

# Lo and Behold

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

- Dec. 1 - "Head, Hands, Heart & Hope: the UU Service Committee at Work" - Suzanne Miller, PhD
- Dec. 8 - "Seasonal Joy in Vinyl: the Warmest Heartfelt Sound" - Sally Strasser & FIBHORN
- Dec. 15 - Rev. Barbara Threet - "The Ornaments' Stories" - So much of the holiday season has to do with the stories that various things bring to mind. Today we'll explore one particular set of holiday (and life) stories.
- Dec. 22 - "The Shortest Day of the Year: a Winter Solstice Worship Service - Worship Committee
- Dec. 24 - **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 6:30 p.m. - A Service of Lessons & Carols led by Michelle Galo**
- Dec. 29 - "The Last Night of Hanukkah" - Felice Best

### 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 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](mailto:salstrasser@verizon.net).

INFANTS & TODDLERS ARE WELCOME  
IN THE SERVICE.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ARE  
AVAILABLE DURING SUNDAY SERVICES  
FROM MID-SEPT. - JUNE

## FROM REV. BARBARA'S DESK

"What do you want for Christmas?" I asked my 12-year-old grandson recently. I could almost see him puzzling to come up with something. Last year it was skateboards and related things, but that fascination seems to have passed. The year before he was really into mushrooms, so books about them, and mushroom T-shirts, mushroom-growing kits and a series of classes at the local mycological society. But this year he seems between hobbies. He mentioned a few books, a new toy for his puppy. But really, he has what he needs, and it doesn't seem like he *wants* anything in particular. And this is the season for wanting: advertisers do their very best to create all sorts of 'wants'!

I thought about part of the discussion at last Saturday's 'Building Your Own Theology' class. Our topic was 'evil', but as is usually the case, our ruminations covered a broad range of topics. At one point, someone spoke about the difference between a 'want' and a 'need'. I *need* clothing, obviously: in this climate and culture, clothing really is a need. But yet another sweater to join the dozens already in my closet, just because I don't have one in exactly that color (well, OK, I do - but it's a summer-weight sweater and the one I'm eyeing is a heavier weight) - that sweater is a 'want'. I don't need it. I have plenty. And yet, it's almost painful to persuade myself I don't *need* it, to let it go unpurchased. It's like I'm shirking my duty to boost the economy with yet another purchase, not doing my part to support the clothing/fashion industry, depriving myself of something in that particular color in that certain fabric.

So what am I implicitly saying to my grandson, when my question makes him search for something - *anything* - that he can *want* me to get him for Christmas? Maybe he doesn't need to *want* anything! Maybe he really is content with what he has, and he's old enough so stacks of gifts aren't a measure of parental or grandparental love. So I ponder: what to get him? Christmas gift-giving is in my blood, almost a need. But what would actually have meaning to him and not just encourage pointless consumerism? What does he actually need?

I wound up buying him a few books, and warm wooly socks (both are traditions!) I ordered his favorite rhubarb candies online, but I finally decided to spend most of the money I allocated for his Christmas presents on what people actually need, in his name. I bought a flock of chicks through Heifer International in his name, and made a donation to a local gardening project he's talked about. I think he'll get it: he'll be part of meeting an actual need for some people this Christmas, rather than just amassing pointless things for himself. There's no reason he has to 'want' anything. And there's a lot to be said for his being content with all that he has, and a lot to be learned by helping him to focus on assisting those who have very little instead.

All of which makes me wonder: What do I want for Christmas? What do I want in life? What do I need? How can I remember the difference between 'want' and 'need' more readily - all sorts of very skilled marketing forces work very hard at getting me to conflate the two. Perhaps what I really do want is to become more aware of what I truly need, which is not another sweater at all. More awareness, and gratitude, and stronger generosity: that's what I need at this season.

May your holiday season be bright, and peaceful, and may you discover and even receive what you truly need!

Shalom and Salaam,  
Rev. Barbara

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

First, it is wonderful to report that we have contracted with Dennis Brower of Coldwell Banker to list and show our rental space. Rich, Elayne, Bob (briefly) and I gathered with Dennis this past Wednesday in a very helpful and useful meeting. We are very hopeful that a viable and appropriate renter will be found soon.

Second, it is comforting to relate that there are no major or conflictual issues currently before the Board. Our finances are stable, our physical space remains without major issues, and work continues

on updating our bylaws and establishing a sexual harassment policy. Who knew unremarkable routine could feel so good.

Lastly, remembering the camaraderie and goodwill of our potluck Sunday brings both joy and gratitude. We have created a loving community where we are nourished physically and emotionally and spiritually by gathering every month in good company. In this way, we take time and special care to share some food and some of ourselves with each other. For good reason this has become one of our favorite traditions. May it always be so.

~ Will Aitcheson

#### 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  
Robert Rockwell: [robertrockwell1938@gmail.com](mailto:robertrockwell1938@gmail.com) 518-796-9879

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

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Will Aitcheson (President)  
Beth Shropshire (Vice-President)  
Felice Best (Secretary)  
Mike Goodwin (Treasurer)  
Andrew Houtman, Elayne Leonelli

#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Baratta, Maureen Dye, Ruth Lamb, David Legg,  
Sarah Mojzer, Betty Noordsy, and Sally Strasser

#### UUCGF MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY

Our directory has been updated and will be emailed to the congregation. If anyone would prefer a paper copy, please contact Elayne Leonelli ([eleone31@roadrunner.com](mailto:eleone31@roadrunner.com) or 518-793-3081).

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Here is a brief summary of July 2019 - Oct. 2019 revenues and expenses for FY 2020

Total Revenues for July - Oct. 2019 were \$ 37,989.56

Total Expenses for July - Oct. 2019 were \$ 24,152.22

*If you have any questions, please contact Mike Goodwin at 631-332-9310 or [jmgoodwin55@gmail.com](mailto:jmgoodwin55@gmail.com) or Elayne Leonelli at 518-793-3081 or [eleone31@roadrunner.com](mailto:eleone31@roadrunner.com)*

*The newly formed Finance Committee had their first meeting on Sunday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. Members are Karen Johnson, Joyce Smith, Maureen Dye, Steve Baratta, Mike Goodwin and Elayne Leonelli facilitating*

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

## CAR KEYS LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing a set of Toyota car keys,  
they are hanging on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our classes have examined how everyone is important and that there can be a sense of Awe about others and ourselves. If we look deeply, we find value and goodness in everyone. As we move toward the Holidays our Morals Tales lessons lead us in talking about Empathy, Generosity of Self and Spirit, and the Golden Rule: Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You. Why should we help others? What do we get for being generous? Isn't it so much easier to look the other way and ignore others' struggles? Why is it easier to help some people and not others? And here you thought RE was just for children.

~ Chuck Schiltz

### ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROJECT

The annual UUCGF Adopt-A-Family Christmas gift collection will be happening soon. There are always so many choices. This year's recipients will be Richard and Karen Haas's son and family. Richard and Karen recently joined our congregation. Their son's family is currently living in Colorado, but is in the process of moving to our area.

The tree we use for this project will be on the small table in the foyer by Dec. 1 and lists of essential items will be on the table and any larger (special) gift requests will be on card ornaments on the tree. If you are moved to, please pick one of them. Also there will be a collection box on the table if anyone would prefer to make a monetary donation. The collection period will finish the Sunday before Christmas, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>.

~ Stephen Baratta and Nanson Serrienne

### 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, Dec. 23rd**. 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.

### UPDATE ON RENTING OUR RE SPACE

We are now working with a realtor to find a tenant for the RE space. After a long search we have signed a contract with Coldwell Banker Prime Properties' Dennis Brower, an experienced, licensed real estate broker. Dennis has been a broker for many years, previously being the Town of Queensbury's elected Supervisor. Dennis has worked with us to set a reasonable and attractive amount of rent for our space. He is optimistic that we will find a suitable tenant. He believes that our space would be a pleasant space for office types of uses. He will attempt to find one tenant for the entire space. Our space is listed in the multiple listing service so that it will be viewed by realty agents and the public.

Many thanks are due to the many volunteers who have helped ready this space for rental. The rugs are cleaned and in good condition. The walls have been repaired and painted. The Town of Queensbury has recently inspected and passed the space and the entire church building for fire safety. Some work is yet to be accomplished. A door for the current classroom needs to be installed in the hallway so access to this room will not be through the rental space. Also to be noted is that the rest

rooms will be shared with the tenants. It's possible that some relatively small storage space will be offered to the tenant depending on their need.

There are many unknowns involved in our new role as landlords. Because the utilities are not separate we will offer the rent to include the utilities and we don't know the cost of this, including we don't know the extent to which the newly installed solar panels will impact the expense of electricity. We will need to work with snow removal contracts to ensure the necessary access to the building on an expanded time schedule of building usage. We need to be involved in leases and other legal documents as well as collecting rent and managing other tenant issues. These are just a few examples of this road that lies ahead. Your understanding and assistance will be important as we navigate through our first experiences in this new endeavor. If you can offer any assistance, please contact Rich Myette at 518-232-3351 or [richmyette@gmail.com](mailto:richmyette@gmail.com). Please help us keep this rental space clear of unwanted items and clean so that it is available and appropriate to be shown to prospective tenants. There are currently more rental properties on the market than there are prospective tenants, so everything we can do to make the property attractive can be very important. Again, many thanks for the efforts you have already taken and will take to help with this effort. This rental effort is highly significant in contributing to the financial sustainability of UUCGF.

~ Rich Myette

## **MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

On Sunday, November 17th, the Membership & Hospitality Committee held a Recognition for Long-Term Members during the Pot Luck luncheon. Those who were honored included: Carol Strasser (25 years), Sally Strasser (28 years), Nanson Serrienne (37 years), Jean Marie Donnelly (37 years), Margaret Whittaker (37 years), Marion Bayard Payne (37 years), and Elayne Leonelli (51 years).

Everyone greatly appreciates their many years of care, passion, and dedication to UUCGF, and look forward to many more.

**Our next meeting will be Friday, December 13th at noon.**

~ Jean Grant

## **December 2019 Coffee Hour Schedule**

### ***1st Sunday, Dec. 1st***

#### **Team Coordinator**

Jane Kana  
518-792-6024  
[janezee@roadrunner.com](mailto:janezee@roadrunner.com)

#### **Team Members**

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

[dc.wildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:dc.wildflowers@gmail.com)  
[jeanne421@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanne421@hotmail.com)  
[eleone31@roadrunner.com](mailto:eleone31@roadrunner.com)

### ***2nd Sunday, Dec. 8th***

#### **Team Coordinator**

Pema Reed  
518-474-9713

#### **Team Members**

Felice Best 518-361-4774  
Beth Shropshire 518-791-7861

[fclauder@hotmail.com](mailto:fclauder@hotmail.com)  
[bshropsh@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bshropsh@nycap.rr.com)

pritaji@yahoo.com

Julia O'Rourke

518-668-3190

orourke191@verizon.net

**3rd Sunday, Dec. 15th**

**POTLUCK DAY**

**Team Coordinator**

**4th Sunday, Dec. 22nd**

Martha Torregrossa  
518-798-0286  
marthatorregrossa@gmail.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

**Team Coordinator**

**5th Sunday, Dec. 29th**

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

***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.***

**FUND RAISING**

The Fund Raising Committee currently has under consideration having a summer solstice craft fair on Sat., June 20<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with a silent auction. In order for this to happen we will need vendors and items for the auction. I am requesting that any and all congregants please, if you are attending a Christmas craft fair collect business cards from the vendors for me (I would rather have a dozen cards of a single vendor than none), and also please give me ideas on businesses and individuals to approach about auction items.

A recent suggestion is to have a themed ('60's, 70's Valentines, etc.) dance in February or March on a Saturday night. Please let me know if you would be interested in this or feel it is a good idea. We have the ability to play the music & I am sure most of us would be able to contribute music for the event. We could also sell bottled water at this event so no one overheats.

Please contact me [dooddust@yahoo.com](mailto:dooddust@yahoo.com) with information, input, & ideas.

~ Karen Johnson

**SOCIAL ACTION**

The UUGFC Social Action Committee helped several people make it to the polls including a couple requested by the Board of Elections. We also had a presence at the GF Common Council when it heard from the community about ideas for better control of public demonstrations.

Our current projects include a petition to our several legislative bodies to encourage them to pursue a better response to the finding that Warren County has a high cancer rate. There is an effort to support an ongoing program to support the LGBTQ community.

~ Richard J Haas

## **BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY, PART II**

Last year a group of UUCGF members and friends gathered once a month for a class facilitated by Rev. Barbara, in which we explored a specific theological concept. Class members receive an emailed reading a week or so before class which is related to that month's topic, and our discussions are lively, thought-provoking, and fascinating, as we explore our varying opinions and experiences.

**We'll be meeting on the Saturday mornings before the third Sunday (that's Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 14, Apr. 18, and May 16) from 10:30 to noon.**

**If you'd like to join in, please contact her ([brthreet@gmail.com](mailto:brthreet@gmail.com))** so that she knows who to send the readings to. It is not necessary to have participated last year, but it is hoped that those who sign up will make every attempt to make each session. It's a great way to live out our principles of "encouragement to spiritual growth" and "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning"- and a wonderful way to get to know each other better through conversations about things we don't often have time to explore!

## **UU MONTHLY READING/DISCUSSION GROUP**

We will meet on **Monday, December 9, at noon** in the church Fellowship Hall. We will discuss part 1 of **Jeremy Rifkin's The Green New Deal**. Contact Harvey Noordsy ([hnoordsy@gmail.com](mailto:hnoordsy@gmail.com)) for more information.

~ Harvey Noordsy

## **ADIRONDACK FRIENDS OF JUNG**

In contradistinction to the "Monday Evening Conversation Group" which tries to avoid intellectual and theoretical discussion, except for rare occasions to promote better understanding, the Adirondack Friends of Jung meets the second Friday of the month to look at videos about Jung and his ideas from You Tube and other sources. These videos become jumping off points for discussion to promote deeper intellectual understanding of Jung and his thinking. **We meet the second Friday of the month at 7 pm. This month's the meeting is on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bob Rockwell for more information at 518-796-9879.**

## **JUNG GROUP CHANGES NAME**

The "Jung Group", after much discussion, has decided to change its name from "Jung Group" to "Monday Evening Conversation Group". This was partly due to Rev. Barbara Threet's concern that the congregation should not be promoting a particular psychology. Another aspect was to more accurately characterize what takes place. Although there is no agenda and people can talk about whatever moves them, there is an orientation inspired by Jung and his psychology to pay attention, as best we can, to our individual and collective unconscious. This means being sensitive to our feeling reactions, our imaginings and our dreams, particularly negative feelings and our "shadow sides". All are welcome. On average usually six to ten people attend. We meet at 7 p.m. at UUCGF every Monday. For more information, contact Bob Rockwell at 518-796-9879.

## **UU CAFÉ**

**UU CAFÉ** will not be held in December. Contact Sally Strasser at 518-260-8313 for more information.



## **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Bob Rockwell recently started participating in a program at the Consultation Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany to train to become a "Spiritual Director". As part of the training, the students are encouraged to take on clients who are interested in furthering their spiritual growth and understanding of themselves. Please contact him at 518-796-9879 if this might interest you.

**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

## **MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

### **SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO:**

- ..... Will & Lydia Aitcheson's 22 month granddaughter who is having a congenital heart issue
- ..... Rosemary Pusateri who has recently been treated for a tick bite

### **THANK YOU TO:**

- ..... Rich Myette for getting a realtor to list our RE wing for possible rental
- ..... Will Aitcheson and his son-in-law, Jeremy Rougie, for making arrangements to fill in the parking lot potholes to smooth out the parking lot and for digging up the stumps and debris in the area where the trees were taken down for the solar panels
- ..... Jean Grant, the Membership Committee, and Rev. Barbara for planning the recognition of long-time UUCGF members
- ..... Rich Myette for having Thermal Associates replace a damaged thermostat in the RE wing
- ..... Sally Strasser and her helpers for preparing the leftover spaghetti and meatballs for the primary entrée at our potluck on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>
- ..... Our recently honored long-time members (25-51 years) for their support and participation in our congregation

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Will Aitcheson (President)**

**Beth Shropshire (Vice-President)**

**Felice Best (Secretary)**

**Mike Goodwin (Treasurer)**

**Andrew Houtman, Elayne Leonelli**

## **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/ceer](http://www.uua.org/ceer) for the Central East Region*



### REGULAR BUILDING USE

**Mondays** at 7 p.m. - Jungian Discussion Group facilitated by Bob Rockwell  
**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays** at 5 p.m. - AA meetings - *Fellowship Hall*  
**Tuesdays** from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. - Yoga classes - *Fellowship Hall* and  
7:00-8:30 p.m. - Belly Dance classes - *Fellowship Hall*  
**Mondays** from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 - 9:00 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.

### DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sun., Dec. 1**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Sun., Dec. 8**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Mon., Dec. 9**

Noon - Monthly discussion group

**Thurs., Dec. 12**

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

**Fri., Dec. 13**

12 Noon - Membership Committee

7 p.m. - Adirondack Friends of Jung

**Sat., Dec. 14**

10:30 a.m.-noon - Building Your Own Theology, Part II

**Sun., Dec. 15**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

Board/Minister/Congregation Conversation

**Sat., Dec. 21**

FIRST DAY OF WINTER

**Sun., Dec. 22**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Mon., Dec. 23**

**HANUKKAH**

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

**Tues., Dec. 24**

**6:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service**

**Wed., Dec. 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Sat., Dec. 28**

**NO UU CAFÉ**

**Sun., Dec. 29**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Tues., Dec. 31**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**