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Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings -- by Lee Richards

Summer Salon is back! This year our summer series continues in July and August. Like last year, each Sunday session will meet informally in the social hall, a presenter will read an excerpt from a piece of literature or sacred text, and we'll all have a chance for some Q&A and discussion.

The theme for 2013 is world religions. Of course, an hour is nowhere near long enough to learn about any one religion in significant depth but we can at least get an idea of what motivates people to follow a particular faith belief, and in so doing, better our understanding of humanity in general.

Several parishioners will share information about the religion of either their upbringing or their chosen faith system. For example, Sarah and Jenn Diemer will tell us about Paganism, Andrea Rebeck will share a little about Judaism, Sarah Knight and Chris Bundy have agreed to speak about The Church of the SubGenious, Debby Rodriguez and I will team up for Buddhism and Taoism, I'll do a session on Humanism, and so on. In the works - presentations on Sufism, Baha'i, and maybe Catholicism or Native American spirituality.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The gods we worship write their names on our faces, be sure of that. And a man will worship something - have no doubt about that, either. He may think that his tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of his heart - but it will out. That which dominates will determine his life and character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming."

So keep coming to church throughout the summer. We'll fire up the air conditioner, have bagels and coffee, sit in the round, and learn a thing or two about the variety of faith beliefs within our own congregation, and in the wider world, too.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

July 7	Jon Riley-Goddard	Patriotic Service at Cobblestone "Some Thoughts on the Current Crisis"	You may bring a treat to share at social hour after service.
July 14	Summer Salon	"Humanism"	2nd Sunday Stroll @ 9:00
July 21	Summer Salon	"The Church of the SubGenius"	BoT meets @ 9:00
July 28	Summer Salon	tba	
Aug. 4	Summer Salon + Mid-summer picnic	tba	

Sunday, June 30 – “Crossing Thresholds” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards and Peggy Meeker. Annual Cobblestone Church worship service, held jointly with Brockport UU Fellowship. When does a pan become a pot? Lee will speak about some of the many thresholds we encounter in life. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to support the Cobblestone Museum, checks and pledge envelopes to the respective congregation. 14393 Ridge Rd West in Childs. Please bring a treat to share for social hour.

Monday, July 1 - Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy good food and conversation with others.

Wednesday, July 3 - “Open House” from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Sunday, July 7 – Patriotic Service at Cobblestone Church @ 11 am with Jon Riley-Goddard and Lee Richards. Annual joint worship service with the Gaines Congregational Church. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to support the Cobblestone Museum, checks and pledge envelopes to the respective congregation. 14393 Ridge Rd West in Childs. Please bring a treat to share for social hour.

Wednesday, July 10 - “Open House” from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Sunday, July 14 – Second Sunday Stroll @ 9 am. NOTE earlier time for this event. Enjoy walking with fellow liberals before the Sunday service.

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

Sunday, July 14 – Summer Salon: "Humanism" @ 11 am with Lee Richards.

Monday, July 15 - 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, July 17 - “Open House” from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Wednesday, July 17 – 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.

Saturday, July 20 – Gay Pride Parade in Rochester, NY @ 3 pm. More info at <http://www.gayalliance.org/pride/events/parade-2/>

Sunday, July 21 - Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, July 21 – Summer Salon: "Church of the SubGenius" @ 11 am with Sarah Knight and Chris Bundy.

Wednesday, July 24 - “Open House” from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Sunday, July 28 – Summer Salon: topic tba @ 11 am. Watch pullmanmemorial.org for updated information

Wednesday, July 31 - “Open House” from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Sunday, Aug. 4 – Summer Salon: topic tba @ 11 am, followed by our Annual Summer Picnic.

Joys and Concerns

Chris Loss – said the events of the Strawberry Festival at PMUC went very well, and so far we have made around \$900. It was so nice that we had a lot of help for both days and the raffle baskets were awesome! A special thanks goes to Sarah and Jenn Diemer, Dennis Seekins, Sara Phillips, C.W. Lattin, and Pastor Lee and Louise Richards.

Diana Dudley – traveled via train for two weeks to San Diego and back for \$439! She had a wonderful trip, although it was hard at times to try to sleep on the train. Diana saw about 15 relatives and a lot of nice scenery!

Monica Beck – she was proud to announce that her daughter, Fiona, graduated from grammar school! Great job, Fiona!

C.W. Lattin – announced that he was here for the Ecumenical Open House held jointly with the Presbyterian Church. We entertained two visitors the first day.

Susan Daiss – wore her father's ties in his honor for the Father's Day service on June 16th.

Debby Rodrigues – was overjoyed to see Beth and Mark Allen in attendance recently.

Andrea Rebeck – said she has been listening to The DaVinci Code on tape and then happened to see The Book of Mormon and is so glad to be in this church, where you don't have to participate in all the rituals that other religions follow.

Gay Smith – was visited by Jehovah's Witnesses recently, who asked her if she knows the bible. When she said that her religion values the great books of all faiths, they quietly exited.

Dennis Seekins – happens to be glad that we've been having so much rain, because he can still take the canoe out and paddle around in the creeks, when normally at this time of the year, the water level would be too low.

Alan Nugent – had a celebration of life gathering for his partner, Charlie, with some relatives and friends recently. You will recall that Charlie had passed away back in December in Florida. The event went very well; it was the kind of send off that Charlie had said he wanted, and it provided closure for his sister and niece.

Michael Patterson – was proud to announce that his son, Michael, graduated as Valedictorian from Albion High School and will be attending college at Harvard. Congratulations to the whole family! Michael is a new face here and we are glad he has been attending!

Monica Beck – added to her previous announcement about her daughter, Fiona, graduating from 8th grade at St. Joseph's in Batavia. She won many awards and will now be heading to Notre Dame to complete High School. She's another talented young lady!

Sherry Hagmier – said that next week, July 7th, will mark the one year anniversary of son-in-law Cody Coopenberg's awful accident where he was so badly burned. He has made truly remarkable progress. The prognosis had been so scary at that time, but he has proven to everyone what a fighter he is. Sherry hopes he will be coming home for several weeks at the end of July!

Chris Loss – admitted to being a bit teary eyed when she attended her grandson Carson's kindergarten graduation recently. And at that same graduation ceremony was Kassandra Brown, Sara Phillips's niece!

Sara Phillips – her daughter had graduated from RIT and went for her first interview with an Aerospace company in Rome, NY. Sara knows that it won't be long before she gets a job somewhere and it probably won't be around here. It's a bittersweet feeling because a parent wants to see their child do well, but it's hard to see them moving on and possibly out of the area!!

C.W. Lattin – we are dismayed by the ruling by Judge Punch upholding the legality of the LDC, that was formed to sell the Orleans County Nursing Home to a private company. Chris Loss added that the fight continues to save the Nursing Home!

Gerald Lombardi – everyone said it was nice to see our snowbird back from Florida!

Welcome to new folks – Darrell, Tobin, Leland, and Aiden! So glad to have you with us!

Pullman Plaudits

Sarah and Jenn Diemer – organized and set up for the Strawberry Festival events held at PMUC on June 7 & 8 and did remarkable job!! They were able to organize all the books in categories very neatly! And they were there both days helping out! This event was a big success, thanks to their expert planning! Dennis Seekins – once again offered his expert book appraisal services for both days of the Strawberry Festival, and brought along some of his books, prints, and maps. Great job, Dennis!

Sara Phillips – took charge of the coffee and doughnuts for both days of the festival, as she has been doing for several years now. She also donated the doughnuts! She was very busy both days!

Heather Boyd – who brought box after box of great books for our book sale!! This helped our effort out a great deal. PMUC Congregation – many many thanks for so many helpers coming out for both days of the festival. Some helped set up, and some came for a few hours, some stayed all day, some brought a wonderful raffle basket! It was an exceptional effort by an exceptional congregation!!

C.W. Lattin – gave tours during the Strawberry Festival in addition to helping out in many other ways, was here for the Ecumenical Tours, and updated our fire extinguishers prior to our inspection by the Fire Marshall recently. We passed! And Mr. Bradshaw was very impressed that this church has an AED unit. We are often reminded of how valuable C.W. is to this church!!

Pastor Lee Richards - organized a Board Retreat early in the month and many great ideas were discussed. Pastor Lee and Louise have attended and helped out at almost every event we've had this year. They are a dynamic duo!!

Kim Remley – was here on June 9th to talk about S.P.O.C. (Stop Polluting Orleans County), the organization that she heads up that concerns keeping additional landfills out of Orleans County. In case you missed her talk, you can send an e-mail to spocinc@aol.com and ask for a brochure. T-shirts, lawn signs, car decals, buttons, and brochures are available for purchase or you can simply make a donation payable to “S.P.O.C.” at PO Box 102, Fancher, NY 14452. They also have a website at www.StopPollutingOrleansCounty.com.

Tyler Smith – has received several awards lately, including a scholarship to the U of R in the amount of \$40,000, and to the Eastman School of Music in the amount of \$7,500. Congratulations Tyler! You are a true inspiration!

Anti-hydrofracking Rally

On Monday June, 17th on the East lawn of the Capital building, which Governor Cuomo’s office looks out upon, Debbie Rodriguez, Louise Wu and I, joined with over 2000 other people from all over the state to send a message to the governor. We want to be an example for the rest of the country, by banning hydrofracking in the Empire State, and directing our focus toward more alternative, sustainable energy sources. The rally was both peaceful and a bit joyous under the clear skies, as demonstrators encircled the capital building. Enthusiastic speakers filled the podium such as actress Debra Winger, and local activist Susan Steingraber who was jailed for her activism (see FrackFreeGenesee.blogspot.com) Natalie Merchant, the singer, entertained the crowd and led us in singing “This Land is Our Land,” changing the lyrics to reflect New York.

At first, our trip to Albany was uneventful, with good traffic and weather. During our ride over to the rally, our army veteran, card-carrying NRA shuttle bus driver engaged us in spirited conversation sharing his experiences as an MP at the University of Mississippi in 1961 when it was forced to desegregate. As the rally concluded, gray clouds moved in, the winds were high, and a micro-burst hit the area. Seeking refuge in the Mall, we found that cell phone service was down due to the violent weather. We finally got a cab, and made it back to our hotel, but found that it was-without power. The sun had returned though, and things improved quickly. Overall, it was an inspiring experience-being a part of democracy in action.

Monica Beck

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!

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 labelled 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.

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.

Pullman Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

Amazing parishioners, defining death, prayer, and a nostalgic church salad recipe were all topics for the pastor's mind this past month.

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

The pulpit committee submitted its annual review of the ministry, and Rich Della Costa was appointed as their Board Representative for a second term. The new treasurer, Andrea Rebeck, presented her first report and a few suggestions were made regarding format and data to be displayed. Alan Nugent presented a report on our investments, and plans were approved to reinvest some excess funds into a telecom stock.

Buildings and Grounds reported on several issues: 1) the front door's sandstone landing had a piece broken off one corner which needs professional repair, 2) the bldg. was inspected by the fire marshall and passed, thanks to having the fire extinguishers checked and charged beforehand, 3) the north-side door separating the social hall from the sanctuary was added to the to-do list for modification and will be rehinged to allow better access to the aisle, and 4) the initial paperwork has been filed to receive the Landmark Society grant funds for architectural specifications for the roof.

Pastor Lee, Louise, and Andrea have been researching grants. It was discovered that our incorporation papers from 1891 should be updated and we should file for our own 501(c)3 status to be eligible for some grants. It was so moved and voted. One grant (EPF) requires letters of recommendation from legislators and discussion ensued about creating an event that would be favorable for inviting George Maziarz and Dave Callard to attend.

A candidate for the position of childcare provider had been interviewed and Gay recommended we retain her services. It was proposed the position have a 6 month probationary period.

Our second annual book sale event was a success. Over 4000 books were available at the start, and over \$900 raised. Many thanks and congratulations to everyone involved, and especially to Sarah and Jenn Diemer, and to Dennis Seekins and Heather Boyd.

- 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.



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