

The Grapevine Newsletter



December 2013

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

Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

Thanks for the memories. November has been a memorable month at Pullman Memorial. From being regaled with church stories to groaning tables of goodies for Thanksgiving potluck there was plenty of activity happening around our church.

We provided a venue to host the Concerned Citizens of Orleans County on election night. Participants in the grief support group offered each other some good advice. The minister's movie night showing of "Not My Life" gave viewers some insight into human trafficking and slavery. Our workbee saw, among other achievements, the refrigerator cleaned out! We heard sermons on Joy, the Lord's Prayer, theology for UU's, and nostalgia.

December also offers some great opportunities. We'll host the Sweet Adelines concert to benefit the Cobblestone Museum. Bill Lattin will provide a free tour of stained glass windows in Albion's courthouse square churches. Our book group will discuss award-winning books written for youth. And there will be light - lots of light - in this darkest part of the year leading up to Christmas and afterwards, as we gather around the fireplace for our annual fireside chat on the following Sunday.

There is also lots to look forward to with the new year, including an introductory class on Unitarian Universalism, and the beginning of our "Chautauqua Sunday" programming (read more about this further into this newsletter). I know of other offerings being explored, too.

Someone said to me the other day that Pullman feels like a "real church" with so many activities going on. Good! Another person lamented that she wants to, but just can't, do it all because there is so much. That's good, too, because it means she can be selective and choose only those things that appeal to her the most and she doesn't have to feel obligated to come to every event.

Pullman Memorial *is* a real church, one that is making memories. Come, be a part of the excitement. Come, and be memorable.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

Dec. 1	Don Reidell	
Dec. 8	Lee Richards	"Sympathy and Empathy"
Dec. 15	Susan Daiss	
Dec. 22	Lee Richards	"The Speed of Dark"
Dec. 23	Lee Richards	"I am the Light" Christmas Candlelight Service @7:00 PM
Dec. 29	Lee Richards	"Fireside Chat"
Jan. 5	Susan Daiss	

~ Childcare available during service times ~

Sunday, Dec. 1 – Fundraising committee meets @ 9:30 am.

Sunday, Dec. 1 – worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

Monday, Dec. 2 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Dish-to-pass.

Sunday, Dec. 8 - Second Sunday Stroll @ 9 am. A short walk to enjoy the season before service.

Sunday, Dec. 8 - Finance Committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Dec. 8 – “Sympathy and Empathy” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Some say the meaning of life is found within these two words.

Sunday, Dec. 8 – Book discussion group @ 12:30 pm. Read any Newbery award winning book and come share what you learned by the experience. [Click here](#) for a complete list of winners.

Thursday, Dec. 12 – Sweet Adelines Concert Benefit for the Cobblestone Museum @ 7 pm. Sweet Adelines and Darryl Smith playing the historic Johnson pipe organ. Pullman Memorial Universalist Church. \$10 pre-sale, \$12 at the door.

Saturday, Dec. 14 – Stained Glass Window Tour @ 10:30 am. Tour of the courthouse square churches with historian Bill Lattin. Starts at Pullman and concludes at Holy Family with a brief bell choir concert. Free.

Sunday, Dec. 15 - Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Dec. 15 – worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Monday, Dec. 16 - 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. This month bring a photo or two of the person or pet for whom your grieve.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 – **NO** Movie with the Minister this month. Third Wednesday Films return in January.

Sunday, Dec. 22 - “The Speed of Dark” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. In contrast with more well-known “speed of light” what can we learn about ourselves in this darkest moment of the year? Provides a nice entry point for Monday evening’s “I am the Light” service.

Monday, Dec. 23 – “I am the Light” special service with music and candlelight @ 7 pm. Prepare your soul for Christmas with messages in music and voice. Special music provided by Maarit Vaga, Bonnie Beiswenger, and Rich Della Costa. Refreshments follow.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Newsletter deadline. Submissions before this date are encouraged.

Thursday, Dec. 26 - **NO** 4th Wednesday Walkies in December due to holidays.

Sunday, Dec. 29 - “Fireside Chat” service @ 11 am in the parlor. Reflections on the year ending, and hopes for the year beginning.

Sunday, Jan. 5 – worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

JOYS & SORROWS

- Jim Knight – is proud to report that he won \$20 at the C&S Saloon in Brockport for his Halloween costume! He dressed as Beetlejuice! You can check out his photo on Facebook!
- Debby Rodrigues – traveled out of the state and visited a Naturopath, where she received some amazing treatments that were very successful and she highly recommends it to everyone!
- Chris Loss – sadly reported that the efforts of the Concerned Citizens to get their candidates elected only resulted in a win for Fred Miller. The other candidates including Gary Kent, Jack Gillman, David Shultz, Linda Rak, and Emil Smith received a large number of votes, but did not prevail. More people came out to vote than for the Presidential election. This was our last hope to undo the efforts of the Legislature to sell the Village of Orleans County run nursing home. Concerned Citizens did everything possible to educate the public and highlight the facts and the group is proud of their monumental efforts. The group is also proud of the bipartisan way that they worked together for a common goal.
- Gay Smith – her joy is that November 18th will be Craig's 60th birthday. Interestingly enough, Craig's sorrow was that it is his 60th birthday.
- Andrea Rebeck – is mindful of the suffering of folks in the Philippines in the aftermath of a monster storm and said we really need to work on doing what is necessary to prevent such disasters.
- Louise Richards – Ryan Acuff, who was here awhile back to talk to us about the efforts of his group to help people fight for their homes during the mortgage crisis reported that the first woman who successfully fought and won back her home recently received the deed back free and clear of a mortgage. This is considered a landmark case! This is a major success and should encourage others to fight back.
- Diana Dudley – said it is a joy that members of this church care so much about the planet and keep bringing back their bottles and cans. And she wanted to remind everyone that aluminum cans and items are also being collected. Certain cans, such as cat food and certain juices are made of aluminum. The return on these items is much higher than for other containers.
- The congregation sang a belated happy birthday to Pastor Lee Richards on 11/10/13..his 60th birthday was on November 7th!! And we celebrated at coffee hour with a delicious chocolate cake provided by Betty and Jim Knight! Happy B-day to the guy with the bow-tie!!

- Darrell Dyke – had a sorrow that Tobin had a 24-hour shift at work!!
- Alan Nugent – his joy is that he has finally closed on his house on the 11th!! But it is our sorrow that he returned to Florida on the 12th!! Alan continues to manage our endowment and work on the Newsletter, but it is sad every year when he leaves.
- Craig Smith – noted that one organization changed the wording of a Christmas Carroll favorite from 'don we now our gay apparel' to 'don we now our FUN apparel'. Very lame!
- Debby Rodrigues – was impressed with a piece that Diana Dudley had in Orleans Hub about the financial situation with the county nursing home which shows the facility's financial situation as significantly different than we have been led to believe. It was also published in the Pennysaver. If you could see the volume of paperwork that she had to go through to sort out the figures, you'd see how impressive her work is!
- C.W. Lattin – is pleased that one of the clergy from the United Methodist Church has taken a stand against the church hierarchy and is supporting same-sex marriage.
- Beth Allen – asked everyone to keep Cassandra Connor in your thoughts, and if you get a chance, ask her what's going on in her life.
- Gerald Lombardi – has purchased a vase in remembrance of his ex-wife who died recently. He has a lot of loving memories of his life with her.
- Gay Smith – is excited about her other son, Matt, who is coming home for the holidays!
- Craig Smith – has finally completed his resume' and has submitted it to a few companies.
- Mike Chapman – is thrilled that he has a new job, and he attributes his good fortune back to the talk that Andrea Rebeck gave on Science of the Mind over the summer! It gave him the positive attitude he needed to meet with success!
- Roger Beiswenger – Ron Beiswenger's younger brother suffered a heart attack recently!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

- Dennis Seekins – recently read Huck Finn to the older children!! Some of the adults wanted to sneak out and listen, too, but didn't want to miss the sermon!

· C.W. Lattin – his program on November 3rd, ‘Church Stories You Won’t Hear in Church’, was a smash success, with over 80 in attendance and a net of over \$2,000! Refreshments were supplied by the local restaurant ‘The Crooked Door’. And thanks also to Gay Smith, Pastor Lee Richards, Andrea Rebeck, Chris Loss and others who helped out!

· Louise Richards – part of the success of C.W.’s program was due to the aggressive marketing campaign by Louise, which brought in some significant donations!

· Pastor Lee and Louise Richards, and Gay Smith – attended the NYSCU meeting. Pastor Lee, of course, serves on their Board.

· Debby Rodrigues – has agreed to match every \$10 contribution in aluminum items gathered each month! Thank-you, Debby!

· Gay Smith, Andrea Rebeck, and Louise Richards – have been working hard looking into grant and other funding possibilities as well as working on grant applications!

· Craig Smith – has done more repairs around the church, including replacing a pipe in the basement that was ready to burst!

· Andrea Rebeck – has found professionals such as Mark Soeth, who will be repairing the stone step in front of the church that requires delicate careful work, and Alan Diesel, who will be changing the hinges on our social hall doors so that we can open them more easily. The doors never should have been hinged the way they presently are.

· Jim and Betty Knight – are currently working on a Wine Tasting event that will be occurring in March.

· At the workbee on November 16th, church members worked on cleaning out the kitchen, polishing the pews, vacuuming, and the sound system was relocated. Thanks to C.W. Lattin, Gay Smith, Pastor Lee Richards, Louise Richards, Patti Adema, Heather Boyd, and Chris Loss.

· Gay Smith, Debby Rodrigues, and Sarah Diemer – who provided two turkeys and a Tofurkey for the Thanksgiving feast on the 24th! Thanks to Louise Richards for organizing the event! And thanks to the whole congregation for bringing such wonderful dishes!! It was a tremendous success with almost 50 people in attendance. And thanks also to the Rev. Peggy Meeker and members of the congregation who joined us for the celebration!! And Pastor Lee Richards got his wish... with about six pumpkin pies!!

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!

Book Discussion

Our next book discussion will be on December 8th. This time we’re focusing on Newbery award winning books. Books written for children and youth sometimes yield amazing truths that are missing from adult publications. Choose any award winning book and then come share what you learned with others. Lists of Newbery winners are easily found with a Google search, then check your local library for a copy, or search for book titles to buy on used.addall.com

Bereavement Support Group

Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Pastor Lee is offering 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. *This month bring a photo or two of the person or pet for whom your grieve.*

Aluminum Recycling Drive

Have any scrap aluminum lying around the house? Save clean washed aluminum, sans wrapper. Examples... small cat food or juice cans, old gutters and downspouts, foil, etc. Any clean aluminum item can be recycled. If a magnet doesn’t stick, it’s good. Bring to the church and leave in the library room. Proceeds going to the church. **SPECIAL INCENTIVE!** Debby Rodriguez has offered to match the amount received from the recycling center every month that the total is \$10 or higher.

Spring 2014 Chautauqua Sunday Speaker Series

“Chautauqua” is derived from the Iroquois word for “a bag tied in the middle” or “two moccasins tied together.” The lake in western New York with that characteristic shape, the 19th and early 20th century life-long learning movement, as well as the first and last existing location of the movement, The Chautauqua Institute, all get their name from this picturesque native American metaphor.

The first Chautauqua-style meeting took place in 1874 at a religious summer camp on that nearby lake’s shore. The idea of feeding the mind and body, along with the spirit, proved to be so popular that eventually 12,000 communities around the country had their own little Chautauqua assemblies dedicated to presenting intriguing ideas, the arts, and public affairs.

Starting in January 2014, at PMUC, every third Sunday will be “Chautauqua Sunday.” Pullman’s Chautauqua Sunday will bring you speakers from many disciplines and backgrounds so that you can feed your mind, and body, and spirit.

Here are the Pullman Memorial Universalist’s Spring 2014 Chautauqua Sunday Speakers:

Sunday, January 19, 2014. **Depth Psychology with Deborah Bridge.** Depth Psychology is a growing movement within psychoanalysis influenced by Carl Jung, which seeks to go beneath the visible layers of cognitive and behavioral processes to the margin between the rational and spiritual realms which holds the archetypal motives for our actions.

Deborah Bridge is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Southern California. Ms. Bridge is a former Catholic nun, and works as the greenhouse specialist in Rochester’s “Grow Green” urban agriculture program.

Sunday, February 16, 2014. **Slavery and Human Trafficking with Elizabeth Osta.** Pullman Memorial Universalist Church began an exploration of slavery and human trafficking with the public screening of “Not My Life,” a documentary about this important contemporary issue involving adults and many children in the US and around the world. The subject continues with Rochester, NY activist, and author, Elizabeth Osta.

Elizabeth Osta is a local author who has been writing for as long as she can remember. She most recently received The Golden Pen Award from The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle Newspaper for her work. When not writing, Elizabeth advocates for men, women, and children caught up in the contemporary slave and human trafficking. Elizabeth is a member of First Universalist Church in Rochester.

Sunday, March 16, 2014. **Fruition Seeds: Local Answer to the Global Seed Crisis with Petra Page-Mann.** Ms. Page-Mann, a young organic farmer from the Finger Lakes in Naples, New York realized that the origin of the seed she and her partner, Matthew Goldfarb, were using to farm did not align with their values. In 2012, Petra and Matthew founded Fruition Seeds to provide local seed for farmers and gardeners in her community produced under equitable and sustainable conditions. Petra will talk about what it takes to start a small green company, and what the concentration of seed production into the hands of a powerful few means to all of us.

Petra Page-Mann is a Naples, NY native who has travelled widely. On her journeys, she learned about what has become her life’s calling, organic farming, by working for other growers and larger seed companies around the country. Back home in Naples with her partner, the young couple farmed until they realized there was a global seed crisis and took direct action. Petra grew up in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua.

Sunday, May 18, 2014. **Cyberpunk Science Fiction and the Sixties Counterculture / Psychedelic Movement with John Roche, Ph.D.** Cyberpunk is a late 20th century science fiction literary sub-genre that was remarkably predictive of technologies and social conditions that we take for granted today. For example, it anticipated the

invention of the internet. Dr. Roche will talk about some of the genre's other surprising elements, such as its spiritual dimension.

John Roche is an Associate Professor of English at RIT. He earned a Ph.D. from SUNY/Buffalo and an MA in Anglo-Irish Studies from University College Dublin, and taught at Michigan State, Emory University, and other schools before coming to RIT, where he has been for the past fifteen years. He has published numerous essays on literature, in addition to four volumes of poetry and three edited collections.

Sunday, June 15, 2014. **Principled Non-violence with George Payne.** Principled nonviolence is a form of social resistance to injustice pioneered by Mahatma Gandhi. George Payne from the Gandhi Institute in Rochester, NY will talk about the tradition of nonviolence and how it is shaping the world today.

George Payne has served since 2009 as the Peace and Justice Educator with the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence at the University of Rochester. In addition to his many non-violence certifications, Mr. Payne holds philosophy degrees from St. John Fisher College, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and Emory University (Candler School of Theology), and teaches philosophy at Finger Lakes Community College.

Pullman's November Fundraiser A Popular Success!

Longtime Pullman Universalist member and Orleans County historian, C. W. (Bill) Lattin regaled the congregation, Central New York Universalists, and the wider community with his hilarious recollections of the foibles and follies of church life in our region.

Bill, a skilled storyteller, offered his stories passed down through the generations, to raise money for Pullman's multiphase architectural renewal project, that will culminate in the restoration of the original Spanish tile roof.

The gala evening was a cabaret entitled "Church Stories You Won't Hear in Church," and as advertised, no denomination was spared Bill's razor-sharp wit! Bill poked fun at Universalists and other mainline churches alike, recounting foibles such as Pullman's "cussing pastor" (The Reverend Dr. Joseph Sullivan, 1953-1961), or the local Baptist minister who eloped with a farmer's daughter.

Bill also spoke about the follies of questionable remodeling and demolition decisions made by area congregations. In the case of the Universalists, poor judgement in years past caused the destruction of their pristine Clarendon, NY church. Sadly, earlier alterations to its structure will most likely cause the demolition of Pullman's neighbor on Orleans County's landmark district courthouse square, Albion's First United Methodist Church.

Pullman trustee and member, Rich Della Costa, entertained the crowd during the intermission with the church's historic Johnson pipe organ. Bill's church foibles and follies, both funny and serious, had the cabaret audience both laughing, and seriously considering the importance of careful stewardship of our church's valuable architectural legacy.

A very special thanks to Bill, everyone who helped with the evening, and to all who supported the fundraiser.

Childcare Available During Services

Kasandra Connor is now available to provide childcare for Sunday morning services. Kasandra is finishing a program in education at Genesee Community College.

Pullman Pastor's Blog by Lee Richards

This month the busyness of the season started catching up to me and I only wrote two blog posts. Check out my reflections on turning 60, or read about a historic design flaw that is finally being corrected.

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.

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.

Eye on the Board

Highlights of the past two board meetings.

October 27: Three different requests for use of our building were taken under consideration and two were felt to be incompatible with our principles, with the third requiring more information before saying yea or nay. Another request - to search our grounds with a metal detector - was denied for concern about potential damage.

The board agreed to be identified as a co-sponsor for this year's Human Rights Day event (held on Dec. 10th at the downtown Presbyterian Church in Rochester), and also to join, and thereby, co-sponsor GoArt in its promotion of local cultural events. It was noted that several sponsors were successfully approached for C.W. Lattin's storytelling event and these donations offset the costs of putting on the fundraiser.

A grant proposal is in the works for assistance in repairing and resetting the front stone steps. A quote from Allen Dise for rehinging the north-side social door was accepted. Craig Smith volunteered to replace leaking water pipes in the basement, the church to provide the materials.

Pastor Lee reported on the morning worship service for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and on his attendance at several area events and meetings, including the ministerium, UU Church of Canandaigua's 20th Anniversary special service, Medina Sandstone Society's presentation of Hall of Fame nominees, and the NYSCU (NY State Convention of Universalists) conference in Little Falls, among others. Louise Wu Richards had an article about, and pictures of, our church in the summer edition of the Universalist Herald magazine.

November 17: As a follow-up the mini board retreat, several trustees submitted "job descriptions" to identify their duties as a step toward creating a policy manual for the church. Gay Smith and Louise Richards went to the IRS to get information on registering our own 501(c)3 status (we are currently under the umbrella of the UUA).

It was noted that our church will receive an award in December (*more info in next month's newsletter*). The board passed a formal resolution thanking Bill Lattin and others for their efforts in the storytelling fundraiser. There was a discussion about advertising in various community directories, with a decision to have Gay get info about the Tri-County publication.

The treasurer's report shows, at the halfway point in the fiscal year, we are very close to being on target for our annual projected amounts of income and expenses. Plumbing repairs were successfully made, and also the furnace was checked out. No refreshments will be served at this month's movie with the minister because it is advertised and open to the public. We received a thank you from Planned Parenthood for our support of their rape crisis work. Complete minutes of board meetings are available upon request.

Pastoral Care

You are encouraged to call Pastor 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, or at his toll-free number: 877-265-1709.



At Pullman Memorial there is a lot of good stuff you won't want to miss.

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