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**Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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Visit our Website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org)

## Minister Musings

by Lee Richards

Courting. Wooing. Making overtures. Attracting. Serenading. Inviting. Seducing. Charming. Are you sensing a pattern in these words?

Those of you who check our website regularly know there is a new "Quote of the Week" every Thursday. One of the recent quotes was by Rev. Carol Hepokoski - "The first time I attended a Unitarian Church, I was astonished by the number of faces I recognized there. If only one of these friends or acquaintances had told me about the church, I would have found it years earlier."

The majority of Unitarian Universalists were not born into this religion but came to it from some other religious heritage. Somehow they found a UU church - maybe attended an AA meeting in a UU social hall, saw a press release for an interesting "talk," found a blog or website that sounded intriguing and decided to check it out. I'll wager that only a small minority discovered us because someone invited them to attend a service or event.

If you discovered a really good restaurant or saw a thought-provoking movie wouldn't you be telling everyone you knew about it? Don't you naturally feel compelled to share good things with friends so they can experience them, too? Why should your church membership be any different?

I know you like Pullman Memorial Universalist. Your recent pledges, increased attendance, and volunteer contributions of time and resources all show you care a great deal about the relationships you have here. So I invite you to do a little wooing.

Instead of hiding your light under a bushel, take a chance and ask someone you care for about what they do on Sunday morning. Even if they say they attend a church, ask them about their church. Are they completely comfortable with the messages they hear there? With the relationships they have with other members? Have they considered "church shopping?"

And if they don't attend church, maybe ask if they feel spiritually fed. Is life satisfying, or do they sense a yearning for more? Do they feel supported in their causes?

If you'd share info about where to get the best cup of coffee in town, then why not share info about a place that can really change lives for the better? I think it's time to go a courtin'.

### 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 585-436-1786, 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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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
June 3	Rev. Donald Reidell		
June 10	Rev. John Rex	"Only a Myth"	Reception for John Rex
June 17	Pastor Lee Richards	"UU Exemplars"	
June 24	Rev. Peggy Meeker	Joint Service with BUUF at Cobblestone	All invited to bring treats for cobblestone services.
July 1	Pastor Lee Richards	Patriotic service with Gaines UCC at Cobblestone	

**Sunday, June 3** – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

**Monday, June 4** – Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Open invitation to one and all. Come and enjoy good food and conversation.

**Sunday, June 10** - Finance committee meets @ 9:30 am.

**Friday, June 8 - Book Launch & Signing** @ 6 pm. Bill Lattin's newest book "Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York" will be available for sale. This limited edition book is being published on behalf of our church with proceeds to be used for building restoration. At 6 pm Bill will give a brief talk about the book and the postcard collection.

**Friday – Saturday, June 8-9** – [Alternative Craft Fair](#) and **Book Sale** during the Strawberry Festival.

**Sunday, June 10** – “**Only a Myth**” worship service @ 11 am with Rev John Rex. John will explain how we live by different myths. This will be John's last scheduled service with us as he “retires.” Join us after the service for a special reception in his honor.

**Sunday, June 17** - Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am.

**Sunday, June 17** – “**UU Exemplars**” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards, exploring some of our interesting Unitarian Universalist role models.

**Sunday, June 17** – **Concert** @ 3 pm, by Peter Griggs. “**500 Years Of Music For Guitar,**” is a chronological tour from the Renaissance to the Contemporary (also including Baroque, Classical, flamenco, and jazz). The program includes music by J.S. Bach, Gaspar Sanz, Ferdinando Carulli, Bartolome Calatuyud, George Gershwin, Thelonious Monk and Baden Powell – as well as the artist's own compositions. Peter Griggs is a world-traveling musician. Free will offering taken.

**Sunday, June 24** - Joint worship service at Cobblestone Church with Brockport UU Fellowship @ 11 am. Rev. Peggy Meeker will explore the Universalist message of 50-100 years ago. We'll look at how our language has changed and how the essence of Universalism still speaks to us today.

**Sunday, July 1** – Patriotic worship service at Cobblestone Church, jointly with Gaines UCC Church @ 11 am. Pastor Lee Richards preaching.

## Alternative Craft Fair and Book Sale

The Pullman Memorial Alternative Craft Fair (<http://pullmanalternativecraftfair.wordpress.com/>) is only two short weeks away, and we're incredibly excited about it and the opportunity to share the beauty of Pullman and the vibrancy of its congregation even more with the local community! It will be the same weekend as the Albion Strawberry Festival, and is Friday, June 8th, from 11 AM to 9 PM and Saturday, June 9th, from 10 AM to 8 PM.

We very much want this first craft fair to be a success, so are looking for volunteers to do the following things:

- We would like several dozen cupcakes to sell on a table in front of the church, on the street, so we need several people to bake us a dozen or two, any flavor so that we have several flavors to choose from.
- We also wish to sell lemonade at this same table, regular and strawberry lemonade. Any takers on making this?
- We need folks to help man the booth of crafts, from which all proceeds go to the Pullman church.
- We need folks to help man the raffle table, selling tickets.
- We need folks to help man the rummage/book sale. And please, everyone bring in your books, CDs, DVDs, and other saleable items.

Basically, we need volunteers, and as many as possible, to make this a success! :) If you're interested in helping, please let us, Sarah and Jenn, know either at a church service, or via email at [sarah.e.diemer@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.diemer@gmail.com) or via phone at 716.481.6053.

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### JOYS & SORROWS

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**Dennis Seekins** – enjoyed attending the Buffalo Philharmonic Duke Ellington Festival and recommends that everyone go and experience some great music!

**Beth Allen** – says she was raised in Kentucky and has always loved horses, and is excited that this year's Kentucky Derby winner is a horse who seems content and happy to run.

**Debbie Rodriguez** – is happy to be heading west to the Redwoods for a few days!!

**Chris Loss** – said that all 'families' have an album where they store their treasures of the photos of everyone they care about, and this church should be no exception. She has brought in a photo album with pictures of some events that have occurred this past year, and invited everyone to add to the book.

**Beth Allen** – reported that her dog, Tyler, sadly passed away recently at age 15.

**Chris Loss** – also lost her beloved dog, T'ai, who was 15. On a happier note, though, her dog, Nicki, had 9 puppies recently!! Mom and pups are doing well.

**C.W. Lattin** – was host to the New York Landmark's Conservancy 'Sacred Sites' tours here at PMUC for two days along with several other

participating churches in Albion. The purpose of these tours was to highlight the magnificent architectural structures here in Albion.

**Sherry and David Hagnier** were pleased to be able to Skype recently with their son-in-law who is stationed in Afghanistan.

**Sarah Diemer** – had a sorrow and a joy; she was saddened to learn that a friend's brother died suddenly, and it was such a shock to everyone! Her friend will need a lot of support to get through this! Her joy, though, is that her wife, **Jenn**, has published her first novella!! This is an amazing accomplishment!! Now there are two talented writers in the family!

**Louise Wu** – was so happy to give the gift of a garden to a neighbor recently. Everything was donated, and for next to nothing in cost, yet another family will have fresh vegetables this summer! Louise is asking that if you know of any farmer willing to donate some bales of straw to help in this effort, please let her know. It is for a tremendously good cause!

**Chris Loss** – expressed sorrow over the passing of John Pratt, husband of Dorothy Pratt and son of the late Howard Pratt. John was a long time member of this church who will be sadly missed.

**Diana Dudley** – announced that today (May 27th) is her birthday! Happy birthday, Diana! Diana is a true inspiration to us all because she is always learning to do new things, expanding her mind with great books, visiting new places, taking on new adventures and tasks, and always with a smile and a kind heart. She noted that this is also the anniversary of her mother's death, and although it has been awhile, the loss of a mother is ever profound.

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### PULLMAN PLAUDITS

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**Both a Joy & Plaudit** --- Alan Nugent was delighted to see that PMUC is now among the churches listed in *The Daily News* each week. Thanks to **Sara Phillips** who has been getting PMUC events updated in the paper every week!

**Diana Dudley and Alan Nugent** – new Treasurer and Assistant who have been working hard to establish accounts in First Niagara Bank and with Scottrade, making a lot of trips and doing a great deal of leg-work.

**Jim Knight** – who penned and performed the original song "Hominid on a Mudball".

**Sarah Diemer** – created the plans for the upcoming Alternative Craft Fair, which will take place on the

Friday and Saturday (June 8 – 9) of the Strawberry Festival. This promises to be very exciting.

**Beth Allen and Richard Della Costa** – welcome to our new Board members!!

**C.W. Lattin** – host at this church to the two day event sponsored by the New York State Landmarks Conservancy called the Sacred Sites tours. Many people in this town came by to see our church and several others, and received an amazing tour that only C.W. can deliver!

**Betty and Jim Knight** – donated more books for the book booth at the Strawberry Festival.

**Chris Loss** – who is our Board Chairman for a third term!

**Sara Phillips**- our very skilled Church Secretary, has also been working hard setting up our new accounts!

**C.W. Lattin** – has produced a book entitled "Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York" which will be available for sale soon. Proceeds will go to the church restoration fund!

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### Book Discussion Group

by Lee Richards

We've had an interesting year exploring various themes, including Faith, Hope, Charity, Love, Sex, and Earth. We have yet to do Fire, Wind and Water – but these will wait until next Fall while we enjoy the summer weather. If you want to get a start on your personal reading list, we've agreed to all read the same book for our first discussion group on September 30th.

"God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" by Christopher Hitchens may seem like an odd way to begin a church year but I think it will serve as an interesting challenge for me to prove him wrong in the following months. (I happen to believe that our Unitarian Universalist religion is more of an antidote than a poison.) So pick up a copy, and come to the group with your thoughts on 9/30. Then in October we'll have a "choose any book on the topic" discussion in the same format as we did this year. Topic for October? Fire.

### Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

by Lee Richards

The twenty-first century has arrived at PMUC. It is now possible to make donations online, or make automatic pledge payments from your choice of funding sources. If you go to the website [pmuconations.blogspot.com](http://pmuconations.blogspot.com) you'll find several choices available for making financial contributions to our mission. (You can also click on the "Donations" tab at the top of any page in our main website.)

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 using a bank transfer or a PayPal account. Of course, cash works OK, too. The offering plate will still circulate during a Sunday service to provide an opportunity for “instant wallet withdrawals.” But if you prefer to plan ahead and pay online then I invite you to check out our new donations webpage.

## **Book Launch and Signing**

Bill Lattin has done it again. Our prolific author has assembled a new book to both honor and remind us of Albion's history. His newest book - “Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York” - will be available for sale beginning June 8th. This limited edition book is being published on behalf of our church with proceeds to be used for building restoration.

Rene Schasel has shared this paper ephemera collection he received from William Nestle so that Bill could assemble this beautiful book. Featuring 200 postcard views in full color, the images cover almost an 80 year span – from the 1890's to the early 1970's.

At 6 pm on June 8th Bill will give a brief talk about the book and the postcard collection, and be available for signing your copy. Books are only \$20 each and are likely to sell quickly. (See book cover on cover page.)

## **Pledge Drive Results**

by Lee Richards

Back on March 4th I came to our membership and asked you all to pledge support of our church's mission to change lives and spread the word that God is Love. I told of my love for both this church building and this congregation. I spoke of how important it is for us to be here – holding up a mirror to the insanity of the world. I also recognized that these are difficult times for many families in the current economic climate, and that even a small donation is significant. So what happened?

YOU happened! You accepted the challenge and "stepped up to the plate." With over 90% of our members responding, the amount pledged for this coming church year is about 55% higher than last year. Some of this increase is from new member pledges, but longer-term members also made significant increases in their pledges.

I'm impressed, and I'm very grateful. This is a significant vote of confidence for our church and the work we're doing together. And, of course, it only reflects one aspect of generosity, because so many of you are also donating time and talent to the cause which would have drained off resources had we needed to hire personnel to do the work or provide the supplies. I'm sure if we were to put a dollar value on the voluntary contributions it would probably be close to matching the pledge amounts.

So, I thank you, and you should also thank yourselves. We're all in this great and marvelous journey together, helping each other.

## **Clothing Drive**

The five congregations in the GUUSTO (Genesee UU Societies Together) cluster – Albion, Brockport, Canandaigua, First Unitarian and First Universalist of Rochester – recently gathered clothing, blankets, and toys for area migrant workers in an effort organized by its Immigration Committee. GUUSTO member Carole Hoffman said a pickup truck and six cars were required to transport “beyond mounds” of items to the Brockport Clothing Center, for distribution to local migrant worker families. Pullman Memorial Universalist Church contributed one car-full of donations.

## **AED Fund**

by Lee Richards

When a minister is called to a church and installed it is common for a special project to be identified to serve as a lasting remembrance of the event. I asked that we take a step toward making our building even safer for both ourselves, and for those who use our facility, by making an AED available. An AED is an Automated External Defibrillator – or as I like to say, a "Heart Shocker" – that can be used to save precious moments while waiting for EMT's to arrive for someone who is having heart trouble. These devices are not inexpensive, but how can anyone put a price on a life?

That was back in October of last year, and the special collection taken up the day of the installation gave us a good kick-off with over \$400 toward a goal of \$1350. As of the end of May we can report having collected over \$1000, with just a little over \$300 left to reach our goal. Let's now carry the ball home and wrap up this fundraiser.

You may donate on our main website [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org) using PayPal or any major credit card and it will be earmarked for the AED. Or you can donate by check or cash - just be sure to notate "AED" so we'll know to add it to the special fund. So Help Us Help You - after all, you never know what "heart-stopping" event may transpire when at church!

## **Eye on the Board of Trustees**

The May 20th board of trustees meeting dealt mostly with a wide variety of "money matters." A decision was made to move all of our banking to First Niagara Bank (checking, savings, and safety deposit box). A new savings account will be established solely for special fundraising projects as a way to keep those monies separate from the general fund.

A new Scottrade account is in process of being created for managing the various endowment investments. After meeting with a couple of professional fundraisers, the board opted to search for a pro grant writer first. Lee Richards has started creating an online storefront for the church – it will have product such as the chalice pendants, Bill's book (and other books), and assorted Pullman collectibles.

The board voted to become a sponsor of the 2012 LGBT Faith Days at the New York State Fair at the \$100 level, which gives us an ad in the daily Fair program for all 12 days. Also, a \$100 fee will be paid to the Strawberry Festival so we can have a flyer in their program booklet. Finally, the board agreed to pay the balance of our Fair Share support to the UUA and St. Lawrence District.

Other actions included starting a discussion of proposed Bylaws amendments, Children's Church, appointments to various committees (yet to be confirmed), an annual review of the minister and his contract, a reception for retiring Rev. John Rex, developing a plan for roof repairs over the dining room, and more. The complete minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

## **Chalice Lighters**

by Lee Richards

During the service on May 6th I talked about our UU district's Chalice Lighters program. I pointed out that only a small commitment on your part can result in a big payout for a congregation in need. The numbers are quite amazing, but that's only because so many people are willing to commit to making a donation when called upon to do so. A \$20 pledge can become \$10,000! There probably isn't a better "return" on your money anywhere.

This is an excellent opportunity and I encourage everyone to enroll. You'll only be asked to honor your pledge twice a year so it shouldn't be a burden. The feel-good reward of knowing you can help another UU church is well worth it. Wouldn't it be great to know that you've helped expand the base of pledgers so the dispersals could be even higher?

Please print, clip and mail your pledge form (do not sent money now).

**YES! I want to share the light.** I wish to enroll as a Chalice Lighter and will contribute the amount noted below two times per year.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation name \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount per Call:

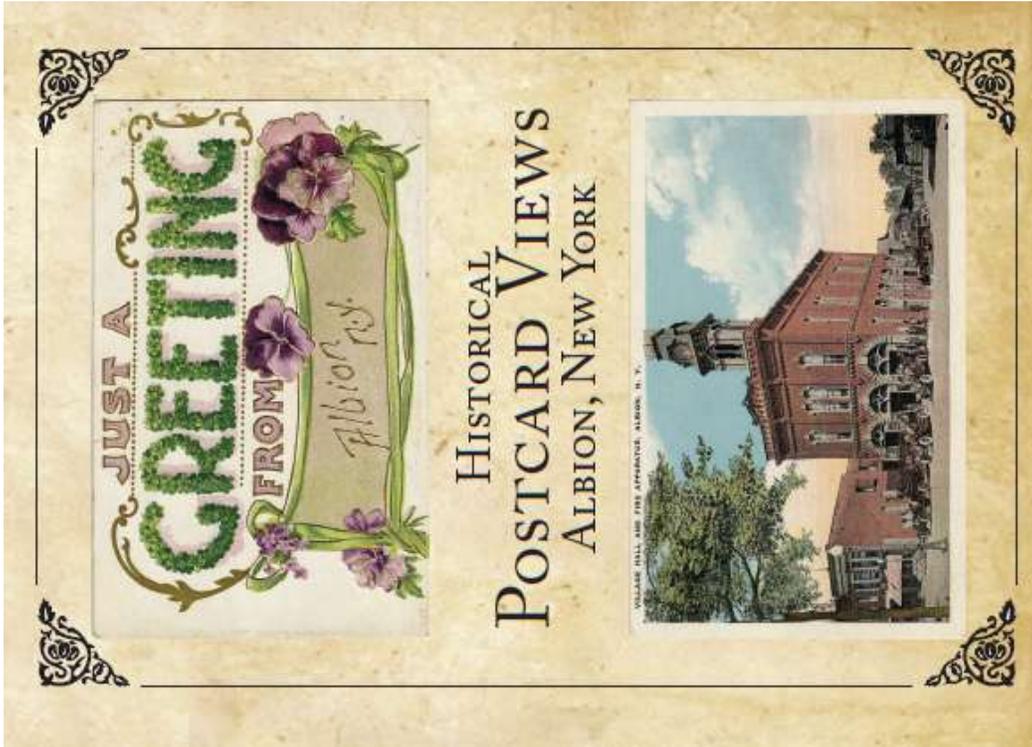
Circle one: \$20 \$50 \$100 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am already a Chalice Lighter, this is an increase in my pledge.

**DO NOT SEND MONEY AT THIS TIME**

Return completed form to:  
St. Lawrence District, UUA  
PO Box 1045  
Buffalo, New York 14240-1045

Rev. Mar. '12



Pullman Memorial Universalist Church  
P.O. Box 87  
Albion, NY 14411

