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Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

The internet-savvy will recognize the initials "TBT" as shorthand for "Throw Back Thursday." It's common for people using various social networks - like Facebook, for example - to post vintage pictures or news articles on Thursdays. Often it may be a picture of themselves when young, or maybe pix of parents when they were younger. You get the idea.

Well I'm introducing a new set of initials - "TBS" - for "Throw Back Sunday" and doing it in grand style. This June 28th - the last Sunday of June when we traditionally hold a worship service at the Cobblestone Church - will be a *real* throwback, all the way back to 150 years ago and the end of the Civil War.

With assistance from Matt Ballard, director of the Cobblestone Museum, I've designed a Universalist worship service that would be typical in content and style to one locals might have encountered in late June of 1865. Granted, I won't be doing a two-hour-long extemporaneous sermon, but it will be long enough to give the flavor of what New York Universalist ministers might be communicating from their pulpits at that time.

It was a tumultuous moment in history. President Lincoln had been assassinated on April 14th. Even though the war officially ended on May 9th, the last shots weren't fired until June 22nd. Questions swirled through the newspapers about the treatment of former slaves and Confederate soldiers, and of the eight people on trial for conspiring to kill Lincoln. Union soldiers were slowly being mustered out to return home. Reconstruction in the South, and resumption of normalcy in the North, was on everyone's minds. And like any war, the question of "Where is God in all this?" needed an answer.

So mark your calendars for this special service. I'll be dressed in the fashion of an 1860's circuit riding Universalist minister and I invite you to also "costume up" for the period (if you so desire) to make it extra fun. As usual, cash in the offering plate goes to support the museum, and everyone is asked to bring a little goodie for the coffee hour reception after.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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| June 7 | Rev. Don Reidell | |
| June 14 | Robert Ruehl | “The Prophetic Imperative and Responsible Citizenship” |
| June 21 | Matt Roberts | “Art: Externalizing the Interior Image” (Chautauqua Sunday) |
| June 28 | Lee Richards | “Give me that Olde Tyme Religion” <i>Civil War sermon at Cobblestone</i> |
| July 5 | Jon Riley-Goddard | Patriotic Service <i>at Cobblestone</i> |

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Childcare available during service times ~

Calendar stuff...

Wednesday, May 27 – Albion Chamber Orchestra Concert in the sanctuary @ 7 pm.

Sunday, May 31 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, May 31 – “Booking Now” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.” What “must reads” are on *your* reading list for summer? This interactive service will feature some short selected excerpts and allow all of us to exchange recommendations for passing our time with a good book. Please come prepared to share a few titles.

Monday, June 1 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass food and fun conversation. Open invite to all.

Tuesday, June 2 – Fundraising event committee meeting @ 7 pm.

Sunday, June 7 – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

Sunday, June 7 – Building & Grounds committee meets @ 12:15 pm.

Wednesday, June 10 – Orleans County Historical Society @ 7 pm.

June 12 & 13 – Strawberry Festival fundraiser. More information on page 3.

Sunday, June 14 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, June 14 – “The Prophetic Imperative and Responsible Citizenship” worship service @ 11 am with Robert Ruehl, M.Div., PhD. Rob earned a PhD in Religious Studies from Syracuse University and is now a UU Lecturer and Faculty Graduate Tutor at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY.

Sunday, June 14 – Orleans County Genealogical Society @ 7 pm.

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

Sunday, June 21 – “Art: Externalizing the Interior Image” (Chautauqua Sunday) @ 11 am with Matt Roberts, an imaginative illustrator from Rochester, NY who works in concept art, logo design, portraiture, murals, and *whatever*. Matt has a BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology.

Tuesday, June 23 – Friends of the Library @ 7 pm.

Thursday, June 25 – deadline for submissions to the July newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Sunday, June 28 – “Give me that Olde Tyme Religion” Civil War service at Cobblestone Church in Childs @ 11 am with Lee Richards. 150 years after the end of the Civil War, come and experience an 1865 Universalist worship service as Lee (in period costume) speaks to the topic of abolition, healing the wounds of war, and reconstruction. Feel free to come in 1860’s attire. Held at the historic church at 14389 Ridge Road West. Please note that loose cash in the offering plate is donated to the Cobblestone Museum to assist in upkeep of the building.

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!

2015 Strawberry Festival

Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13. As of this newsletter going to print final plans are not yet firmed up but we can tell you this:

- 1) Books will again be for sale - likely as a bag sale - to help clear them out so we can make room for building repairs.
- 2) Friday evening will feature a special program in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:00 with presenters from several area historical organizations sharing some fascinating "dish." Come hear stories from Bill Lattin, Al Capurso, Matt Ballard, and Holly Ricci-Canham.
- 3) The history continues on Saturday with those same organizations tabling (having booths) in our social hall - Cobblestone Museum, Orleans County Historical Society, Orleans County Genealogical Society, and the History Department of the Genesee Community College in Medina.
- 4) and more! More ideas are in the works so check the [Pullman website](#) as we get closer to the date.

Sad News

We learned over Memorial Day weekend that Linda Remley (Brockport congregation) recently died and a memorial service is planned for Sunday, May 31st at 2:00 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Main St. in Brockport. Linda and her husband, Bob, have attended Pullman events and services many times over the past several years and folks will remember Bob presenting about the Baha'i faith at one of our summer salons a couple years ago.

New UU World Website

As of May 18th, UUWorld.org has a new website. The new site allows you to take UU World wherever you go. Read articles on your phone and tablets and view bigger pictures. Check it out!

DOWN THE STAIRS RECYCLING!

Return-for-deposit bottles and cans, plus assorted metals, help generate additional funds for the church. Bins for these items are at the foot of the stairs between the kitchen and dining hall doors. Clean, washed metal objects may be mixed, but please separate aluminum from the rest.

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.

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. If you have a smartphone then check out our electronic “virtual offering plate.” Look for the QR code on the back of Sunday programs and do a quick scan. You’ll be whisked to a special donation page where you can easily make a donation online.

Prepare Now to Give After You've Gone

Leaving a legacy is easy but requires you take action while still alive. You can make a bequest to Pullman Memorial when updating your Last Will and Testament by including a version of this language: “I hereby give and bequeath \$ _____, or _____ percent of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, or the proceeds from the sale of real estate by my estate that I own located at _____, to Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, located at 10 East Park Street, Albion, NY 14411, Federal Tax ID # 47-2500608.”

Eye on the Board

The May board meeting was rescheduled to May 31st. Look for news from that meeting in next month's newsletter.

Do you have a friendly smile? Can you spare two hours a week to brighten someone's day?

Volunteer greeters are needed at the Martin-Linsin Hospice Residence.

Morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available.

Call 589-0809 for more information
or stop by the Hospice office at
14080 Rt. 31W in Albion.



Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

PO Box 87 ~ 10 East Park Street, Albion, NY 14411

Editor: Alan Nugent, pmuc.albion@gmail.com Minister: Lee Richards, 585-454-9450, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com