all work as a team.

A craft fair/silent auction is currently scheduled for 10/5/19, hours yet to be discussed. In order for this to be successful **YOUR** help is needed. Any congregant that knows of a vendor that could participate in the craft fair can either approach the vendor themselves (participating has no initial cost for space, 20% of vendors' revenues for the day is to be paid to UUCGF) or pass the vendor contact info on to a committee member.

Three (3) to five (5) people will be needed to oversee the outdoor activities throughout the day. All members are asked to look around for potential businesses or individuals (M & J Goodwin are donating a snow blower) that would be willing to donate something (gift certificate or item of value) for the silent auction. If shy about asking for a donation, please pass the information on to a committee member.

Two (2) to four (4) people will be needed to oversee the indoor activities for the day. I will be wandering about selling 50-50 raffle tickets throughout the day. A minimum of 5 people will need to be onsite throughout the day.

Committee members are:

Andy Houtman, 845-233-1152 agh1053@gmail.com
Karen Johnson, 518-796-5674 dooddust@yahoo.com
Bob Rockwell, 518-668-3313 robertrockwell1938@gmail.com
Carol Strasser, 518-798-6609, chs365@verizon.net
Karen Haas

An additional fundraiser under consideration at this time is to have an Italian experience event, with a spaghetti dinner served while our esteemed Music Accompanist plays Italian music. Date to be set.

~ Karen Johnson

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. 28th** from 7:30-10:00 p.m. It is the oldest Open Mic Café in Glens Falls.

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, July 22nd, August 26th, and Sept. 23rd**. Please contact Diane Collins at dc.wildflowers@gmail.com or (518-792-2811) to sign up. Please let her know ASAP.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

Board Members

Will Aitcheson, *President*, Beth Shropshire, *Vice-President*
Felice Best, *Secretary*, Mike Goodwin, *Treasurer*
Stephen Baratta, Andy Houtman, Elayne Leonelli, Pema Reed, and Robert Rockwell

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.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs., July 4

FOURTH OF JULY

Sun., July 7

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 7
UUCGF KITCHEN REFRIGERATORS WILL BE CLEANED OUT**

Sun., July 14

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Thurs., July 18

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

Sun., July 21

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Mon., July 22

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

Sun., July 28

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Aug. 4

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Sun., Aug. 11

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Thurs., Aug. 15

6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting

Sun., Aug. 18

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Sun., Aug. 25

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

Mon., Aug. 26

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving