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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

Busy as bees. When putting together a list of events happening at our church I was surprised, again, at how much activity goes on here. Book discussion, movie night, walkies, meditation, potluck supper, and committee meetings all add up. This month our building will also be open for touring on May 18 and 19. Plus, our edifice is used by outside groups - the Genealogical Society and the Concerned Citizens of Orleans County. All these things are in addition to Sunday services.

Our annual congregational meeting affirmed this greater level of activity. Reports from Chris Loss and others were reminders for me of all that has transpired here in the past 12 months. I think if we were to look back at the earlier history of our congregation - say, for example, in the 1910's - we'd all be pleased by how vibrant our church community has become again in the 2010's.

New this month is the startup of a bereavement support group. Losing a loved one can be very difficult. My experience as a hospital chaplain has proven to me that being able to share the stories and feelings with others in a supportive atmosphere can be helpful. Grief is something that never entirely goes away so if you've experienced a loss I hope you'll make time to check out this new resource at our church (and recommend it to others you know who may benefit).

Next month is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year - the Strawberry Festival. Be sure to read elsewhere in this newsletter about how you can help. And with that I'll keep my musings short because there is plenty more to peruse in this periodical.

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Notes</u>
May 5	Pastor Lee Richards	“Air”	Book Discussion @ 12:30
May 12	Chaplain Susan Daiss	“Mother's Day”	BoT meets @ 9:00
May 19	Pastor Lee Richards	“Chaos or Calm?”	
May 26	Lee Richards	“The Poetry of War”	
June 2	Rev. Donald Reidell		

### 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.

Thursday, May 2 - "Guided Meditation" @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Saturday, May 4 – Walk to stomp out stigma and raise awareness about mental illness. Walk starts at Village Gate in Rochester, NY. Info and sign up at: [www.namiwalks.org/rochester](http://www.namiwalks.org/rochester)

Sunday, May 5 – "Air" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Of the "four basic elements" most people understand earth, fire and water. Air is more elusive, harder to grasp, and so so today (in honor of our book discussion) we'll consider how to relate to the atmospheric ocean that blankets us, and upon which we depend.

Sunday, May 5 – Book Discussion group @ 12:30 pm. This month we'll take flight with "anything goes" on the theme/topic of "Air." Choose any book related to the element of air and then share what you learned (how you were influenced) by the author.

Sunday, May 5 – "Spring is in the the Air" music performance 2-4 pm at Brockport UU Fellowship. Adults \$10, family \$20.

Monday, May 6 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy good food and conversation with others.

Thursday, May 9 - "Guided Meditation" @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Sunday, May 12 - Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am. **NOTE DATE CHANGE!** No Finance committee mtg. this month.

Sunday, May 12 - worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Susan Daiss.

Sunday, May 12 – **NO** Second Sunday Stroll today. Enjoy Mother's Day and we'll stroll again next month.

Wednesday, May 15 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. "Mythic Journeys" is an inventive fusion of documentary, story, artwork and animation. Despite the fact that myth has always existed, surprisingly few people today are aware of even the classic myths or the potential myths have to impact their lives. Myths are the reservoir of human wisdom – the story and the meaning of life.

Thursday, May 16 - "Guided Meditation" @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

May 18-19 – Sacred Sites Open House noon to 3 pm. Church open to tour visitors through our beautiful and historic building.

Sunday, May 19 - "Chaos or Calm?" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Reflections on reactions, or "how to make sense of the senseless." A response to the violence that has captured our attention.

Monday, May 20 - Bereavement Support Group @ 7:30 pm. Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Join Pastor Lee on the 3rd Monday of each month for assistance in working through feelings of loss in an atmosphere of safe sharing with others on the same journey.

Wednesday, May 22 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Meet at the church. Join other Universalists in going "walk-about." A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Thursday, May 23- "Guided Meditation" @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Saturday, May 25 - Last day for newsletter submissions. Please send your articles and news in advance of this date, if possible.

Sunday, May 26 - "The Poetry of War" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. In honor of Memorial Day we'll consider how our view of war has changed through the unique lens of poets.

Thursday, May 30 - "Guided Meditation" @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul.

Sunday, June 2 - worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

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### **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!

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## JOYS & SORROWS

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- Debby Rodrigues – attended the African Children’s choir from Uganda and said it was truly amazing. The children were between 7-12 years old!
- Pastor Lee Richards – asked the congregation to check out a Youtube offering called ‘Chuck Knows Church’. You will find it amusing and interesting!
- Andrea Rebeck - has a cousin who did go to watch the Boston Marathon but wasn’t downtown, and after the explosions went off, she was helped by a kind person to get out as quickly as possible. Andee was relieved that her cousin was ok.
- Betty Knight – sadly announced that Lakeside Hospital stopped admitting patients recently and they were waiting to hear from the NYS Department of Health to see if the Emergency Room would be able to stay open and if not, it will close as of May 1st. Later, it was learned that the hospital is closing. This is certainly a terrible development as we need this hospital!
- C.W. Lattin – said that Doris Brown (Sara Phillip’s mother) was transported to Lakeside Hospital on Sunday, April 21st but was turned away and instead sent to a hospital in Batavia. She had become ill and had possibly hit her head. Later it was learned that she just had a touch of the flu and was recovering well.
- Gay and Craig Smith – were proud to announce that their son, Tyler, was performing as Seymour in the Kendall High School production of ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ on the last weekend in April. Pastor Lee and Louise attended and said that Tyler was just fantastic - he really nailed the part of ‘Seymour’.
- Debby Rodrigues – Pete Seeger will be performing in Pennsylvania soon and she is interested in having a road trip! Anyone interested, give her a call!
- Monica Beck – announced on April 28th that Ron Beiswenger will have having heart by-pass surgery over this coming week. Many of us know Ron well and wish him all the best and hope for a speedy recovery!
- Patty Adema – wanted to thank everyone for all the cards and well-wishes concerning her son, Matthew, who was hit by a car recently. He did suffer some injuries but is recovering well and will be returning to college in New Paltz and work! We are all relieved that he is OK! And some may be interested to know that our Minister Emeritus, Dick Hood, was reading the paper and saw that this had happened and notified Pastor Lee Richards!!

•Rich Della Costa – suffered the loss of his brother, John, recently. He and John were very close.

•Louise Richards – attended the St. Lawrence District Annual Meeting along with Betty & Jim Knight and said that our church “is officially sexy”! People at the convention were all excited about how beautiful our church is and mentioned wanting to visit! Our delegation was able to show some photos and say great things about us.

•Alan Nugent – said it is great to be back from Florida and see everyone! Alan, we are all glad you are back!!

•Gay Smith – said the family is back from a trip to Paris through the Kendall school! Tyler performed there and was great! (If you haven’t already guessed, Tyler is a tremendous talent!).

•Rene’ Schasels’ sister, Marina, had some more minor surgery recently and is doing well.

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## Pullman Plaudits

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•Pastor Lee Richards – was recognized in the Board Chairman’s report to the Annual Meeting as one of our most valuable assets! Pastor Lee has brought energy and enthusiasm and a high degree of professionalism to his work as our one-third time minister. This has been one of the most exciting years this church has ever had! Great work, Pastor Lee!

•Dennis Seekins – for his three years of dedicated service on the Board of Trustees. He worked hard and contributed a great deal!

•Sara Phillips – was honored at the Annual Meeting for her service as Church Secretary and Collector (served from 2007 to the present). You couldn’t have asked for a better or more efficient Secretary!! She was truly the ‘rock’ of the Board! Although she has stepped down from those positions, she was elected as a Board member! Thank-you for your dedication and hard work, Sara, and congratulations on your new position!

•Diana Dudley – was honored at the Annual meeting for her service as Treasurer this past year! Diana had to set up accounts with a new bank, assist Alan Nugent in accounting for all of the stocks and bonds, set up her own systems, and keep a month to month account of the finances! She worked very hard and her efforts have been much appreciated!

•Beth Allen – was also honored for her year of service as a Board of Trustee. Beth had wonderful ideas and did a great deal of work, including being a guest speaker in the pulpit.

•Chris Loss – was given a gift at the Annual meeting and thanked for her three years of service on the Board, serving all of those years as Board Chairman. Chris said it was an honor to work with this Board, our Part-time minister, and this fantastic congregation. Chris will now be the Church Secretary and Collector!

•Gay Smith and C.W. Lattin – have been elected to the Board of Trustees, along with Sara Phillips. Congratulations!

•Andrea Rebeck – was elected to the position of Treasurer! Andrea brings experience to the table and a love of numbers! She will be working along with Alan Nugent, Assistant Treasurer. She received an award for her excellent grant writing!

•Heather Boyd – was honored at the Annual meeting for her art display and for organizing the Wednesday and Sunday walkies!

•Craig Smith – received an award for all of the hours he has spent doing various repairs at the church!

•C.W. Lattin – was awarded for service to the church above and beyond the call of duty! To name just a few tasks, he has made the coffee, opened the church for events, decorated for holiday events, provided floral arrangements for the pulpit, prepared for special events, conducted tours, given talks, wrote a book and donated the profits to the church, and on and on!

•Betty Knight – was given an award for her culinary excellence. She has contributed more than anyone to the coffee hours this year, and has brought wonderful food (and wine) to the Potluck suppers!

•Alan Nugent – received an award for doing a fantastic job of securing all of our endowment into the Scottrade account, and then providing the Board with monthly reports. He also analyzed the endowment and made some sound recommendations!

•Sarah Diemer – was awarded for heading up the wonderful fund-raisers that we held this past year and for introducing us to some exciting new services! She, along with her partner Jenn, have contributed so much to the success of this year!

•Louise Richards – was given a special award because of all of the help and assistance that she gives to Pastor Lee. We know that she is putting in hours of work and has come up with some wonderful ideas! She has also been an amazing champion for social justice efforts, especially in regards to fracking!

•Betty and Jim Knight – were our official delegates at the NYS District Convention in Niagara Falls this past weekend. Sarah and Jenn Diemer had books and jewelry for sale, and Pastor Lee and Louise also attended. We were well represented!

### **Strawberry Festival Needs You (June 7 & 8)**

This was our most successful fundraiser last year, and plans for this year should make it even better. The main effort will be centered around a book sale. Dennis Seekins will again offer book appraisals and give tips for evaluating books. If you have books to donate they can be brought to the church at any time and left in the dining room.

In addition, we are asking for folks to use their imagination to create gift baskets that could be raffled off. One or two larger, or high value, items are also sought for raffling - for example, a handmade quilt, or a nice antique piece of furniture.

Cans of soda and bottled water - kept in ice chests to stay chilled - are in the plans. Early coffee and donuts will be available, and the pastor will do popcorn.

Donations of items and/or your time are gratefully accepted and appreciated. You may call (585) 454-9450 to learn more on how to help out, or speak to Louise Wu Richards, or Sarah or Jenn Diemer at church.

### **Bereavement Support Group**

Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Pastor Lee is offering an opportunity for people who have experienced a loss to come together in a safe environment on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Stories encouraged, and feelings lovingly accepted. Tears okay, and tissues provided. Loving support offered for, and by, others on the same journey to wholeness.

### **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 labelled 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.

## **Pullman Pastor's Blog**

by Lee Richards

April's topics: The Boston bombers, calling for pastoral care, learning from children, cat food, and having a lot to say.

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](http://pullmanpastor.blogspot.com), or you can get there by a link on our main church website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://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.

## **Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges**

Our website [pullmanmemorialdonations.com](http://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, DVD movies, 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](http://pullmanmemorial.com) (more items coming soon so check back often)

## **Unirondack**

Unirondack will be opening for their Spring season in a few short weeks. If you have never been there, the camp is located in the forever-wild Adirondacks on Beaver Lake, near Lowville, NY. It is a place of incredible natural beauty where UU's gather for fun, fellowship, and contemplation. There are two work weekends, May 10-12 and May 31-June 2, that all are welcome to attend. The only cost is a little labor and \$15 for food. It's a great way to have an inexpensive getaway and to make new friends. And any special skills you have go a long way.

Unirondack also has several programmed weekends in the Spring. May 17-19 is the Gay-Straight Alliance & Advocacy Retreat. May 24-27 is a 3 day Family and Friends Weekend, where you can get a taste of some of what camp is all about in the summer. And June 7-9 is the annual Men's Gathering, a weekend of fellowship for men of all ages. Registration is required for all weekends, including the Work Weekends.

To register for the Work Weekend or any of the program weekends visit Unirondack's website at <http://www.unirondack.org/>. In addition, there are still a select few remaining openings in Unirondack's Summer Camp weeks, primarily for middle-school aged boys. If you are interested register as soon as possible, as most sessions are full.

## **Eye on the Board**

The board approved a request from GUUSTO (our local cluster of UU churches around Rochester) to add a link to our website onto their webpage (currently under construction). A brief discussion about fundraising plans for the upcoming year was focused primarily on ideas for the Strawberry Festival.

Most of the meeting was centered on preparing for the annual meeting to be held on April 28th at noon. Year-end reports from the treasurer and finance committee were examined, along with proposed budgets for next year and the next five years, and a review of Pastor Lee's ministerial compensation package.

- Complete minutes are available upon request.

## 119th Annual Congregational Meeting

Briefly, all reports were submitted and accepted by the congregation, as well as the proposed budget for next year, a 5-year budget, and all of the proposed Bylaws amendments.

Chairperson Chris Loss emphasized a long list of church accomplishments for the year. To name a few: multiple social justice works, a wide variety of non-Sunday events, C. W. Lattin's postcard book, Strawberry Festival and Beatrix Party Tea Party fundraising, purchase of an AED, obtaining an interest-free loan from NYSCU and applying for other grants to help with roof repair, and becoming a full fair share congregation with our denomination.

Pastor Lee highlighted that we became a full-year church with services held every Sunday. He also noted that there was a significant need for pastoral care during the year, and was grateful that people turned to him for a listening ear. He also expressed gratitude for all the work his partner Louise did behind the scenes to help advance the church.

New officers elected to the board of trustees were C. W. Lattin and Sara Phillips for 3-year terms, and Gay Smith for a 2-year term. Chris Loss was elected to the positions of Secretary and Collector, plus she volunteered to be on the pulpit committee along with Debby Rodriguez and Liz Schaal. Andrea Rebeck becomes our new treasurer; Alan Nugent continues as assistant treasurer. Heather Boyd & Sarah Diemer will serve on the nominating committee, with one more to be appointed by the board.

The Bylaws amendments include a procedure for voting by absentee ballot for special congregational meetings, and allowing a vote by email for a single-issue item (with several restrictions). Other amendments established term limits for the position of treasurer (one year each with no more than five consecutive years), changed the fiscal year to be April 1st through March 31st, and redefined the endowment as consisting of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and mortgages.

Financially the church is on good ground. Having sold some stock at the beginning of the fiscal year, not all of that income was expended, leaving a positive carryover into this new year. This surplus occurred, in part, by our endowment performing well so that the portion we take as dividends was more than double the amount estimated in last year's budget. We also had lower expenses in some categories, coupled with increased income from fundraising.

The majority of our endowment is now in mutual funds to spread out risk, and has also regrown to close to its value before the market crash of 2008. We became more socially responsible by selling off Exxon/Mobil and Raytheon, and now enjoy the advantages of electronic handling and reporting through Scottrade.

The collector (Sara Phillips) pointed out that income from pledges and plate offerings has grown back to the same level as prior to the crash of '08 even though the number of pledge units is one quarter less. She also noted that almost two-thirds of the pledges met *or exceeded* their goals for the year.

Numerous awards were presented near the end of the meeting to recognize the extra efforts made by church members throughout the year, and the congregation presented Chris Loss with a gift (handcrafted by our Sparkle members) to thank her for her three years as board chairperson.

In new business it was determined that our membership wants to know more about the issue of gun safety and how to end violence. This will become a matter for further study in upcoming months. David Hagmier's suggestion of furnishing every member with an iPad was considered at several points during the meeting but, for now, remains a dream. Maybe next year?