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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

March is a good month for deepening your spirituality, and we have several opportunities for doing so planned at Pullman Memorial.

Our guest speaker, Kelly Kilmer Hall, will inform us how the practice of prayer is useful for Unitarian Universalists. I'll broach the topic of regrets and what we might learn by reflecting upon our personal histories. For Easter Sunday I'll consider what a "mature" UU spirituality looks like, or put another way, "are we there yet?" In between I'll share info on a project to clone Jesus - would this be the game-changer that heightens everyone's spirituality to the max?

Communing with each other is also an aspect of developing and deepening a spiritual life. A wonderful way to do this is just getting together to chat - during potlucks, while going "walk-about," in social hour, at a book discussion, or for a movie - and all of these are scheduled opportunities throughout March.

Plus we have a very **special event on Saturday, March 23rd**. A descendant of the original founder of Universalism will be with us for a tea party at 3 pm that day. Gretchen Murray Sepik will portray Unitarian author Beatrix Potter and regale us with stories. This is a direct connection to our spiritual past, a sort of living history event, that you should not miss.

And Sarah Diemer will generously continue offering a weekly vespers service on Thursday evenings. Meditation is a powerful practice. Doing it in the company of others with some guidance takes it to the next level. I recommend everyone set aside the time to attend at least one of these services while they are available.

Make this March magnificent and deepen your spirituality. It'll be marvelous!

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Mar. 3	Chaplain Kelly Kilmer Hall	"Prayer: Many Paths to the Sacred"	
Mar. 10	Lee Richards	"Regrets: A Look at What If?"	Finance com. @ 10:00 2nd Sun. Stroll @ 12:30
Mar. 17	Lee Richards	"Come Again?" – "Really?"	BoT meets @ 9:00
Mar. 24	Susan Daiss		Book discussion @ 12:30
Mar. 31	Lee Richards	Easter Communion Service – "Filling the God-shaped Hole"	

Wednesday, Feb. 27 – ‘4th Wednesday Walkies’ @ NOON. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Wednesday, Feb. 27 – “Gun Forum and Potluck” @ 6:30 pm. Members and friends of PMUC are invited to a dish-to-pass potluck supper that includes a thoughts-to-pass conversation about gun control and the issue of violence in America. Please come to listen to others share their opinions and ideas, and to share your own.

Thursday, Feb. 28 – “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. Join Sarah Diemer for a quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Mar. 3 – “Prayer: Many Paths to the Sacred” worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Kelly Kilmer Hall. As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace a diversity of theological underpinnings in our life journeys. Prayer in its many forms can be a powerful spiritual practice. Kelly is a candidate for UU ministry, a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, and did her internship at May Memorial UU Society of Syracuse. She is a member of First Unitarian Church of Rochester, and currently serves as a hospital chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital. Kelly has 4 children, 3 dogs, 1 cat, 1 bunny, 1 guinea pig, and 1 husband. She hails from the mountains of Pennsylvania, but has lived in Rochester for the last 10 years.

Monday, Mar. 4 – “Potluck Supper” @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and conversation.

Thursday, Mar. 7 - “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Mar. 10 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Mar. 10 – “Regrets: A Look at What If?” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. When reflecting upon your life have you ever wondered, “What if?” What if I had taken a different course of study in school? What if I’d held onto that job I was so anxious to leave? What if I had spoken up to that captivating-looking person I saw briefly in a store? What if I had zigged when I should have zagged, or taken the road less traveled? Like a Frank Sinatra song: “Regrets, I’ve had a few, but then again, too few to mention...”

Sunday, Mar. 10 – Second Sunday Stroll @ 12:30 pm. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals. Followed by a light soup lunch.

Thursday, Mar. 14 - “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Mar. 17 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Mar. 17 – “Come Again?” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Cloning the miraculous - sort of another look at the “What if” question from the previous week - and posing the additional question, “Really?”

Wednesday, Mar. 20 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. “The Party” with Peter Sellers. This movie is short on plot but long on laughs. Offered as a break from all the serious documentaries we’ve been watching. Come on out and party with us! Free admission & popcorn.

Thursday, Mar. 21 - “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Saturday, Mar. 23 – Beatrix Potter Tea Party @ 3 pm. Gretchen Murray Sepik – descendent of John Murray (founder of the Universalist religion) – portrays Unitarian author Potter. Refreshments of tea & finger sandwiches. Free will donation.

Sunday, Mar. 24 – worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Susan Daiss.

Sunday, Mar. 24 – Book Discussion group @ 12:30 pm. This month it’s “anything goes” on the theme of “Fire.” Choose any book related to the element of fire and then share what you learned and how you were influenced – by the author.

Monday, Mar. 25 – Last day for newsletter submissions. Please send articles and news in advance of this date, if possible.

Wednesday, Mar. 27 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ time to be announced. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.”

Thursday, Mar. 7 - "Vespers Service" @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Mar. 31 – Easter Communion Service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. One of our website's quotes of the week in February was "The bottom line reason just about everyone shows up at a church, especially a Unitarian Universalist church, is that they have felt a 'God-shaped hole' in their life." [Rev. Tony Lorenzen]. It can be filled with more than just God, which we'll explore today.

Monday, Apr. 1 - Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Open invitation to one and all - come and enjoy good food and conversation. Dish-to-pass.

April 26-27 – District Assembly in Niagara Falls, NY. "Out of Bounds: Moving Beyond Our Boundaries." Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, will be the keynote speaker. Early registration deadline for discounts is March 29. More info at www.ohiomeadville.org/districtassembly

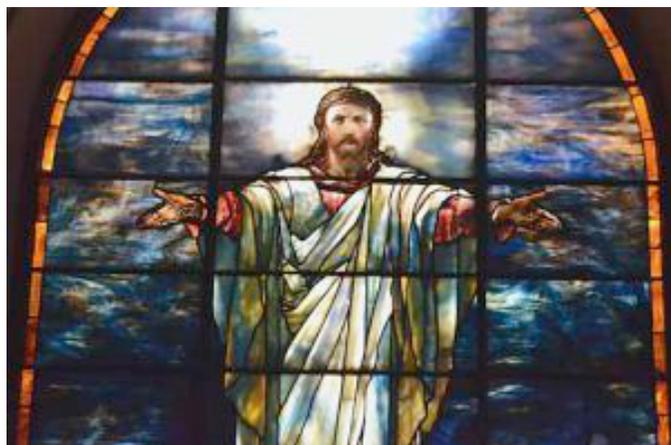
Sunday, April 28 - Annual Congregational Meeting @ 12:15 pm.

JOYS & SORROWS

•Gay Smith – Tyler performed at a Prism concert at the Kodak Theater on February 10th.

•C.W. Lattin – made a recent observation that two teenage girls were walking hand in hand in town, showing each other obvious affection. It was pleasant to see that we have made progress because ten years ago, that would not have happened in this town.

•Louise Wu Richards – was excited about an article in the paper by Tom Rivers that talks about our church and our Tiffany windows, in the context of sights in Albion that people should be aware of and visit. And he stressed that this is an asset that is worth getting the word out about. If you wish to read the article, go online to the Batavia Daily News website and type in 'Tom Rivers: Tourism Promotion Efforts Should Include Religious Art'. And see the image of our most prized Tiffany window!



•Chris Loss- pointed out that Rene' Schasel had a birthday this past week on February 6th. Happy Birthday, Rene'!!

•Susan Daiss – proudly announced on the 17th that her daughter has been cast in the upcoming 'Vaginal Monologues'..more information to come!

•Chris Loss – expressed gratitude to Diana Dudley for the lovely piano rendition of the song 'Jean' and to Susan for her kind words, as February 17th marks one year since her mother passed away. Chris said her mother is most certainly smiling down on us for remembering her. She loved this church so much. And she would be also pleased to see Dylan Miller and Brittany in attendance today, two wonderful people who cared for her at the Orleans County Nursing Home. And speaking of the Nursing Home, the Legislature is once again gearing up to sell the facility and there will most certainly be a response from the community!

•Louise Wu Richards – a lot of people of conscience are preparing to go to Washington to protest the proposed pipeline through the US, hydrofracking, and other issues.

•Debby Rodrigues – was so pleased to have traveled to see her 4th grandchild recently . And the bond between them was as if they had known each other forever. The thought of it brings tears to her eyes. Congratulations Debby!!

•Susan Daiss – can't believe it but her son turned 32 recently! The years do seem to fly by!

•Pastor Lee Richards – was so happy to have had help in preparing for the Breakfast with the Minister on the 24th! Louise, of course, did a lot, but C.W. Lattin did some fabulous set-up, and Chris Loss cooked the eggs, and there was help during clean-up from Sherry and David Hagmier, and Liz Schaal.

•Chris Loss – thanked Pastor Lee and Louise for another wonderful spread for the Breakfast with the Minister!! It was great! Scrambled eggs, oatmeal, bacon, bagels, croissants, etc. It’s true the UU’s really know how to cook and eat!

•Debby Rodrigues – was so pleased to introduce her friend, Mary Beth, from her college days!!

•Louise Wu Richards – Andrew Cuomo visited Rochester recently and Louise and friends were there to greet him and do a bit more protesting. And she was pleased to report that a woman in Rochester had paid off her house but had gotten behind in her taxes. And because of the action of a Republican office holder, her house is no longer up for auction...YEAH!!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Craig and Gay Smith who became “instant plumbers” when the main toilet stopped working and spent many hours sorting out the problem on a Sunday afternoon.

Gay Smith for agreeing to take a seat on the board until the annual meeting (completing Beth Allen’s term).

•Rich Della Costa – for his jazzy and awesome rendition of ‘Amazing Grace’ on Feb. 3rd.

•Gay Smith – for agreeing to serve on the Board until the end of the year.

•Dennis Seekins – for risking life and limb to come out to the Board meeting in February, even though he had tried once before to venture out and had gone off the road. Thankfully, he wasn’t hurt!

•Pastor Lee Richards – for the most wonderful canvassing sermon ever on February 24th! He talked about how much he loves this church, and how

amazingly generous everyone has been this year with their time and talents. He was blown away! As we have been inspired by all of his hard work, as well! And thanks to Lee and Louise for the most incredible Breakfast With the Minister! Another triumph!

•Tyler Smith – has been a terrific addition to our line-up of talented pianists!

•Beth Allen – who has been such a tremendous asset to the Board this year! Sadly, she felt it was best to step down recently due to health concerns. But all the work that she has done this year has been very much appreciated! She is truly a Fabulous Female!!

•Craig Smith – who spent a great deal of time trying to fix items around the church!

•Andrea Rebeck, Pastor Lee, Dennis Seekins, C.W. Lattin, Diana Dudley, and Chris Loss – who will be meeting with Colleen Heemeyer from the NYS Conservancy on February 27 for a site visit.

•Chris Loss – said that a friend told her about a phenomenon that occurred in Brockport recently and showed her pictures of the snowballs that just appeared in some lawns. Because of the way the wind had happened to blow, it created the effect of snowballs and what a glorious panorama!!

•Dennis Seekins – talked about how he appreciates that we have some nice fluffy snow that is easy to shovel!

•Debby Rodrigues – has recently traveled to Portland, Oregon, and has seen the traffic there day after day. She REALLY appreciates the lack of traffic in this area!

•Susan Daiss – saw intact droplets on her car recently and if you looked closely, you could just see incredible beauty!

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.

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!

Bunny Rabbit Tea Party with Beatrix Potter

March 23 @ 3 pm. A very special event for all ages on the Saturday before Easter: Gretchen Murray Sepik, veteran children's theater actor and descendant of Universalism's founder, Rev. John Murray, will play Beatrix Potter in an interactive performance, followed by a complimentary English afternoon tea reception with "Beatrix." Children under 12 bring your adult and a favorite bunny toy to the party! Free or a voluntary donation at the door to benefit Pullman's playroom and dining hall restoration project. More info at pullmanmemorial.org/special-events

Annual Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars now to reserve April 28th. Immediately following the service we'll sit down in the social hall with pizza and consider the business of the church. Several Bylaws amendments are up for review. Plus there will be the election of officers, committee reports, and all the usual stuff that turns out to be downright interesting.

Pullman Pledges

It's that time of year when the Board of Trustees needs some numbers in order to be able to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year. Pledge forms will be available soon. Please return your form by the end of this month. Thank you.

New on our Website

Check out the newly launched pullman125project.com. This "extra page" joins our roster of interactive ways to connect to the exciting 125th Anniversary and Architectural Restoration projects.

It seems like time is flying by and that's why we're already making plans to celebrate our "double 125th" - 2016 marks the 125th anniversary of the formation of the congregation, and 2020 will mark the 125th anniversary of the opening of the building.

Many of you will have already received the premiere issue of the *Pullman Architectural News*. This printed newsletter provides some background information on the immediate events coming up, such as the Beatrix Potter Tea Party. The [pullman125project](http://pullman125project.com) puts that info, and more, out to the wider, online audience.

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 labeled 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.

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.

Pullman Memorial Online Store

Bill Lattin's limited edition book, *Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York*, is just one of a number of items available for purchase in our "virtual storefront." We also have a variety of collectibles related to Pullman, other books, DVDs, postcards, and more. The next time you feel a need for a little consumerism, why not shop your favorite church market first? Proceeds go to a great cause. Go to: pullmanmemorial.com (more items coming soon so check back often)

Pullman Pastor's Blog by Lee Richards

Do you know about spiritual sustainability? How about the spiritual experience of art? Are you aware of shape-shifting through time? Did the One Billion Rising movement catch your attention? These are some of the topics that recently appeared in my blog.

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.

Eye on the Board

A lot of business was on the table in February. The board continued exploring options for Children's Church and childcare. It was with sincere regret that the trustees accepted the early resignation of Dr. Beth Allen from the board (citing health concerns). Beth was serving a one-year term. Gay Smith was appointed to complete Beth's term.

The date of the next annual meeting was set as April 28, 2013. All church committees will be notified through their board liaisons to submit proposed budgets for the next fiscal year, and the board will work to develop a 5-year operating budget (subject to annual review) for purposes of grant applications. The finance committee was granted approval to sell two stocks considered to not be socially responsible and reinvest those funds into the UU Common Endowment Mutual Fund.

With notice that the county legislature is again planning to privatize the nursing home, it is expected our church will offer its facilities to the Concerned Citizens group for organizing and public information meetings.

Louise Wu Richards described several fundraising activities that are in the works, including a newsletter and website (pullman125project.com). Pastor Lee suggested creating a church policy manual to provide guidance in a number of matters - the trustees agreed to work on this at their next mini-retreat in May.

- Complete minutes are available upon request.

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