

# The Grapevine Newsletter



August 2014

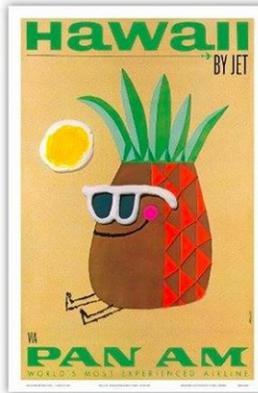
Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church** Albion, NY

Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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

Visit our Website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org)

## Minister Musings – by Lee Richards



“Go ‘in Hawaiian!” is our theme for this year’s annual picnic. Why? Partly as a recognition of the summer heat but more for the opportunity to have some creative fun. This is a chance to try out some recipes for exotic fruits like pineapple, bananas, coconuts and mangoes. It’s also a chance to “lighten up” with some bright-colored print fabrics (or grass skirts), strum a ukulele or guitar, and consider how UUs in the 50th state might celebrate life.

We celebrate life a lot around Pullman. Our beautiful church building was built as a memorial to George Pullman’s deceased parents - a lingering monument to death, sure - but also a venue for magnifying life. Within our pink walls people gather to share their joys and sorrows, to stretch the mind with new ideas, to practice being in right relationship with others, and to worship - to recognize the worth - of being alive in this moment of history.

It does seem as though we live in hard times. The daily news is more like the “Daily Depressing Dish.” There seems to be so much wrong in the world that sometimes it is struggle to remain hopeful. This is another aspect we address at PMUC - trying to go beyond the headlines to underlying information that helps us understand the bigger picture. Life is a lot more complicated than the mass media portrays. With proper insight we can work to make this a better life for all.

As we continue our summer salon dedicated to understanding Universalism, we have some special treats. David Damico - editor of the longest continually published Universalist magazine - will join us on the 17th, and Rev. Dick Gilbert - one of our most notable contemporary Universalist preachers - will regale us on the 24th. And, of course, on the 31st we’ll enjoy our ice cream sundae social. So let us celebrate our summer life with food, song, laughter, and enlightening conversations.

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| August 3  | Lee Richards            | "Clarence R. Skinner"  |
| August 10 | Louise Wu Richards      | "Judith Sargent Murray"  |
| August 17 | David Damico            | "The Universalist Herald"  |
| August 24 | Rev. Richard S. Gilbert | "Old Universalism: the Love that Will Not Let Us Go.<br>New Universalism: the Love that Will Not Let Us Off" |
| August 31 | Lee Richards            | Sundae Sunday  |

~ Childcare available during service times ~

### Pastoral Care

You are encouraged to contact Pastor Lee when experiencing difficulties. Lee can be reached at 585-454-9450, or on his cell at 585-729-8167, or at his a toll-free number: 877-265-1709. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits.

Sunday, July 27 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Victorian devotional art prints from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, in original frames, portraying popular images of the life of Jesus. From the collection of historian C.W. “Bill” Lattin. Free admission.

Sunday, July 27 – Summer Salon @ 11 am. “F. Forrester Church” will be presented by Darrell Dyke. An examination of the original writings of a Universalist minister, with discussion.

Wednesday, July 30 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 9:30 am to noon. Church open for meditation and/or touring, plus exhibit of Victorian devotional art prints from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, in original frames, portraying popular images of the life of Jesus. From the collection of historian C.W. “Bill” Lattin. Free admission.

Sunday, Aug. 3 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - noon. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 3 – Summer Salon @ 11 am. “Clarence R. Skinner” will be presented by Lee Richards. An examination of the original writings of an early Universalist, with discussion.

Sunday, Aug. 3 – Annual Summer Picnic @ noon. “*Go’in Hawaiian*” theme. Location: Bullard Park, Albion.

Monday, Aug. 4 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Good food and conversation. Bring a dish to pass. Open to all.

Wednesday, Aug. 6 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Saturday, Aug. 9 – “Sip ‘N Stroll” wine-tasting event from 2-7 pm outside on the lawn. Concurrently, PMUC volunteer appreciation party inside (kitchen and dining hall).

Sunday, Aug. 10 - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Aug. 10 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 10 - Summer Salon @ 11 am. “Judith Sargent Murray” will be presented by Louise Wu Richards. An examination of the original writings of an early Universalist, with discussion.

Sunday, Aug. 10 - Membership committee meets @ 12:30 pm.

Sunday, Aug. 10 – Dennis Seekins is the guest speaker for the Orleans County Genealogical Society @ 7 pm.

Wednesday, Aug. 13 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 17 – Board of trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Aug. 17 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 17 - Summer Salon @ 11 am. “The Universalist Herald” will be presented by editor David Damico, with discussion.

Monday, Aug. 18 - Bereavement Support Group @ 7:30 pm. Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Join Pastor Lee on the 3rd Monday of each month for assistance in working through feelings of loss in an atmosphere of safe sharing with others on the same journey.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 24 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 24 - Summer Salon @ 11 am. “Old Universalism: the Love that Will Not Let Us Go. New Universalism: the Love that Will Not Let Us Off” will be presented by Rev. Richard S. Gilbert. Ordained as a Universalist minister, Gilbert will sum up our salon series with a presentation of his theology, plus discussion.

Monday, Aug. 25 - deadline for submissions to the September newsletter. Send to: [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com)

Wednesday, Aug. 27 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Thursday, Aug. 28 – Field Trip to Fruition Seeds Farm in Naples, NY. Literally a field trip, participants will help harvest non-GMO seeds from the fields so dress accordingly. For more information contact Debby at [sage1014@yahoo.com](mailto:sage1014@yahoo.com)

Sunday, Aug. 31 – **LAST DAY!** “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Victorian devotional art prints from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, in original frames, portraying popular images of the life of Jesus. From the collection of historian C.W. “Bill” Lattin. Free admission.

Sunday, Aug. 31 - “Sundae Sunday” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Our annual excuse for staying home on Labor Day weekend and enjoying our make-your-own-sundae ice cream social. A sweet treat to celebrate the end of summer, with some cool theology thrown in for good measure.

Saturday, Sept. 13 - World Peace Day Conference: "Creating harmony in a conflicted world." 9 am to 2 pm. Register by Sept. 5. More info inside this newsletter. Complete info at [pullmantickets.com](http://pullmantickets.com)

Sunday, Oct. 5 - Special Congregational Meeting @ noon. Proposed amendments to the By-Laws. More information coming.

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### **Summer Salon**

Summer salons are a return to our Transcendental roots of the early 1800’s, when we learn more about Universalist thought over the centuries through reading and discussing original works of various theologians. Of special note in August: the editor of the oldest continuously published Universalist magazine will present, and also the Rev. Dick Gilbert will be a speaker. Come, and learn more about our faith in a relaxed setting.

### **Water Communion is Sept. 7**

Please remember to gather a small bit of water from a summer locale to bring and share in our annual water communion ceremony. This time of sharing brief stories of the season helps us to deepen our connections to each and other, and to the planet.

### **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, get a bite, and then stay after the service for our usual social hour. We’d love to see you at church!

### **Bereavement Support Group**

Pastor Lee offers an opportunity for people who have experienced a loss to come together in a safe environment on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Stories encouraged, and feelings lovingly accepted. Tears okay, and tissues provided. Loving support offered for, and by, others on the same journey to wholeness.

Why do UUs go to church? Because some questions just can't be answered by Google.

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## JOYS & SORROWS

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6/29/14 - Chris Loss - my joy is that it is Alan Nugent's birthday!! Happy Birthday, Alan!

6/29/14 - Gay Smith - Tyler and his girlfriend have both now graduated, and Tyler gave a great speech as Salutatorian! Again...great job, Tyler!

6/29/14 - Rev.Peggy Meeker - sadly announced that, with much regret, she is leaving BUUF as their minister. She will move to a new position at Strong Hospital. PMUC thanks Peggy for all of her good service to BUUF and for working so well with us, and wishes her well in her future endeavors!

7/6/14 - C.W. Lattin - quoted Shakespeare "nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so!" He also quoted Edward Snowden, who revealed the horrible extent of the NSA spying program and who now resides in exile. Here is an excerpt of one comment from Snowden: "I think patriot is a word that's -- that's thrown around so much that it is devalued nowadays. But being a patriot doesn't mean prioritizing service to government above all else. Being a patriot means knowing when to protect your country, knowing when to protect your Constitution, knowing when to protect your countrymen from the -- the violations of and encroachments of adversaries.

7/6/14 - Andrea Rebeck - voiced her joy to hear the harmony of the Gaines Congregational Choir! Can we get an "Amen"!

7/6/14 - Darrell Dyke - was very happy to report that the family has taken in a child from the Fresh Air Foundation and everyone has been thrilled. This program lets a child experience the countryside and see what life is like outside the city. But on a sadder note, his son, Aiden fell off his bike a few days ago and injured his arm and has 'road rash' on his face. Hopefully, he won't have to have surgery on the arm! Good luck to this great family with that challenge of having such a welcomed guest and with Aiden's arm!

7/20/14 - Gay Smith - was surprised that the family survived Tyler's graduation party this past weekend, but it turns out that they picked the right day weather-wise. However, the day after the party, Tyler received his first ticket (for lack of inspection)...and it wasn't even his fault! It just goes to show that life has it's ups and downs!

7/20/14 - Diana Dudley - attended a large family reunion last week at Lake Alice on a beautiful piece of property owned by the Paneks. There were people there from all over the states, but the most were from Albion. It was a great weekend. Diana also talked about the dual art show going on in Albion of works that she and her son have done.

7/20/14 - Tobin Carson - said the family had a good week of vacation..looked at a house they might be interested in, and saw what appeared to be an injured bird...but he was only drunk on cherries!!

7/20/14 - Matt Adema - was heartened to see cars slowing down outside of Walmart on Route 31 for a whole clan of ducks going single file across the road.

7/20/14 - Debby Rodrigues - Road Trip!! Wants to get some folks together to go out to Naples on August 28th to help harvest non-GMO seeds. If you are interested in going on this fun trip, let her know!

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## PULLMAN PLAUDITS

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-Pastor Lee Richards - for his courageous words at the Patriotic Service in July!

-Craig Smith - for venting the toilet! It works great!

-The congregation and guests for donations to the Cobblestone Society (in the loose change) that amounted to \$311! Fantastic!

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### Hospice of Orleans County

Are you looking for a way to serve our community? Hospice of Orleans is welcoming volunteers in all areas of service. Meal servers and greeters are especially needed in the Martin-Linsin Residence. Opportunities in gardening, special events and office work are also available. Whatever your time or talent, Hospice has a place for you. For more information, call 585-589-0809.

### **Pullman Gift Shop**

*Bumper stickers are here! Hand-crafted jewelry is now available!* Looking for a special gift? Check out the old library off of the social hall for notecards and posters, t-shirts and sweatshirts, antique and vintage glassware, Pullman porter uniform buttons, PMUC totebags, and more.

### **Images of Jesus: Victorian Artists, Printers & Publishers**

This art exhibit represents various 19th century printing techniques and a variety of themes, some allegorical and devotional, and others illustrate narratives quoting scripture. The antique prints from the United States and Europe range in age from the 1860s to around 1905. These devotional prints were mass-produced for the home using a number of processes including engraving, chromo printing, and lithography, with some printed on metal, and some with hand coloring and decoration. The prints all appear in their original frames.

The exhibit was curated by (former) Orleans County historian C. W. "Bill" Lattin, and draws on his collection of over a thousand Victorian devotional art objects.

"Images of Jesus" is open to the public now through August 31st on Sundays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, and open every Wednesday during guided church tour hours from 9:30 to noon until the end of August. The exhibit and church tour are also available by appointment (call 585-589-9510).

### **Wednesday Morning Open House**

Again this summer Bill Lattin is opening up the church on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to noon for touring and/or meditation. This is a great opportunity to visit our architectural delight and have Bill point out some of the finer details, or to come for some respite and just sit in a pew for a bit to gain some renewal of spirit. An added bonus is the "Images of Jesus" art print exhibit which is also available for viewing during these times, with Bill present to tell some of the stories behind the various images. Wednesday Open House runs through August 27.

### **World Peace Day Conference**

"Creating harmony in a conflicted world." From political grassroots nonviolent strategizing to person-to-person conflict resolution.... how people on the ground, at the grassroots level, build power nonviolently, how they increase their leverage, and what sorts of pitfalls they face.

Workshop topics: "Addressing Inner Conflict" "Conflict Resolution Between Individuals" "Creating Caring Communities" "Nonviolence.com Campaign" "Nonviolence as a Means to Effecting National and International Change."

September 13th. Registration/check in starts at 9 am. Panel discussion at 10. Morning and afternoon workshops. Lunch provided. Preregister by Sept. 5. Complete info at [pullmantickets.com](http://pullmantickets.com) Volunteers needed to help - contact [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com)

### **Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges**

Our website [pullmanmemorialdonations.com](http://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.

### **Friends of the (Hoag) Library**

If anyone would like to volunteer in the gift shop at the Hoag then please contact [canalsideRE@aol.com](mailto:canalsideRE@aol.com). They are looking for someone to sit in the shop on Thursdays from 11am to 1pm.

## **METAL Recycling Drive**

Scrap metal can be converted to cash and benefit the church. Save any clean, washed metal but please separate aluminum from the rest. Bring to the church and leave at the bottom of the steps outside the dining hall.

**SPECIAL INCENTIVE!** Every month that the total scrap is \$10 or higher the amount will be matched.

## **Pullman Pastor's Blog** by Lee Richards

In July I wrote about our summer salon series, the gun cabinet in my office, and a weird encounter over a greeting card. I invite you to check out my explorations and ramblings at [pullmanpastor.blogspot.com](http://pullmanpastor.blogspot.com), or you can get there by the blog link on our main church website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org). No access to the internet but want to read my (almost) weekly posts? 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.

## **Eye on the Board**

The board of trustees was presented with a number of potential policies for review. All are necessary for PMUC to file for our own 501(c)3 status. A few By-Law amendments are also needed so the board has called a special congregational meeting for October 5th at noon.

The board chose a person of note for the annual Humanitarian Award which will be presented on October 12th. Plans for the annual picnic on Aug. 3rd at Bullard Park, and the Sip 'N Stroll on Aug. 9th, were firmed up.

The treasurer reported that a quarterly assessment shows us being on target per our projected budget. The finance committee reports a continuing increase in endowed assets. The fundraising committee has started a conversation about naming rights. The costs of organ tuning have risen even though Rich Della Costa negotiated a lower price. When we changed priorities about building repair the board returned a loan taken from NYSCU but the New York State Convention of Universalists is allowing us to make use of the funds for other projects.

A vent stack was added to the plumbing to fix the problem with the main toilet. The front landing step corner was repaired and the search is on to find a reputable company to reset the front steps.

Darrell Dyke and Gay Smith are preparing a program for children's church that will be made available to the public starting in September. The membership committee got off to a great start under the leadership of John Andrews with many ideas for broadening exposure of the church. Complete minutes are available upon request.

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