

The Grapevine Newsletter



June 2016

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

Visit our Website pullmanmemorial.org -- Follow us on facebook.com/pullmanmemorial

Dear Fellow UU members,

I would like to thank the members of the new board at Pullman Memorial for their vote of confidence in selecting me to be the board chairperson. I would also like to thank Pat Cammarata and Chris Loss for their assistance in bringing me up to speed on our current work and our goals for the future. It is no secret that the past 18 months have been difficult for our membership. Most of us have been scratching our heads trying to understand how we became so polarized and accusatory toward one another as members increasingly became disillusioned. I believe that our problem was the inability of the board, indeed the entire membership, to communicate effectively and accept differences of opinion as valid concerns.

Our community has always welcomed new members, whatever their past affiliations might be, with open arms. We have never needed a litmus test of an individual's "acceptability" to become a member of Pullman Memorial. Most of us come from a variety of spiritual and religious traditions, generally seeking something more. We are searchers in many cases, wanting more tolerance and understanding, more sharing, more truth, and, I believe, finding those things in our community. There is plenty of blame to go around regarding the past months. We need to leave that behind, heal our community and look to the future. Everyone will have ideas on how best to proceed. We need to share those ideas with respect and flexibility. Finally, I would like every member to know that the board at Pullman Memorial serves the membership. Our decisions will be made with the full participation and consensus of our membership. That, it seems to me, is the meaning of democracy.

Rich Della Costa

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

June 5	Rev. Donald Reidell	
June 12	Darrell Dyke	"A Wave of the Wand"
June 19	Rev. Lori Staubitz	
June 26	Susan Daiss	Service at Cobblestone
July 3	Rev. Donald Algeo with Darrell Dyke	Patriotic Service at Cobblestone with Gaines Congregational Church

Anyone may bring a snack for Coffee Hour and for the Cobblestone Services.

Coming Events

Sunday, June 5 – Worship Service at 11:00 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

Monday, June 5 – Potluck Supper. Join us at 6:30 pm for Good Food and Fellowship.
All are welcome (with or without a dish to share.)

Friday & Saturday, June 10 – 11 – Strawberry Festival

Our church will be open for tours and several organizations will be there with booths. Doughnuts and coffee will be sold both days and popcorn on Saturday. A sign-up sheet will be available.

Sunday, June 12 – Worship Service at 11:00 am with Darrell Dyke. "A Wave of the Wand" – a story about the first magic wand. How does magical thinking help or hinder us? What would we do if we could just wave our wands and make something happen?

Sunday, June 19 – Board of Trustees meets at 9:00 am.

Sunday, June 19 – Worship Service at 11:00 am with Rev. Lori Staubitz.

Sunday, June 26 – Finance Committee meets at 9:00 am at PMUC. We will adjourn in time for drive to Cobblestone.

Sunday, June 26 – Our annual Worship Service at Cobblestone at 11:00 am with Susan Diass.

Sunday, June 26 – Deadline for newsletter submissions is the last Sunday of each month. Please send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Sunday, July 3 – Patriotic Worship Service @ 11:00 am with Rev. Donald Algeo and Darrell Dyke at the Cobblestone Church in Childs. This is a joint service with the Congregational Church of Gaines and Pullman Memorial held at the historic church at 14389 Ridge Road West.

Please note that cash in the offering plate is donated to the Cobblestone Museum to assist in upkeep of the building. (Envelopes and checks go to respective churches.)

Please reserve **Sunday, August 7** to attend our Annual Mid-Summer Service and Picnic. More info in our July issue.

Joys and Concerns

Marilyn Kilborn - her brother, Dan, was in a bad accident recently but somehow walked away with minor injuries. What a relief that he is ok!

Tobin Carson, Darrell Dyke, and Leyland and Aiden spent some time in Puerto Rico in April to not only take in the beauty of the tropical paradise but for Tobin to attend a work function. The facebook pictures were amazing!

Chris Loss – is so glad to see Alan Nugent back from Florida! [And Alan is equally happy to be with you again.]

Dennis Seekins – is excited that new writings of Walt Whitman have been discovered!

Rich Della Costa's father, Frank, died peacefully at 95 years in Florida in mid-April. Rich is glad he was down there for his father's birthday, with family all around. Our profound condolences at this said time, Rich and Eileen! The family also celebrated the 100th birthday of one of Rich's aunts.

Darrell Dyke – said he attended a meeting at the school for his son, Aiden, and found out how awesome he is. Apparently, it was a very good report!

Chris Loss – reported that her husband Ernie's grandmother, Reita Loss, 98 years, passed away peacefully at home on May 5th. Reita was a great-great grandmother to Chris and Ernie's grandsons, Caden and Carson. Reita was the kind of woman who always had the coffee going for anyone who wanted to stop by and visit. And she pampered generations of children. Reita was devoted to her family and will be very much missed.

Matt Adema – had surgery on his shoulder. He is doing rehab and progressing well.

Diana Dudley and Deborah Rodrigues have signed the membership book and are once again members of the church. We are very excited to have you back!

Tyler Smith will be leaving for Europe June 9. He and a group of 4H friends will tour Europe starting with England and ending at Croatia by Eurorail. At every stop they will meet more friends.

Pullman Plaudits

Marilyn Kilborn – who submitted the Pullman Cookbook for publishing recently. We can't wait to see the finished product!! Marilyn worked hard collecting recipes and putting this book together.

C.W. Lattin and Sara Phillips – their three-year term on the Board ended in May. Thanks to both of you for your hard work!

Alan Nugent – has assumed the role of Assistant Treasurer and will be managing the endowment. He has also agreed to work on the Grapevine Newsletter, along with Chris Loss and other volunteers.

Monica Beck – has agreed to be the Church Secretary and was voted in at the meeting in May.

Diana Dudley – was voted in as Treasurer at the last Board meeting. Julie Andrews will be assisting her with Quickbooks. Debby Rodrigues will also be assisting Diana.

Liz Schaal – agreed to serve on the Board and was voted in.

Welcome new Board members: Pat Cammarata, Rich Della Costa, Jim Hobbs, Darrell Dyke, Liz Schaal, and Chris Loss! We are very excited to announce that Rich Della Costa will be the Chairperson, and Pat Cammarata will serve as Vice-Chairperson.

Betty Knight, Patti Adema, Marilyn Kilborn, and C.W. Lattin for putting together a nice farewell party for Pastor Lee Richards on May 22nd.

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.

Eye on the Board

At the Board Meeting on Sunday, May 15th, Rich Della Costa was elected as Chairperson and Pat Cammarata as Vice-Chairperson. In Rich's absence, Pat chaired the meeting. Liz Schaal was elected as a Board member, Diana Dudley was elected as Treasurer and Monica Beck as Church Secretary. Pastoral care for the members was discussed. Darrell Dyke will contact Joan Van Beclare to attend a Board Retreat to assist the Board with transition issues. A motion was made to assign Diana Dudley, Pat Cammarata, and Chris Loss bank and check signing privileges. Darrell Dyke will continue with the Jedi Knight RE curriculum, and will oversee the website. Items to be considered at the retreat will include what programs will be needed to help heal the congregation, conflict resolution, ministerial issues, etc. The Strawberry Festival was discussed. The Pulpit Committee has created a June schedule. Alan will resume management of the endowment.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

Our website pullmanmemorialdonations.com offers several choices for making contributions. 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 and PayPal are accepted.

Money often costs too much.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

