



The Grapevine Newsletter

June 2017

Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church**, Albion, NY
Member of *The Unitarian Universalist Association*

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From the new Board Chair

“Helping out is not some special skill. It is not the domain of rare individuals. It is not confined to a single part or time of our lives. We simply heed the call of that natural caring impulse and follow where it leads.” -Ram Dass and Paul Gorman

“The question of bread for myself is a material question, but the question of bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question.” - Nikolai Berdyaev

Upon first learning that my little family was moving to Western New York, to follow Tobin to her medical residency program in Batavia, I was determined to “make the best of it.” I say this often, usually resignedly in the event of a challenge...

After the initial panic stage abated somewhat, the first thing I did in preparation was to check out the Unitarian Universalist website to determine the closest UU congregation to our future home. Pullman was the nearest, so a geographical accident brought me to PMUC. Families moving to a new town is a common motivator for people to seek out a new spiritual home. I knew that finding religious liberals would make my vow to make the best of things more likely. I figured this would be a good chance to become socially active. I hoped I would have chances to learn and experience the workings of a UU church. I wasn't wrong, either.

I accepted the position of Chair to the Board of Trustees just days ago, for all the reasons I listed above and more. This church is where my friends gather and where I expect to meet new people. Pullman is where I find progressive social action most alive in this part of New York. It has become my heart's home for the spirit in my life. That's why I answered the call to the chair- because it's my home, I must volunteer to try and “make the best of things” here, too.

Your board of trustees is here for this congregation, made up of members who are your friends and spiritual family. Please bring your ideas and concerns to your board of trustees and help us make “the best” of our team's coming year.

Thank you all-
With Love and in Peace,

Darrell A. Dyke

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

June 4	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
June 11	Rev. Lori Staubitz
June 18, Father's Day	Susan Daiss
June 25, <i>Annual Cobblestone Service in Childs, NY</i>	To Be Determined
July 2, <i>Annual Patriotic Service in Childs, NY</i>	To Be Determined

Coming Events

Sunday, June 4 – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

Monday, June 5 – **6:00 pm** (*Note earlier time*), Potluck Supper and movie. Join us for good food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.

“The Brainwashing of My Dad” – a film by Jen Senko – examines the rise of the right-wing media through the lens of her father, whose immersion in it radicalized him and rocked the foundation of their family. She discovers this political phenomenon recurring in living rooms everywhere, and reveals the consequences conservative media has had on families and a nation.

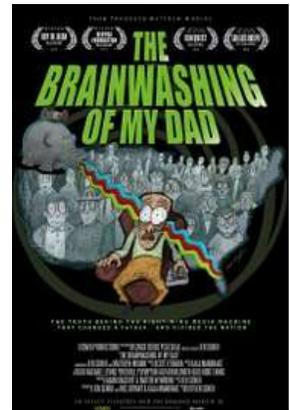


Image from www.imdb.com

Friday, June 9 & Saturday, June 10 – Albion Strawberry Festival

Workbee moved to next Saturday

Sunday, June 11 – 9:00 am, John Mosher will be here to discuss the benefits of meditation, which types are more effective, and take any questions. Interested participants will also decide if we could have a group here on our own or if we should join his group, or just do it at home.

Sunday, June 11 - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting/Building & Grounds

Sunday, June 11 - Rev. Lori Staubitz

Saturday, June 17 – 9:00 am, Workbee

Sunday, June 18- 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, June 18 – Susan Daiss

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Strawberry Festival is Friday, June 9th and Saturday, June 10th. Volunteers are needed to give tours and sell coffee and donuts. Contact Chris Loss (closs1626@gmail.com) for more information or with questions.

Sunday, June 25 – TBD

Annual Cobblestone Service in Childs, NY

Please bring a snack.

Donation goes to the Cobblestone Society

Sunday, July 2 – TBD

Annual Patriotic Service in Childs, NY

Please bring a snack.

Donation goes to the Cobblestone Society

**Please Sign-Up to Bring a Snack
for Coffee Hour**

- Sign-up sheet available in the parish hall



Joys and Concerns

Sunday, May 7

Dennis Seekins - congratulated Rev. Don Reidell on the worst pun ever, and it was fantastic!!

Sunday, May 14

Diana Dudley - was pleased that her grandson was in attendance, and they planned to spend Mother's day together! That's a wonderful grandson.

Ron Beiswenger - the center panel of plexiglass of the Christ the Consoler window was blown off during the recent windstorm, and the Building and Grounds Committee has several quotes now to repair it that will come before the Board for review. This Tiffany window is a cherished part of the church and needs to be protected!

Sunday May 21

Alan Nugent - said it's a joy to be back, and he's glad to see everyone! Chris Loss also welcomed him and said that while Alan continues to monitor our endowment and assist the Treasurer all year, it is very good to see him in person and sitting in his pew!

Diana Dudley - has a sorrow that she saw a news report on a Syrian refugee camp, and could see how thin the people are and know that they are starving and it is horrible to see. We need to find a way to do something about this, perhaps call the UUA NATO office and ask them to help? It is terrible that we have so much abundance here in the US, and can't seem to get the food to suffering people! Amen Diana!

Julie Andrews - had a great joy that her son, Billy, came home for a week around Mother's Day!

Jim Hobbs - has acquired a new cat, well, actually the cat found him! Larry appeared at his patio all dirty and hungry. Of course, Larry will become part of the family! Jim has a loving family of wonderful cats he enjoys very much!!

Debby Rodrigues - welcomed a new baby into the family! Wesley Arthur is the new addition, and congratulations to Debby and her family! A new baby is always great news!

Jessica George – her program through Planned Parenthood was in danger of not being funded, and recently found out that they have been funded for another 3 years and her job is safe.

Sylvia Goodstine - was very saddened at the loss of her beloved dog. Our thoughts of love are with you, Sylvia!

Support PMUC and the Planet



Just a reminder – We have a bin for refundable cans/bottles and one for aluminum. *Both our church and the environment benefit!!*

- The bins are located in the vestibule at the ramp entrance.
- Please be sure the aluminum is clean and labels are removed.
- Please do not crush the aluminum.

UUA News Alert

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/toward-beloved-community-updates-interim-co-presidents-may-24-2017>

Toward the Beloved Community: Updates from the Interim Co-Presidents, May 24, 2017

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Interim Co-Presidents, the Revs. Sofia Betancourt and William Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer, shared the following update regarding their recent meeting in Atlanta with representative leaders of color in the UUA:

Two weeks ago, we had the opportunity to gather in Atlanta, GA, with a small group of leaders connected to our UU communities of color. The purpose of our meeting was to envision the construction of the Commission on Institutional Change, the founding of which is part of our charge from the UUA's Board of Trustees as Interim Co-Presidents. Dr. Takiyah Amin, Taquiena Boston, Rev. Danielle DiBona, Lena Gardner, Rev. Mel Hoover, Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, Claudia Jimenez, Paula Cole Jones, Jesse King, Lily Rappaport, Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Rev. Cheryl M. Walker, and Rev. Sunshine Wolfe gathered with all three Interim Co-Presidents over a two-day period to interpret the charge of the Commission, explore purposing our history to gain tools for this current moment of opportunity, and identify key priorities for the work. Elandria Williams was not able to be with us because of international travel, and we missed the Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons' participation due to unforeseeable delays with airline travel.

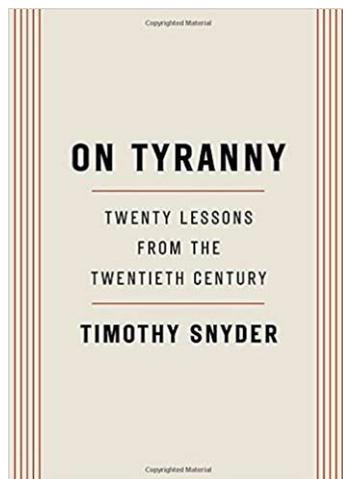
We know that this small group does not reflect the full breadth of leadership that has given decades of faithful service to the work of dismantling racism and anti-black oppression within Unitarian Universalism. These leaders were chosen because of their relationships with constituency groups, both professional and serving our communities of color specifically, and because of their deep grasp of institutional history. In the midst of challenging times, UUs keep showing up, open hearted, to lead the work. It is a depth of spiritual commitment that we do not take lightly. We are immensely grateful to all those who changed their schedules with very little notice to offer their wisdom and expertise to the process. We see this gathering as an investment in accountability – to bring the voices of leaders of color into the earliest imaginings of the way forward and ensure that well-informed decisions are made in solidarity with people of color and/or indigenous members of our community. We are now working to appoint a small and nimble group of commissioners who will work collaboratively with an outside organization to bring badly needed analysis, visioning, and theological depth to the work of institutional change. That Commission may work for 18 months or more.

The Atlanta consultation identified a profound scope of vision and assessment for the Commission. We focused on urgent priorities, the work of the next two to twenty-four months, and long-term visioning where the Commission can signpost the way forward as it concludes its efforts. There is an immediate need for a truth and

reconciliation process centered on the events that precipitated our latest conversation around the impact of white supremacy on Unitarian Universalism. It is also essential that we continue to address structural racism and equity issues in our institution, even as we invite partners and affiliate entities to join us in this important work. There is a clear desire for the Commission's work to be broad and far-reaching. In Atlanta we took time to dream big, and to think beyond the current moment. We kept the health and well-being of our community of color at the heart of the conversation. Our questions were relational, and theological. We found ourselves looking for a Universalism that points toward transformation. We engaged this moment as an opportunity to redeem a piece of the history of our faith and to serve as a model of love and justice to the broader world. We focused on questions of power, liberation, leadership, and recentering those pushed to the margins. We unflinchingly questioned cultural habits and norms that hamper us in our yearning to build the Beloved Community. The consultation tasked us with finding ways to ask UUs, "What would be the most important thing for us to attend to, to ensure your well-being in this faith?" It is in that spirit that we undertake this work.

There will be opportunities for many more specifics coming out of the work of the Commission moving forward. We plan to report further on its priorities and start-up at General Assembly. We also want to acknowledge that the real energy and possibility we feel in these days could not have happened without decades of dedicated work from many individuals and groups of UUs. It is time to make real the vision that we already claim in our hearts.

Next Book Discussion – July (date TBD)



The next book discussion group will meet in July, the date will be announced at a later time. 'On Tyranny- Twenty Lessons From the Twentieth Century' by Timothy Snyder is a pocket size, short read! This was written by a man who has spent much of his life abroad and many of his friends have lived under dictators. He has studied recent democracies that have fallen to dictatorships, and lists twenty lessons we need to study and embrace to make sure it doesn't happen here in the US. He emphasizes that while we believe that our checks and balances will ensure that this could never happen, we are mistaken. The democracies that did fall had people as intelligent as we are, and checks and balances that were supposed to protect them. We will have to be vigilant and be prepared to take the necessary steps at the first hint that something is amiss. Please join us in July for snacks and coffee and some great conversation! *(Image from Amazon.)*

Members – Your Votes are Needed

On May 22nd, an email went out to voting members regarding the March storm damage to the protective outer cover of the big Tiffany stained glass window of our sanctuary. The email included a bid to address the issue. If you have not yet responded with a “yes” or “no” vote to the bid, please do so right away.

Share the Pulpit

The "share the pulpit" initiative continues in which some of our ministers have invited members to join them in leading Sunday Services. If you would like to volunteer to read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship, please contact Chris Loss, Rich Della Costa, or Darrell Dyke.

Pullman Plaudits

-Darrell Dyke was elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees at the first Board meeting on May 14th. Congratulations Darrell for accepting this challenging position! And many thanks to Rich Della Costa, who did a wonderful job as Chair this past year.

-Welcome new Board member Richard Hoffman! The Board of Trustees for 17-18 will also include Pat Cammarata, Liz Schaal, Darrell Dyke, Rich Della Costa, and Chris Loss. Diana Dudley will continue as Treasurer and Alan Nugent as Assistant Treasurer. Monica Beck continues as Church Secretary, and Sylvia Goodstine as Collector. Debby Rodrigues was elected to the Pulpit Committee, and Darrell Dyke and C.W. Lattin were elected to the Nominating Committee. Many thanks to all for your excellent service to this church!

-Darrell Dyke and Diana Dudley, who have been opening the church on Wednesday evenings for a community group.

-C.W. Lattin has been doing a great deal of plastering work in the basement. Joe Taylor had done work plastering and adding drywall to the ceiling and south wall of the dining room, but there were areas around the windows that he could not do, and that is what C.W. completed. The Board will work on completing the painting of the ceiling and applying wallpaper, and hopefully, the work will be completed before the fall! Please take some time to see what has been done so far!

-Ron Beiswenger has done a tremendous job of looking over the quotes to replace the plexiglass that blew off the large window (Christ the Consoler), examining the materials, and making a presentation both to the Building and Grounds Committee and the Board regarding our best options. He asked the Board to not replace the window with more plexiglass, but with a laminated, tempered glass that will last and result in no future maintenance. Wonderful work Ron!

-Dennis Seekins - has been using his expertise to look at the real problems with the roof and an appropriate solution. He gave a presentation to both the Building and Grounds Committee and the Board and said that not only the right kind of flashing, but also a new kind of material for eaves that would seal up the areas where leaks are possible. Leaks continue in various areas of the building. The Board will be examining his findings. Great work, Dennis!

-Chris Loss hosted the book discussion in May on 'Strangers in Their Own Land - Anger and Mourning on the American Right'. It was a robust discussion, and many thanks to Darrell Dyke, Pat Cammarata, Liz Schaal, and Diana Dudley for attending!

-Diana Dudley asked Nola Goodrich-Krese from the Health Department to come out at the Potluck supper in May to look at our AED equipment and give us good information. Our machine is in good order. She said that we need to register the machine, have a sign outside the building indicating that it is here, and keep it regularly maintained. Operators will need to watch a video and have CPR training. The Board will be considering if we will be able to maintain the machine, and if people are willing to take the necessary training. If not, would it be appropriate to sell or donate the machine? The Board will be considering the costs and benefits.

-Chris Loss - donated an answering machine to the church.



Assisted listening devices are available for services – available near the lectern

-Tobin Carson - made a donation in the amount of \$250 for the Scholarship fund we have through the Albion Central School District. The winner for this year cannot be revealed yet, but thanks to Rich Della Costa, Pat Cammarata, Darrell Dyke, and Chris Loss, who reviewed all of the around seven submissions and came up with a consensus on the winner. And all of the candidates had wonderful essays.

-Liz Schaal - continues to maintain the information Board at the entrance to the church with current information! Great job! And Chris Loss has been putting up the Board outside with the names of the ministers.

-Debby Rodrigues - has obtained a DVD player for the church!

-At the workbee on May 13, Sylvia Goodstine attacked the sticky weeds and shrubs growing along the south side, Bonnie Beiswenger did a very thorough job vacuuming the carpets and under pews and pew cushions, Ron Beiswenger swept the dining room floor with a push broom that Dennis Seekins brought, and Diana Dudley damp mopped the kitchen and all three bathrooms, cleaned the sinks and toilets and replenished paper supplies. A wedding is taking place on the 27th so it will no doubt look nice!! Many thanks to all who attended!

-Diana Dudley honored the memory of Jean Bistoff (Chris Loss' mother who died five years ago) at the Mother's Day service by playing the song 'Jean' from the movie 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie', a movie from 1969. Jean spend most of her life working for the betterment of this church and had such an incredible love for this place. Chris Loss was in tears, but so was Diana. Diana is so thoughtful, always thinking of others.

-Many thanks to those who served as Worship Associates this past month - Darrell Dyke and Bonnie Beiswenger!

-Thanks to those who brought snacks for coffee hour this month - Bonnie Beiswenger, Liz Schaal, Sylvia Goodstine, and Chris Loss.

-Ron Beiswenger has removed all of the books from the dining room! That was a huge job!

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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We are a welcoming congregation