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Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association

Minister: Lee Richards, (585) 454-9450, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com

Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings

by Lee Richards

Praying prayers. As a hospital chaplain I am often asked to say a prayer before concluding a visit with a patient. These prayers are relatively easy because they speak to the person's condition - his or her fears and hopes regarding their illness.

As a minister conducting a worship service I always close with a benediction - a prayer of closure and send-off - good wishes for all who are present that they may be well, and do well, until we meet again.

A few months ago I was asked to say grace at an Albion Ministerium meeting. I gave a very impromptu but traditional "thanks for these blessings" type of prayer "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." This surprised the other ministers who did not expect a Unitarian Universalist to deliver a Trinitarian prayer, but I try to pitch my messages in a language that is customary for the listener's ears.

This past month, I was invited to give invocations at the start of one of the County Legislature meetings, and also a Concerned Citizens of Orleans County meeting. The primary topic for both - the county nursing home. The legislators heard a message about having open hearts, open minds, and open arms. The Citizens heard about the sacred work of standing on the side of Love. No invoking God for either.

Our best UU prayer, I think, is a hymn we sing almost every week - Spirit of Life. It's about compassion and justice, grounding and freedom. I sometimes think the best prayers are sung - if not out loud, then at least in the heart.

May you all be blessed in your endeavors, and discover more joy than pain in the living of your lives.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Notes</u>
April 7	Rev. Donald Reidell		
April 14	Rev. Don Erickson	"A New Universalism"	Finance com. @ 10:00 2nd Sun. Stroll @ 12:30
April 21	Chaplain Susan Daiss		BoT meets @ 9:00
April 28	Lee Richards	"A Covenanted Community"	Annual Congregational Meeting @ 12:15 pm.
May 5	Lee Richards	"Air"	Book Discussion group @ 12:30 pm

See more events on our website calendar at: <http://pullmanmemorial.org/calendar/>

Wednesday, Mar. 27 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Meet at the church. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Thursday, Mar. 28 – “Vespers service” @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Sunday, Mar. 31 – Easter Communion Service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. One of our website’s quotes of the week in February was “The bottom line reason just about everyone shows up at a church, especially a Unitarian Universalist church, is that they have felt a ‘God-shaped hole’ in their life.” [Rev. Tony Lorenzen]. It can be filled with more than just God, which we’ll explore today.

Monday, Apr. 1 – “No Fooling Potluck Supper” @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and conversation.

Thursday, Apr. 4 - “Vespers service” @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Sunday, Apr. 7 – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Donald Reidell

Thursday, Apr. 11 - “Vespers service” @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Sunday, Apr. 14 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am. Agenda: annual budget.

Sunday, Apr. 14 – “A New Universalism” worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Erickson. Don is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC, affiliated with the Alliance for Baptists, a progressive organization of liberal Baptists. He is full-time Spiritual Care Coordinator for Hospice and Palliative Care Inc in Oneida County, a published poet, and has written articles on Korean religion.

Sunday, Apr. 14 – Second Sunday Stroll @ 12:30 pm. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals. Followed by a light lunch.

Wednesday, Apr. 17 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. “5 Broken Cameras” is an Academy Award nominee for best documentary. A Palestinian farmer films the encroachment of Israeli settlements onto his land while his village resists with non-violent means. An important story about risking one’s life to protect one’s livelihood.

Thursday, Apr. 18 - “Vespers service” @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation.

Saturday, Apr.20 – Workbee from 10-noon. Please join us for a little cleaning and fixing up, plus coffee and bagels, of course.

Sunday, Apr. 21 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Apr. 21 – worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Susan Daiss.

Wednesday, Apr. 24 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Meet at the church. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Thursday, Apr. 25 - “Vespers service” @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation.

Thursday, Apr. 25 - Last day for newsletter submissions. Please send your articles and news in advance of this date, if possible.

April 26-27 – District Assembly in Niagara Falls, NY. “Out of Bounds: Moving Beyond Our Boundaries.” Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, will be the keynote speaker. Early registration deadline for discounts is March 29. More info at www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/districtassembly

April 27-28 – Experience Niagara Falls. First UU Church of Niagara offers a special weekend, beginning at 5 pm Saturday. Includes cocktail hour, prime rib or grilled portobello banquet, and tour of the lit falls. On Sunday enjoy brunch before the service, and then a trip on the Maid of the Mist or a tour to Historic Old Fort Niagara. \$100 fee. Learn more at <http://firstuunf.org/UUNEX2013.html>

Sunday, Apr. 28 – “A Covenanted Community” @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Our series on community winds up with a consideration of what it means to be in covenant.

Sunday, Apr. 28 – Annual Congregational Meeting @ 12:15 pm. Lunch provided. On the agenda: a toast, annual reports, election of officers, approval of 1-year and 5-year budgets, Bylaws amendments, awards, and lots of fun!

Sunday, May 5 – "Air" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Of the "four basic elements" most people understand earth, fire and water. Air is more elusive, harder to grasp, and so so today (in honor of our book discussion) we'll consider how to relate to the atmospheric ocean that blankets us, and upon which we depend.

Sunday, May 5 – Book Discussion group @ 12:30 pm. This month we'll take flight with "anything goes" on the theme/topic of "Air." Choose any book related to the element of air and then share what you learned - how you were influenced - by the author.

May 18-19 – Sacred Sites Open House from noon to 3 pm. Again this year, Bill Lattin, historian, will have our church open to tour visitors through our beautiful and historic building.

JOYS & SORROWS

•Dennis Seekins – at a recent book fair, he met a publisher who was interested in translating one of Mark Twain's books into Finnish, and Dennis was able to assist him with that. At present, there is no adequate translation in that language and Dennis was excited to be able to assist! Those of us who know Dennis are aware that Mark Twain is one of his favorite authors.

•Debby Rodrigues – helped organize a group from the church to go see 'The Book of Mormon' in Rochester on March 9th. It was reportedly a great show and a wonderful time!

•Chris Loss – attended the Public Hearing on the Nursing Home back in February and reported that almost 100 people were present and gave passionate testimony regarding why the Villages of Orleans needs to stay in public hands rather than be privatized. However, despite all of the input from the community, the Legislature voted to push forward with appointing an LDC Board to sell the facility. Since that time, the Concerned Citizens group has been re-organized and has been meeting at the church. You will see this group picketing in front of the courthouse on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays! Pastor Lee Richards, Diana Dudley, and Betty Knight, and others from the church have been participating, as well!

•Andrea Rebeck – attended a preservation conference recently and heard many stories of dwindling and demoralized congregations in this area. Andee said that she is glad that this church is growing both in numbers and in energy and spirit.

•Betty Knight – is pleased to report that her son-in-law has found a new great job!

•Rich DellaCosta – was very proud that he and Eileen will be heading to Japan in March for their son David's wedding! Congratulations Rich and Eileen!

•Louise Wu Richards – was just amazed at the wonderful job that Sarah and Jenn Diemer did organizing the Beatrix

Potter tea party! It was visually beautiful! The finger sandwiches and snacks were delicious, and the incredible variety of teas were so much fun to sample! And Gretchen Murray Sepik, descendent of the Rev. John Murray, awed and entertained the crowd! About 60 people were in attendance!! Great job, ladies!

•Debby Rodrigues' – a beautiful little girl name Mea came to the Bunny tea party with Debby's friend Jim holding a green bunny that Debby gave her. She said that Jim just raved about the program we had here!

•Sarah and Jenn Diemer – proudly smiled for the camera with their fairy godson at the bunny tea party!!



PULLMAN PLAUDITS

•Pastor Lee Richards – who represented PMUC as he gave the invocation at both the Legislature hearing on Feb 27th, and also the first meeting in March of the Concerned Citizens group. Lee and Louise are shining examples of UU's who make a difference by advocating for social justice on a number of issues (Immigration, Hydro-fracking, the Watershed issue, housing, etc).

•Sarah and Jenn Diemer – are responsible for the fantastic Bunny Rabbit Beatrix Potter Tea Party on March 23rd here at PMUC! With help from Liz Schaal, Pastor Lee and

Louise Wu Richards, and others, they decorated, made tons of finger sandwiches and lovely teas, and set the stage for a fun and entertaining afternoon! Gretchen Murray Sepik delivered yet another amazing performance as she acted out different stories and characters from the tales of Beatrix Potter. Seeing all the cute little girls dressed up with their bunnies was the best! Great job, ladies!

•Gay Smith – agreed to serve out Beth Allen’s term on the Board!

•Craig Smith – has fixed two of our toilets, and also put the eaves trough back up next to the main entrance (you know, where the stalactite of ice hung down for several weeks).

•Sarah Phillips – has been sending out notices regarding our individual donations to the church, and has been accepting canvass pledges. She always does a great job!

•Tyler Smith’s band ‘Boo’ – took first place at the Kendall talent show recently! Tyler is such an amazing talent!

•Liz Schaal – has completed her Master’s Degree!!! Congratulations on this great accomplishment, Liz!

•Louise Wu and Heather Boyd – attended a meeting on the Finger Lakes Watershed issue recently and brought back some valuable information!

•Everyone who brought snacks to the movie night on the 20th (with a 60’s and 70’s theme)! There were some very inventive and delicious snacks (and containers)!

•C.W. Lattin – a blog was written by Chris and Luke about the Cobblestone Church in Child’s, NY on March 17th and in it, they said this about our own Bill – “When we were visiting the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion, what we didn’t fully understand before meeting him, is that Bill Lattin is the quintessential knowledge base on Orleans County history. Many churches have an

appointed historian, and I sort of thought that was Bill’s role. He’s humble in his own description of what he does as “Orleans County Historian” but after reading and researching a bit more, it appears that he himself has played a leading role in curating and advocating for the restoration and preservation of anything and everything historical in the entire county for over four decades now.” Chris and Luke have undertaken to travel around Upstate NY and look for sacred sites to write about and have showcased our church, and recently, the Cobblestone church.

•Dennis Seekins – had requested the gun forum discussion that we had with Gary Kent as the facilitator on February 27th, and it went very well. There was a lot of sharing of ideas and a lot of listening! We have every reason to be proud! Thanks Dennis, for suggesting this forum!

Reports from the Road with Susan Daiss

•Sarah Diemer – saw her first robin of the season!

•Gay Smith – witnessed daffodils trying to push through the soil!

•Sara Phillips – wondered aloud why the Canadian geese seem to be staying here?

•Chris Loss – said that there has been over this past week a huge flock of geese in the fields across from her house in Barre Center (and by the way, it would be a ‘gaggle’ of geese if they were on the ground!) that brought neighbors running out with their cameras!

•Dave Hagmier – saw two men on bicycles and that is a sure sign that spring is coming!

•Dennis Seekins – observed a canoe on top of a car!!

•Susan Daiss – was thrilled to see a Starling!

Come Early, Stay Late

Having a quick bagel and coffee ready to grab on a Sunday morning can sometimes make the difference in deciding to roll out of bed and show up at church. So come a few minutes early, grab a bite, and then stay after the service for our usual social hour. We’d love to see you at church!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars now to reserve April 28th. Immediately following the service we’ll have a buffet lunch with cold cuts and salad while considering the business of the church. Several Bylaws amendments are up for review. Plus there will be the election of officers, committee reports, recognition awards, and all the usual stuff that turns out to be downright interesting.

Hearing Assistive System

We have six hearing assistive devices available. They look like, and work like, little FM transistor radios. Each has an on-off switch and volume control, plus a choice of earplugs or headphones. We provide labeled ziplock plastic bags to our regular users so you can, in essence, have and identify your own device. The bag system will allow you to maintain your individual settings and keep your device from entangling with others while in storage.

Bunny Rabbit Tea Party with Beatrix Potter



Pullman Memorial hosted a well-attended children's theater event on Saturday, 23rd featuring local Albion, NY actor Gretchen Murray Sepik, playing beloved author of The Tale of Peter Rabbit.

Our social hall was packed with guests of all ages from across the region and the Unitarian Universalist St. Lawrence district. Church neighbors came because they know Gretchen's lively and humorous work, while others traveled from as far as Buffalo and Rochester to see Beatrix come to life. UUs came because Beatrix Potter was a famous British Unitarian, and Gretchen is a descendant of Universalism's founder, Reverend John Murray.

As "Beatrix," Gretchen talked about her life as a mycologist, author, and illustrator. Children in the audience also "helped" Beatrix retell the stories of Peter Rabbit and Mrs. Tittlemouse. After the performance, everyone was welcomed to an elegant English-style afternoon tea party given by Pullman Universalist members Jenn and Sarah Diemer. There was also a heart-warming outpouring of generosity from the many guests contributing to Pullman's church roof repair fund. Thank you to all who attended and volunteered. Beatrix Potter's visit to Pullman Memorial Universalist Church was a splendid success!

A Note from Camp Unirondack

After receiving our email asking for everyone to contribute to the campership drive so we can meet the extraordinary need this year, Doug Eads, a family camper and friend of camp, stepped forward to issue a challenge to all of us. He has donated half of what we estimate to be the need (\$6224) and is challenging the rest of us to meet the other half.

We have already received over \$1000 towards meeting that challenge. We are hoping to meet the rest of the challenge before the May 1 deadline for campers to request campership help. You can donate today at:

http://www.formstack.com/forms/Unirondack-Campership_Donations_form

Many thanks for all your warm and generous hearts, Director Dan

Pullman Pastor's Blog by Lee Richards

Topics that caught the pastor's eye this past month: inheriting a heritage of fine ministers, prayers for legislators, deadly balloons, message constraints with vintage materials, and the angst of being an enlightened UU.

The Minister's Musings column appears on the first page of the monthly newsletter. In between, I invite you to check out my explorations and ramblings on the weblog. And please, if you feel so moved, leave your own ideas in the comments section after an article. The direct url for the blog is pullmanpastor.blogspot.com, or you can get there by a link on our main church website at pullmanmemorial.org

SPECIAL >>>> No access to the internet but want to read my weekly musings? Subscribe to receive a paper copy by postal mail once a month. Send your name and address to: Lee Richards, 31 Ravenwood Ave, Rochester, NY 14619. This service is offered free of charge as a means for staying connected and promoting Unitarian Universalist thought.

Pullman Pledges

It's that time of year when the Board of Trustees needs some numbers in order to be able to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year. Pledge forms will be available soon. Please return your form by the end of March. Thank you.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

Our website pullmanmemorialdonations.com offers several choices for making financial contributions to our mission. Drop-down menus provide a variety of monthly and weekly automatic options. Alternatively, you can make one-time donations in any amount, learn where to send a check, or inquire about planned giving. All major credit cards are accepted, or you can fund your contribution with a bank transfer or a PayPal account.

Of course, cash and checks still work OK, too. The offering plate will continue to circulate during a Sunday service to provide an opportunity for "instant wallet withdrawals." But if you prefer to plan ahead and pay online then please check out our donations webpage.

Pullman Memorial Online Store

Bill Lattin's limited edition book, Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York, is just one of a number of items available for purchase in our "virtual storefront." We also have a variety of collectibles related to Pullman, other books, DVD movies, postcards, and more. The next time you feel a need for a little consumerism, why not shop your favorite church market first? Proceeds go to a great cause. Go to: pullmanmemorial.com (more items coming soon so check back often)

Letter to the Editor

When I was a kid back in the 1950's my father drilled into me, never point a gun at anyone. In fact he was so committed to this I was not even to use a stick as a pretend gun and point it at playmates. "Bang, Bang, you're dead" got a harsh reprimand. Other kids had cap guns and bee-bee guns but not me. When I was around fourteen he gave me a 22 caliber rifle with explicit instructions. He had a couple of shot guns, one he sometimes used in hunting season. I can therefore appreciate the 18th century intent of our second amendment.

What I do not appreciate is the glorification of war, violence in the entertainment industry depicting shooting and even re-enactment battles. This may seem harmless but it all sends a message to our youth that killing is acceptable. A right thinking person ought to be appalled at the misuse of weaponry in all forms. Yet as a culture we seem to be obsessed with guns and numb to "Bang, Bang you're dead", until some unbalanced person actually shoots innocent people. There is an old motto "You reap what you sow." As a society we should therefore not be surprised at the number of shootings reported every single day in the news.

Do I support New York's Safe Act? Absolutely!

C.W. Lattin

Eye on the Board

It was a busy session on March 17th, with the trustees approving: 1) use of the building for PFLAG chapter meetings and a bereavement support group, 2) social justice letter writing campaigns during social hour, and 3) pursuit of a Chalice Lighter grant. The topic of air conditioning the sanctuary was referred back to the building and grounds committee for more study. A workbee was scheduled for Saturday, April 20th from 10-12 for a little spring cleaning and fixup.

The finance committee reported the sale of two stock holdings with the funds being transferred to the UU Common Endowment Fund. It was also noted our endowment investments have seen significant growth this past year. More detailed info on our finances will be available at the annual congregational meeting on April 28th.

Several people had met with a grantor from the Landmark Conservation Society and we are now waiting to hear back from them about those two grant applications. Other business was related to preparing for the upcoming congregational meeting.

Complete minutes are available upon request.

Pastoral Care

One of the advantages of having a called minister is the 24/7 availability of a listening ear. Pastor Lee Richards is 100% committed to helping parishioners when stuff hits the fan. You are encouraged to call Lee and share what's going on, or pull him aside during coffee hour. Lee wants to know about the difficulties people are facing. Sometimes just talking about your troubles with a minister will help with finding a solution.

Lee can be reached at 585-454-9450, or on his cell at 585-729-8167. He also has a toll-free number: 877-265-1709. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits, or can meet with people in the pastor's office at the church