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

Minister: Lee Richards, 585-436-1786, [pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com)

Visit our new Website at <http://pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com/>

Welcome!

## Into This House of Light We Come

Into this house of light we come to seek that which is just and to find that which is good, and here we remember those whose lives are darkened by the greed and wrong of others.

We have not purged the commerce of our times of those harsh ways that thwart the hopes and dreams of many.

In this house of peace we remember wars and rumors of wars; we have made but feeble effort to understand the peoples of the world and to foster peace among the nations.

In this house of joy we remember all sorrowing and troubled folk.

Let us here be gathered into a common power of goodwill which shall issue in lasting peace and larger right.

Von Ogden Vogt (1879-1964)

Rev. Vogt was a Unitarian minister and innovative liturgist noted for Celebrating Life in the liberal tradition. He is the author of *Modern Worship, Art and Religion*, and other works on worship and liturgy.

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
June 5	Rev. Donald Reidell		
June 12	Rev. John Rex		
June 13	Pot Luck 6:30 PM	At CW Lattin home.	Please bring a dish to share.
June 19	Susan Daiss	Time Share	
June 26	Lee Richards	At Cobblestone	
July 3	Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard	Patriotic Service at Cobblestone	
Aug. 7	Susan Daiss	Mid-Summer at PMUC	

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## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

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**Sunday, June 5** – Buffalo NY Pride Parade along Elmwood Ave. More info available from organizer Jean Ott at the UU Church of Buffalo, 885-2136, or at <http://pridecenterwny.org/site/prideparade.asp>

**Monday, June 6** – Concerned Citizens of Orleans meet again at 5:30 pm regarding updates on the situation with the Albion nursing home.

**Friday & Saturday, June 10, 11** – 25th Annual Strawberry Festival in Albion. Helpers will be needed at the church both days. Friday night please meet at the church at 5:30 PM to help set-up for tomorrow's yard sale. Saturday, helpers please plan to arrive before 9:00 a.m. A time-slot sign-up will be available at the church. Please drop your items off at the church.

**Sunday, June 12 - "Cultivating Compassion"** by Rev. John Rex. The Ware Lecturer at this year's UUA General Assembly is Karen Armstrong, respected authority on world religions. Her message is set forth in her book, Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life. Go to [www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org). Let us consider... compassion.

**Monday, June 13** – C.W. and Rene' will host the monthly **Pot Luck Supper** at 6:30pm at their cobblestone house (3178 Gaines Basin Road, about 1/2 mile north of the canal). Please bring a dish to pass and come for the fellowship and fun of sharing a meal with others.

**Sunday, June 19** – **Board of Trustees** meet from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
Susan Daiss' final installment of a sermon/talkback on our principles!  
**Time Share** (please bring a 3 minute poem, story, or other item to share)

**Sunday, June 26** - "Love Wins" by Lee Richards. One of the most influential Christian pastors in America today is Rob Bell. What makes him so popular? - He is preaching a Universalist message! Special open invitation to members of all area UU churches - please join us this morning to celebrate our unique heritage of love. Service conducted in the historic Cobblestone Church at 14393 Ridge Road West (just north of Albion on RT 104.)

**Sunday, July 3** - "Patriotic Service" in combination with the Gaines Congregational Church. Service conducted in the historic Cobblestone Church at 14393 Ridge Road West (just north of Albion). Please bring a treat to share.

**Saturday, July 16** – Gay Pride Parade in Rochester, NY at 3 PM. Route along Goodman St and Park Ave. More info at [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org).

**July 29 – 30, 2011** “Connecting Women’s Spirits” Second Annual St. Lawrence District Women’s Spirituality Conference. For info contact Jody Brown 315-476-0447 or email [jfb523@gmail.com](mailto:jfb523@gmail.com)

**August 7** - "Mid-Summer Service" by Susan Daiss at PMUC, with Time Share. 11:00 a.m. Potluck lunch to follow! Please bring a dish to pass!

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## JOYS AND CONCERNS

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**Eileen Della Costas' mother** ,Agnes M. (Duignan) Casey, died on May 10 at age 95. Agnes and her husband Bob raised eight children. Contributions may be made in her memory to St. Ann's Foundation (St. Ann 's Chapel, 1500 Portland Ave , Rochester , NY ). Condolences to Eileen and Rich and their family. Our hearts and thoughts are with you!

**Dennis and Jan Seekins** announced recently that they are celebrating the birth of a new grandson born on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 a.m. in Baltimore, Maryland. He is Dennis's daughter's Zoe's child and his name is Jasper Allen, 9 lbs. 8 oz. (wow...a big baby!).Congratulations!

**Rev. John Rex** has a combination of bursitis/arthritis and now may need a hip replacement. It is a bit difficult for him to walk around or garden, things he enjoys a great deal. We hope, John, that you will recover from this soon and start feeling better!

**Chris Loss** spent a weekend in Syracuse with her family (husband, Ernie; daughter, Joni; and grandson, Caden) to attend her son Dustin's graduation from ESF (SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry) on May 14. Dustin, 23 yrs. old, has a degree in Resource Management.

**C.W. Lattin** went to New York Assemblyman Stephen Hawley's office and asked his staff if he is in favor of the Marriage Equality Act. The staff told C.W. that Assemblyman Hawley listens to his constituents and they are for the most part against this. C.W. would like everyone to consider writing a note to Assemblyman Hawley or giving him a call and expressing your view on the Marriage Equality Act. Isn't it time that we come out of the dark ages and allow gays and lesbians to marry their partners? **District Office** 121 N. Main Street, Suite 100 Albion, NY 14411 phone 585-589-5780 or email: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Stephen-Hawley/contact/>

**Diana Dudley** celebrated a birthday on May 27! Happy belated birthday Diana. You look wonderful!

**Andrea Rebeck** was very happy to experience the warmth of the sun again!

**Shirley Eilers** said emphatically that she is happy to be here for the first time at PMUC! Shirley, we are very pleased to see you, as well!!

**Louise Wu** commented that as she was thinking back through the years to family members who have served in the military, she was grateful that she had to go all the way back to the Civil War to find any casualties. Let us hope that this is a trend that continues for many years to come, or better yet, that wars just cease to happen!

### Presentation of Key

C.W. Lattin presented the Key to Pullman Memorial to our new minister H. Lee Richards on Sunday May 22. Quoting from Isaiah 22:20-22, he read: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant ... And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut."

C.W. continued, "This key opens the beautiful portal of our great legacy. But it is also symbolic of our hopes and dreams for the future. We give you this key knowing there is much work to do but we give it with our commitment and support thus lessening the burden we place on your shoulders.

"It is by no way accidental that the tab on this key is the color green which is traditionally associated with hope for the future. A hope that no one can shut out. It is indeed a joy to present this key to you on behalf of the congregation of Pullman Memorial Church."

### New Website

It's been in the works for quite a while but now the seed of the idea has grown and blossomed. The information on our older site has been transferred and updated as needed. Navigation is similar, but there is also a search box to help you find something in particular. The site is live, although there is still more to come - more photos, more info, more links. Many thanks to all who contributed to the effort along the way. Look for it at [pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com](http://pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com) and check in often for the "Quote of the Week" and updates to "News & Events" listings.

Our old website pmuc.org will remain on line until year-end with a link to the new one but will not be updated.

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## Pullman Plaudits

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**Pastor Lee Richards** – who signed his contract on May 20<sup>th</sup> (but the effective date is actually June 1), had already begun working hard for this church! He has updated the website, created a Facebook page, attended every meeting for Concerned Citizens of Orleans, responded to three requests for assistance and has given the Board several excellent ideas. One request was from a man whose grandparents were pillars in this church in the early years (1930'-1940's) whose grandmother, Francis Crowther, was an organist here for many years. His mother, Dorothy Crowther, has just died and he wanted a UU minister to say a few words at her graveside service. And Lee responded right away to his e-mail. Lee plans to spend the summer visiting other area churches and getting to know community members. He is an energetic, talented, and positive force for us and we are very glad to have him on board.

**Jim Knight and Diana Dudley** – welcome to our two new Board members for a three-year term each. Jim is new to the Board, but Diana is returning, having served out another member's final year. We are indebted to you for agreeing to serve PMUC!! Jim has also been appointed to the Pulpit Committee!

**Andrea Rebeck** – who will be mobilizing the Building and Grounds committee and laying the groundwork to write a grant to help us repair the church. This is a tremendous undertaking, one that we likely would not be able to do without Andrea's expertise!! We are so lucky to have her with us!

**Chris Loss** who has been re-elected chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Thanks for your outstanding service.

And thank-you to **Lee Richards** from the Concerned Citizens of Orleans group for his sermon on Privatization

### The Minister's Musings by Lee Richards

Water, water everywhere! We have certainly had an abundance of it (in the form of both rain and snow) these past two seasons. I imagine many of you are wishing for the summer sun to dry us out so crops can grow, skins can tan, vacations can be enjoyed. You probably don't want to think about water right now (unless you're in to swimming, boating, fishing). However, I'm going to ask you not to forget this vital element.

This fall, when we reconvene to worship anew at Pullman Memorial, I want to start the church year off with a "Water Ceremony." Now you've heard me say sometimes in "Joys and Sorrows" that it is in the sharing of our stories we create the larger story of this church. So I want to encourage you to share your "What I did this summer story" with us all, and to make it special, bring a small container of water gathered from the spot where the story occurred.

Did you visit Niagara Falls? Then bring us a little bit of the river. Lake Ontario? A small vial of lake water. Travel to Las Vegas, or Paris? A few teaspoons of tap water from the faucet will do. Stay at home all summer? How about a spoonful of water from your birdbath? Use your imagination for your source of H<sub>2</sub>O.

How will this service work? We'll all take turns bringing our water samples to the front of the church and adding them to a bowl while sharing the story about the sample's origin. I've done this ceremony many times before and the symbolism of "pooling" our stories into one larger story can be moving, and funny, and a great way to feel connected to one another. So, remember the water!

On another note... I recognize that our church has been operating on "pulpit supply" - without a dedicated minister - for so long that some members might not fully realize all the possible ways a minister can help. Please note that I am available for pastoral counseling, weddings and unions, funerals and memorial services, child dedications and namings, and home and hospital visitations. So if you have 'Joys or Sorrows' going on in your life and want to talk about it, don't hesitate to call. That's what I'm here for! 585-436-1786

## **Book Discussion group report – ‘The Big Short’ by Michael Lewis**

About seven of us met on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the book ‘The Big Short’ by Michael Lewis. The book outlines the events leading up to the crash of the US stock market that occurred in 2008, but actually hit the fan back in 2007 and was not reported to the public. This crisis was a long time in the making, and we learned that it was intimately tied to what was going on in the subprime mortgage arena. There were those who early on understood the risk inherent in the assumption of ever-rising real estate prices, a risk that was compounded by the creation of artificial securities in the bond market loosely based on doubtful mortgages. Subprime mortgages were encouraged and aggressively marketed to low and middle income earners with the promise of very low rates and payments and no money down. Many of these buyers were able to own a home for the first time who previously would not have qualified for a mortgage. And some Middle Class owners were encouraged to buy even more property or dream homes that they previously could never have entertained buying. They were told that the value on these properties would just rise and rise. However, when the low interest rates rose in several years, many people found themselves unable to make their payments and defaulted on their loans. Only when the numbers of home owners defaulting on their loans rose dramatically did it come to the attention of the public. Subprime mortgages had been bundled in with others and sold from bank to bank so even the most sophisticated traders, bankers, etc. could not follow what was going on. Artificial inflation of property values helped create artificially high ratings that continued encouraging the selling of these mortgage bundles. It was a system that continued for many years, to the surprise of those in the know. There were those who sounded the whistle early on, but they were largely ignored. And some who understood what was going on, made money on that knowledge, banking on the mortgages failing. Only AIG failed as a result and only a handful of players were ever prosecuted. It’s hard to imagine that these supposedly ‘best and brightest’ traders, speculators, bankers simply failed to see what should have been obvious from the start and continued to promulgate this system for over a decade. The bubble was going to burst at some point, and it did. But what is lost here is that real people were harmed, and no one was held accountable. People continue to lose their homes to this day in record numbers. The players who helped orchestrate this debacle are still employed and rather than be punished, have reaped millions for themselves in bonuses that were not deserved. Taxpayers even bailed out these undeserving banks, and rather than use the funds to help Americans, more bonuses were distributed. All across America, land and homes sit vacant that previously held hopeful homeowners with dreams and ambitions that have now turned to dust. This was truly the great scam of the century.

Many thanks to Dennis Seekins for selecting this book, and thanks for all who participated in this engaging discussion. The book club will begin again in the fall. Over the summer, please look for books that might be good to consider for next year. And thanks to all who participated this past year!

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### **Eye on the Board**

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from the meeting held on Sunday, May 22, 2011

\*Chris Loss was elected to another term as Board Chairman.

\*Treasurer reported that Qwest stock was sold and the money deposited in the checking account.

\*The Board reviewed Lee Richard’s contract for 1/3 time ministry, and each member signed and then so did Lee. This contract is effective starting June 1, 2011. Terms of the contract will be reviewed yearly.

\*Motion was made and approved that the Board officially declares that Lee Richards can perform weddings, funerals, and other rites of passage for PMUC.

\*Church key will officially be presented to Pastor Lee Richards at the church service on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*Board liaisons were assigned to committees and a motion was made and approved for Jim Knight to be appointed to the Pulpit Committee.

\*Report from Pastor Lee – has talked with some in the community who fondly recall that this church once had wonderful ‘tea parties’ here, and this is a good fund-raising idea. He also mentioned the possibility of a Board retreat sometime in August.

\*Finance Committee report – had a meeting recently. Four recommendations were presented to the Board. 1) That the church withdraw not more than 4% of the endowment/funds per year. 2) Of the \$21,000 in the American Century Gov't Bond Fund – a). move \$11,000 to different funds, b). Retain \$10,000 for operating this year. 3) Stock with less than 100 shares be retained. 4) Direct TV and Qwest have been sold. Motion was made and approved to accept these recommendations.

\*Pledges– About six pledge forms have still not been turned in.

\*Church website – Pastor Lee has updated the website and has been in contact with Alan Nugent and Pat Bemont, who had previously been working on this and reached a point where it was difficult to continue. The old website has a link to the new one. This website has minister's backgrounds and photos listed, upcoming events, sermons, links to other sites, philosophy, etc.

\*Facebook page – Pastor Lee has created a Facebook page for use by PMUC. It is interactive and encourages discussion, and includes clips and information about upcoming sermons. Friend invitations have gone out to members.

\*Requests for ministerial services – Lee has responded to three requests for pastoral assistance.

\*GUUSTO meeting – Pastor Lee attended the meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Lee extended an invitation to come to our last worship service at Cobblestone in June. The St. Lawrence District will be meeting in Rochester next year and will likely need assistance from all local congregations.

\*BUUF Charter Service – Pastor Lee and Diana Dudley attended, representing PMUC.

\*Board Meeting End time – Diana Dudley proposed that Board meetings end at 10:45 a.m. every month.

\*Strawberry Festival – discussed the idea of giving away popcorn vs. selling. Pastor Lee suggested that we take donations.

\*Summer Services – discussed expanding services into the summer for next year. This year, Lee will be engaging with the community and visiting other area churches.

\*Phone tree – was updated.

**Next Board meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2011 (Father's Day) at 9:30 a.m.**

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### **From Religion and Sex Quiz by NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF, New York Times**

The people of Sodom were condemned principally for:

- a. Homosexuality.
- b. Blasphemy.
- c. Lack of compassion for the poor and needy.

“Sodomy” as a term for gay male sex began to be commonly used only in the 11th century and would have surprised early religious commentators. They attributed Sodom's problems with God to many different causes, including idolatry, threats toward strangers and general lack of compassion for the downtrodden. Ezekiel 16:49 suggests that Sodomites “had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.”

Hmm. “Did not aid the poor and needy.” Who knew that that's what the Bible condemns as sodomy? At a time of budget cuts that devastate the poor, isn't that precisely the kind of disgusting immorality that we should all join together in the spirit of the Bible to repudiate?

See Kristof's column from the NYT May 21 at [Religion & Sex Quiz](#)

**Committee Member List**  
**2011-2012**

**Board of Trustees**

Dick Hoffman – 2012  
Bill Lattin –2012  
Chris Loss – 2013  
Dennis Seekins –2013  
Jim Knight – 2014  
Diana Dudley – 2014

**Finance Committee**

Rene' Schasel  
Dick Hoffman (Board Liaison)  
Dennis Seekins  
Diana Dudley  
Alan Nugent

**Buildings and Grounds**

C.W. Lattin  
Dennis Seekins (Board Liaison)  
Dick Hoffman  
Craig Smith  
Andrea Rebeck

**Treasurer**

Dick Hoffman  
Diana Dudley (trainee)

**Secretary/Collector**

Sara Phillips

**Fundraising Committee**

TBD

**Nominating Committee**

Eileen Della Costa (carryover)  
Gay Smith  
Diana Dudley (Board Liaison)

**Newsletter & Publicity Committee**

Alan Nugent (Website)  
Chris Loss (Board Liaison)

**Shut-Ins**

TBD

**Religious Education**

Eileen Della Costa

**Pulpit/Music/Ministry**

Alan Nugent  
Diana Dudley  
Eileen Della Costa  
Jim Knight (Board Liaison)

**Late Fragment**

And did you get what  
you wanted from this life, even so?  
I did.  
And what did you want?  
To call myself beloved, to feel myself  
beloved on the earth.

Raymond Carver (1938-1988)

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church  
10 East Park Street  
Albion, NY 14411

