



---

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

## **Minister Musings** by Lee Richards

Gosh, amazing things are happening in our beloved congregation. Certainly, no one was more amazed than I was when people started clamoring to join our church!

It happened during our Earth Day worship service. We held our new member ceremony as Liz Schall formally signed THE BOOK. It was important for her to do it on Earth Day since she is so environmentally focused and wants to help us live into our seventh principle even more so than we have thus far. Then we slid into Joys and Sorrows and suddenly another person spoke up about wanting to become a member because Earth Day held special meaning for her, too.

Well, I wasn't about to wait around for another whole year to give her that opportunity, and the congregation unanimously agreed. So I invited Debby Rodriguez up to the front and she added her name to the roll of members that goes back almost 120 years.

As it's been said, we must be doing something right. Debby spoke about how each service she has attended here has moved her – whether it was a song, or a reading, or something said in a sermon. For her, attending our church is enriching her life. I'm always saying that our mission is to change lives for the better, and our two newest members affirmed that on Earth Day.

Now, of course, we don't do altar calls, even if it sort of felt like it that day. I fully expect every person considering joining our church will do so only after some experience and deliberation. Unitarian Universalism can sometimes be a difficult concept to wrap one's brain around. We are a church without a creed but that does not mean you can believe whatever you want. We are also a covenantal church, which means that each member has agreed to respect the others, and to work to support our beloved community.

Love is our guiding principle and even though that is easy to say, I know full well that at times it can be difficult to live. Misunderstandings and disagreements are sure to happen sooner or later. But remembering to hold Love in our hearts, we can agree to disagree and treat each other respectfully.

None of us are perfect beings – we have our various warts and flaws and failings – and that is precisely why we need to "do church." For it is by coming together each week that we can practice being in right relationship with other people, and then take what we've learned back into the secular world.

Becoming a member is a process. It might feel as though it happens all at once when you put pen to paper and sign your name in our log. But the reality is that we are all in constant formation, growing into our membership even years after the ceremony is behind us. (For an analogy – one becomes an adult at 21 but what it means to be an adult changes with time.)

So please, come and check us out. Attend several services and experience our variety of ministers and speakers. Partake of our special events – pot-luck suppers, book discussions, movies, even our committee meetings! Borrow a book or two from our library. Ask questions of other members, or of me. And when it feels right to you to make a commitment then let me know. The book awaits you, and I guarantee the congregation will joyfully welcome you with applause, too

---

## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

---

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
May 6	Lily Hollister	"Teaching in the Amazon Rainforest"	
May 13	Rev. John Rex	"The Year of the Maya"	
May 20	Lee Richards	"Commonly Held Beliefs"	
May 27	Lee Richards	"A Memorial Day to Remember"	
June 3	Rev. Donald Reidell		

**Thursday, May 3** – Presentation by Dr. John Ghertner of the Migrant Support Services of Wayne County and student Yessica Chavez @7:30PM at the First Unitarian, Winton Rd, Rochester. Focus will be on the historical perspective which led to the DREAM Act. Jessica will speak about personal experiences as a 'Dream' student. In Dr. Ghertner's words "this is the most important human rights issue facing our country today." Sponsored by the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church.

**Sunday, May 6** – "Teaching in the Amazon Rainforest" worship service @ 11 am. Lily Hollister will present a program on a bi-cultural effort of education in Ecuador.

**Sunday, May 6** – Book Discussion group meets after coffee hour (about 12:30 pm). This month's topic is "Earth." Choose a book to read on the topic and then share with us how it impacted your spiritual life.

**Monday, May 7** – Pot-luck supper @ 6:30 pm. Any and all invited to join in for good food and conversation.

**Sunday, May 15** – "The Year of the Maya" worship service @ 11 am with Rev. John Rex. No, the world is not going to come to an end in 2012, but now that the Maya have our attention, let us consider who they were and are and how their lives are connected to ours.

**Friday – Saturday, May 18-19** – Transforming Women's Spirits, 3rd Annual St. Lawrence District Unitarian Universalist Women & Religion Women's Spirituality Conference. Starts at 5 pm Fri. and runs through 5:30 pm Sat. Location: First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 109 Waring Road, Syracuse, NY 13224. \$75 Registration due by May 10th. More info at [www.slduuwr.org](http://www.slduuwr.org)

**Sunday, May 20** – Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am

**Sunday, May 20** – "Commonly Held Beliefs" worship service @ 11 am. Our look at the history of Unitarian Universalism continues with this installment focusing on how our beliefs – and the language we use to speak about them – have changed over the past 200 years. Presented by Lee Richards.

**Sunday, May 27** – "A Memorial Day to Remember" worship service @ 11 am. Lee Richards will conduct a service to help us remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country.

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

### *Looking ahead...*

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

**Sunday, June 10** – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. John Rex. 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** – 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.

**Sunday, June 24** – Joint worship service at Cobblestone Church with Brockport UU Fellowship @ 11 am. Rev. Peggy Meeker preaching.

**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 a few 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.
- Among several other tasks!

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.

### "500 Years Of Music For Guitar"

Mark your calendars now for this event in June! Here is a great way to enjoy your Father's Day afternoon at Pullman Memorial. Guitarist and composer Peter Griggs will explore the music of the classical guitar, from the Renaissance to the Contemporary. The program includes music by Gaspar Sanz, Johann Sebastian Bach, Bartolome Calatuyud, Django Rheinhardt and Thelonious Monk, as well as Flamenco, Brazilian music, and several of Griggs' own compositions.

Peter Griggs has presented more than 350 solo guitar concerts in the USA, United Kingdom, Germany, and elsewhere in Europe at art centres, museums, festivals, churches, jazz clubs and other venues. We are very fortunate to be able to bring his talent to Albion. Be sure to spread the word to friends and neighbors about this special event. Sunday June 17th, @ 3 pm. No admission is charged, but a free will offering will be taken. CDs of music will also be available for purchase.

---

### JOYS & SORROWS

---

- Welcome two new members, **Liz Schall and Debbie Rodriguez**. Both ladies joined on Earth Day because of their concern about the planet. It's great to have you as new family members!
- John Orr's father** died the Thursday before Easter and our condolences to him, Jen and the boys. It's very difficult to lose your father.
- Rich Della Costa's mother, Rose**, died in Florida a few weeks ago. Our hearts are with you and Eileen and family at this very sad time.
- Alan Nugent** – is back from Florida and we are all very glad to see him!!
- Sara Phillips** – had a joy on Easter that her family accompanied her to church!

- Sarah Diemer and Jen Diemer's dog** was missing for 24 hours and finally returned home! Glad there was a happy ending and you were reunited with your beloved dog!!
- Liz Schall** – said she is filled with joy about being here with us and enjoys being here! We enjoy having you here, too, Liz!!!
- Gay Smith** – had the joy of having both of her sons home recently!
- Beth Allen** – talked about the 80th birthday party that her mother planned for about five years for herself and almost postponed the event. But she did manage to put the party together and it was two days of unique fun. And it's a good thing she didn't put it off, because six months later, she was told she had pancreatic cancer and died 10 days later. There's a lesson there about planning for time with your family.
- Debbie Rodriguez** – thanked Beth Allen for pointing her in the direction of this church, because every time she has attended, she has heard something that resonated with her,

and wanted the congregation to know what a great place this is. Thanks, Debbie, we think you are pretty wonderful, too!

•**Andrea Rebeck** – reminded the congregation that wind and solar power may not be the best answer to our energy crisis, and we need to press for other solutions. Debbie Rodriguez remarked, also, that she used to teach environmental science and has been an activist, and agreed with Andrea and also said we need to get away from oil.

•**Chris Loss** – is very grateful that we have Pastor Lee Richards and his wife, Louise, with us. It has been a great year of so many exciting things happening and so much accomplished!! Great job, Pastor Lee!

•**Jim Knight** – was pleased to announce that on the 17th, he and his wife, Betty, celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary!! Congratulations! In this day of most marriages ending in divorce, this is a great accomplishment!

•**Craig Smith** – found it ironic that on Earth Day, a winter storm was predicted.

---

---

### PULLMAN PLAUDITS

---

---

•**Sarah and Jennifer** Diemer for graciously agreeing to serve on the Fund-Raising Committee, and for hosting the first meeting. They have so many great ideas! And also thanks to them for making the chalice pendants that are on display in the

coffee hour room. They are beautiful and cost only \$12...proceeds go to the church.

•**Alan Nugent** – for all of the work that he has done on the Newsletter despite being in Florida all winter! He doesn't miss a beat!

•**C.W. Lattin** – who has displayed some exquisite Victorian religious prints in relation to Holy week. If you haven't seen them, take a look. He also was here all day for the Genealogical Society book signing on the 21st. And as if that wasn't enough, he is currently working on a postcard book that he hopes to have done to sell at the Strawberry Festival.

•**Tyler Smith** – who starred in the Kendall School Production 'Arsenic and Old Lace' this past month, and was also in Boston performing recently. What talent!

•**Andrea Rebeck** – who brought in fund-raising advisor Anthony Battaglia recently to speak to the Board about how to conduct a Capital Fundraising project. He brought lots of materials and was very helpful.

•**Diana Dudley** – for her continued work with the Occupy Albion group. They still meet every Monday night at 3:00 pm. If you would like to participate, you are more than welcome!

---

---

### Election of Officers and Committee Members at our 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting held Sunday, April 29 the membership thanked all of our Board and Committee members for their service during the past year. Special recognition was made to Dick Hoffman for his over 30 years as Treasurer. Pastor Lee presented a certificate to Dick in appreciation of his dedicated service.

New members appointed to the Board of Trustees are:

Richard Della Costa – 3 years, replacing Dick Hoffman

Dr. Beth Allen – 1 year, replacing C. W. Lattin

Diana Dudley was appointed Treasurer with Alan Nugent as assistant.

Sara Phillips remains Church Secretary and Collector for one year.

Heather Boyd joins the Nomination Committee; Gay Smith continues as carryover.

Betty Knight and Jenn Diemer join the Pulpit committee

Complete board 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 585-436-1786, 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.

## **The Church Year in Review**

by Lee Richards

Regular readers of this newsletter will know this has been an exciting 12 months at PMUC. New subscribers, however, may have missed some of the goings-on so let me pick out some highlights from the Annual Meeting reports of April 29th.

Sunday services were a big hit this past year. Our rotating slate of UU ministers continued with many thought-provoking insights coming from the pulpit. Several special services were also offered, including a 9/11 community service, the bestowing of Minister Emeritus upon Rev. Dick Hood coupled with my installation, and a winter solstice ceremony. We heard presentations about Afghanistan war orphans, undocumented workers, Take Back the Land, poetry, and organ music.

Some special events were a joy, but at least one was a sorrow. We lost a pillar of the church when Jean Bistoff's soul energy was reunited with the universe. On the joyous side, we witnessed our first legal gay wedding, had a half dozen new members join our ranks, and as a congregation, dedicated ourselves to helping raise a child.

Conversations ran a wide gamut, and evoked much laughter, too, whether they emanated from pot-luck suppers, or book discussions, or the minister movies, or just in coffee hour. Heck, even some committee meetings were uplifting, especially the reactivated fund-raising committee which has amazing plans for generating "buzz" for our church while also adding to our coffers.

Part of the buzz also revolved around our redesigned website, which generated over 4500 visits during the year, and was, perhaps, the number one resource for initiating new people to find us, and to come pay us a visit. A second website is now up, dedicated to the Alternative Craft Fair we'll hold in June.

Our congregation was better represented with other Rochester area UU churches as we had a liaison attending GUUSTO meetings. Your pastor and his spouse marched in the Rochester Gay Pride Parade last summer, carrying a sign to promote Pullman Memorial. Lee also represented us at the New York State Convention of Universalists in October, and in February NYSCU made a loan to PMUC for repairs to our roof.

The building itself saw some renewal and updating, with repairs to the basement windows, new floor support columns, and a repainted wheelchair ramp. Internet service and WiFi were installed, a changing table with eco-friendly diapers added to the main restroom, and research into improving our sound system for the hearing impaired was begun.

Your board of trustees worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make everything function smoothly. They considered alternative ways of handling our financial resources, and began to examine professional fundraising. A grant was submitted for roofing funds, although we did not get the award.

As my second year as your pastor is about to begin I feel even more honored for being a part of this energy in the air. There is more smiling, more singing, more determination than ever to spread the word of Love into the darkest corners of the county. This shared ministry between the members of Pullman Memorial Universalist Church and your pastor rocks, and it is only by the combined efforts of all that we are blessed by joy. So hold on to your hats because if this past year is any indication, the one about to be launched should be amazing!

### **"Help Us Help You"**

PMUC's campaign to purchase an AED (portable defibrillator) continues. We've received about \$850 but we still need your help to reach our \$1350 goal. You can donate on our website <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** -from the April Board Meeting-

Much of the meeting held on April 15th was devoted to finances in one aspect or another, in preparation for the annual congregational meeting on the 29th.

The fund-raising committee reported a plan for holding events throughout the year (one each season). First up is the Alternative Craft Fair and Book Sale. Bill Lattin also volunteered to create a book about Albion with the proceeds after costs being a donation to the church.

Year-end finances were discussed, as well as a look at the budget proposals for the next fiscal church year. The pulpit committee was asked to request funding for upgrading the sound system. Two meetings about professional fundraising were on the schedule – one for later that same day and one the next evening.

Other topics covered included summer services, Rev. John Rex's retirement, management of the endowment funds, the GUUSTO clothing drive, and more.

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

