

# Lo and Behold

FEBRUARY 2020



*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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## FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

- Feb. 2 - "A Celtic Spirituality" - recorded talk by John O'Donahue
- Feb. 9 - Nancy Weiss - "Is It True What They Say About Love" - meditations on love and critical thinking - Nancy Weiss is from the UU Church of Rutland (Vt.)
- Feb. 16 - Rev. Barbara Threet - "A Service of Song" - We'll sing a lot, songs familiar and not so familiar, as we dispel sometimes-gloomy February! And songs, of course, call for poetry. Come sing and contemplate!
- Feb. 23 - Rev. Betty Hurley - "Inviting the Wisdom of Death into Life"

### 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

This evening (Saturday, January 18), I really wish I could foretell the future! Well, I wish I could at least know exactly how much snow we're really going to get overnight, and whether it will be easy to shovel in the morning or back-breaking, and how much will be blowing around and diminishing visibility tomorrow morning. At times a crystal ball would be great: I wish we could know how badly a hurricane will damage an area and when it will turn aside at the last minute, so agencies could know where to send resources, who really needs to evacuate and who can actually stay safely at home. I wished, at times, that I could simply know whether I'm coming down with the flu or just a cold, and how long it will last! And as for carefully planning a trip to surprise a friend (who turned out to have planned a surprise trip to visit me on the same weekend) - well, to quote the immortal Robert Burns, "the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft awry" (or "gang aft agley", to be technical).

Once again, I am reminded of how little control any of us actually has over life, and how often we have a choice between acting without sufficient information or refusing to act at all, which is in itself another form of action. If you campaign really passionately for a specific candidate, or advocate unflinchingly for a particular cause, will your efforts pay off, or will they fall short of what you want to see? And is the effort worth it, even though things may not turn out as you'd hoped? This surgery usually works well, but that's no guarantee it will for you, and you need to decide whether to have it or not. Or it's time to replace your car, and the model you're drawn to has an excellent service record, but you also know someone who got a lemon with this model. How to decide?

How can we make wise decisions when so often the information we most need (how will the various options play out) is pretty much unknowable? So often, no matter how carefully we consider all the options, there are be ripples we hadn't anticipated and couldn't possibly have predicted.

**But back to cancelling services**, since now, on Monday morning, I know the snow fall was nowhere near as heavy as was being predicted Saturday evening, and we certainly could have met on Sunday. What we *can* find out is how people feel about cancelling services, especially the time table people prefer for making that decision. I see options for three general policies:

- A. We could decide never to cancel services - whoever shows up, shows up. That also means we'd need to pay a musician or guest speaker who shows up, even if there are too few people for a service.
- B. We could decide about cancelling services only on Sunday morning, when we have a good sense of what conditions for the next few hours will be. We'd need to decide early enough so we could notify any speaker coming from a distance as well as our musician, or we'd need to pay them if they arrived anyhow. On potluck days, a Sunday morning cancellation means some people would be stuck with dishes they'd planned to bring.
- C. We could make decisions about cancelling services on Saturday evening if the forecast for Sunday morning indicates dangerous road conditions. This gives plenty of time to notify our musician and any guest speaker as well as the congregation, and it means those who need to shovel out in order to get to church can relax. However, the cancellation may turn out to have been unnecessary if the weather isn't as bad as predicted.

**Inquiring minds want to know: which would you choose? Please email me at [brthreet@gmail.com](mailto:brthreet@gmail.com). We can't control the weather, but we can at least control a little piece of how we respond to it!**

**I trust that each of you was safe and warm on Sunday morning, wherever you were!**

Shalom and Salaam,  
Rev. Barbara

#### **NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

It is clear by now that everyone was quite disappointed Sunday when we were unable to share our time in Beloved Community. I am grateful for Barbara addressing this in her column. She and I will work together to improve our decision-making process in this regard. So in that light, we asked for input from our congregation.

Some updates are in order:

**First**, as promised, the Board has reviewed **our pets at church policy**. The Board voted unanimously to re-establish the policy that affirms that only ADA certified service animals are authorized to be in the building. This policy will be publicized appropriately via notice on our website, signage at our church entrance, and on-site documentation. Revisiting this policy has taught the Board a valuable lesson; namely, that it is not enough to establish policy by voting on motions and then publishing meeting minutes. It is equally necessary to execute the policy by clearly communicating these expectations to both congregants and visitors. The Board endeavors to remember this lesson clearly in order that it informs our future democratic processes.

**Second**, the Board approved plans to install a new door into the entrance to the large RE room. It is to be determined, if we will move the door into the current RE room we are using, from there into the hall, or whether we will leave it where it is and install a new door for a hall entrance to that RE room that we are using. This approval is designed to make the space more attractive to prospective renters. We approved the expenditure of up to \$3,500 for the estimated cost.

**Third**, Maureen (Dye) Riley has informed me that she would like to begin a book club using UU book club guidelines specifically to promote understanding among people who differ in both perspective and demographics. Not only do I personally endorse this idea, I plan on joining the club. What a great idea Maureen. *(There is more information in this newsletter about the plans, meeting time and place for this group.)*

Let me finish by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to serve a community that loves, nurtures, and inspires me. I hold this in my heart until we are together again.

~ 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

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Claire Epworth, Lynn McDonald, Serena Stone, Linda Westlake

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

**Total Revenues for July - Dec. 2019 were \$ 50,622.80**

**Total Expenses for July - Dec. 2019 were \$ 36,440.67**

*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 Finance Committee members are Karen Johnson, Joyce Smith, Maureen (Dye) Reilly, Steve Baratta, Mike Goodwin and Elayne Leonelli, facilitator*

Second quarter (Oct.-Dec. 2019) pledge statements were sent out by email, or in a few cases by U.S. post office mail. Also included at the bottom of the statement was the total contributions each person(s) made for Jan. - Dec. 2019 for tax purposes.

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

THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

## 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, Feb. 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.

## MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Present at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were: Rev. Barbara Threet, Julia O'Rourke, Betty Noordsy, Steve Baratta, and Jean Grant.

As part of its duties, the committee discussed the continued maintenance of the kitchen. Jean cleaned both refrigerators and discarded food & beverages that were out of date or not labeled. At this time, only the refrigerator on the right is plugged in. A sign was posted on the left refrigerator explaining this, and Rich Myette has offered to further seal it off. The goal is to have only one refrigerator running most of the year.

Due to her busy schedule, Michelle Galo has stepped down as a member of Will Aitcheson's coffee hour team. The committee wishes to thank Michelle for her time and wonderful treats. In addition, Jack and Sue Abbott will be away in sunny Florida for three months, so their space on Will's team will also need to be filled. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help should contact Will or any member of the Membership Committee.

As a reminder, there are kitchen supply lists on the refrigerator. If you notice we're running low on items, please let the committee know. Every effort is made to keep the kitchen well supplied, but sometimes items are missed. Thank you.

The committee discussed having a New Member Ceremony in the late spring. Announcements will be made in the future inviting friends and new visitors. Anyone interested in joining UUCGF should contact Rev. Barbara Threet.

As always, the committee invites everyone to sign up to be a *Greeter*. Members, friends, and first time visitors always enjoy seeing a friendly face welcoming them to join our Sunday services. A special thank you goes to Karen Johnson and Julia O'Rourke who often volunteer when no one else has.

**Our next meeting will be February 14th at noon.**

~ Jean Grant

## February 2020 Coffee Hour Schedule

### **1st Sunday, Feb. 2nd**

#### **Team Coordinator**

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

#### **Team Members**

Jack & Sue Abbott  
Xanath Bailey  
Andy Houtman

518-654-6140  
518-696-3068  
845-233-1152

[jabbott7@roadrunner.com](mailto:jabbott7@roadrunner.com)  
[xbailey@roadrunner.com](mailto:xbailey@roadrunner.com)  
[agh1053@gmail.com](mailto:agh1053@gmail.com)

### **2nd Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Team Coordinator**

Betty & Harvey Noordsy  
518-798-0330  
noordsyb@roadrunner.com

#### **Team Members**

Nancy Kimball	518-668-0115	nmkimball@live.com
Lynn McDonald	518-494-8001	birches27@aol.com
Claire Epworth	518-656-9534	Claire@ice-makers.com

### **3rd Sunday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> - \*POTLUCK DAY**

#### **Team Coordinator**

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

#### **Team Members**

Diane Collins	518-792-2811	dc.wildflowers@gmail.com
Jean Grant	518-798-8291	jeanne421@hotmail.com
Elayne Leonelli	518-793-3081	eleone31@roadrunner.com

### **4th Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Team Coordinator**

Pema Reed  
518-474-9713  
pritaji@yahoo.com

#### **Team Members**

Felice Best	518-361-4774	fclauder@hotmail.com
Beth Shropshire	518-791-7861	bshropsh@nycap.rr.com
Julia O'Rourke	518-668-3190	orourke191@verizon.net

*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.*

**\*POTLUCK DAY** - It was decided during the December Potluck that a *Coffee Hour Team* will be assigned to volunteer for the Potluck luncheon, which is held on the **THIRD** Sunday of each month. **This team is to DO ONLY the tasks they normally would do to set up for coffee hour.** Other volunteers will be setting up tables and chairs, as well as helping with clean up. This decision was made because often the same people have been doing the work each time. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their effort and wonderful food for our Potlucks.

#### **UUCGF MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY**

Please add the following:

**Victoria (Rex) Rexrode-White - Phone: 518-321-8359**  
**victoria\_B\_rexrode@yahoo.com**

#### **FUND RAISING**

The Fundraising Committee met on 1/5/2020. We are going to hold a "dance" on 3/21/2020 called "Move to the Music", it will be from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is slated to be a drug/alcohol free adult event. Cost is \$10.00 a person or \$15.00 per couple. Music will be from multiple generations. We are hoping to have refreshments {(coffee, tea, hot chocolate, water) [chips, baked goods]} available.

In addition to attending, the congregation can help by volunteering to help with set-up, clean up, and baking & packaging food items in small \$1.00 increments.

The next meeting is after services 2/2/2020. Please contact me [dooddust@yahoo.com](mailto:dooddust@yahoo.com) with information, input, & ideas.

~ Karen Johnson

### **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 Feb. 15, Mar. 14, Apr. 18, and May 16) from 10:30 to noon.**

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

The UU reading/discussion group is reading the interviews that the NY Times conducted with all of the Democratic candidates for President. At our meeting on **Monday, Feb. 10** at noon, we will conduct our own nominating caucus. Come prepared to present your case for a candidate. For more information, please contact Harvey Noordsy ([hnoordsy@gmail.com](mailto:hnoordsy@gmail.com)).

~ Harvey Noordsy

### **ADIRONDACK FRIENDS OF JUNG**

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, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bob Rockwell for more information at 518-796-9879.**

### **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.

### **MAKING SENSE OF AMERICA BOOK CLUB**

The aim of this book club is to make sense of the lives of Americans beyond the dominant culture by exploring them through non-fiction and memoir. The first book is a National Book Award finalist: Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth, by Sarah Smarsh. Smarsh explores life in the "flyover states" through a compelling combination of memoir and political history and social commentary. There are 18 copies of **Heartland** in the SALS system. Some of them are in audio format and some are in large print, if you prefer to borrow rather than buy this book. **The first meeting will be held in the Holden Room at Crandall Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** If you are interested and would like to suggest works we might read or you'd like details ASAP, contact Maureen at [mreilly47@aol.com](mailto:mreilly47@aol.com). Some of the books under consideration include: White Fragility by Robert DiAngelo, Evicted by Matthew Desmond, Maid by Stephanie Land, What Are You Getting Wrong about Appalachia by Elizabeth Catte, among others.

~ Maureen (Dye) Reilly [mreilly47@aol.com](mailto:mreilly47@aol.com)

### **UU CAFÉ**

**UU CAFÉ** will be held on February 29<sup>th</sup> (LEAP YEAR DAY) from 7:30-10 p.m. Contact Sally Strasser at 518-260-8313 for more information.

**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

Some members & friends may remember former UUCGF members, George & Linda Thompson. They will be moving to a condo in Southern Village in North Carolina. Their new address after February 14<sup>th</sup> will be 704 Copperline Drive, #102, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

## 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

## 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  
**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.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sun., Feb. 2**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - Fundraising Committee

**Sun., Feb. 9**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

11:30 a.m. - Social Action Committee

**Mon., Feb. 10**

Noon - Monthly discussion group

**Thurs., Feb. 13**

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

**Fri., Feb. 14**

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

12 Noon - Membership Committee

7 p.m. - Adirondack Friends of Jung

**Sat., Feb. 15**

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

**Sun., Feb. 16**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

Board/Minister/Congregation Conversation

**Mon., Feb. 17**

**PRESIDENTS DAY**

**Sun., Feb. 23**

10 a.m. - Sunday Service

**Mon., Feb. 24**

4:15 p.m. - Open Door serving

**Sat., Feb. 29**

**LEAP YEAR DAY**

7:30-10:00 p.m. - UU CAFÉ