



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

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings

by Lee Richards

Courage. I'm constantly amazed by the acts of courage I witness within this congregation. Let me name a few...

Our steadfast 'Occupy Albion' members who took up the cause and have stood on the corner of Main Street, Ultra-conservative Town, NY every Monday for an entire year, carrying signs expressing liberal viewpoints. Or another example: being publicly open about one's hidden disabilities (aka mental illness in old parlance) and willing to share to help educate others.

Or consider the courage needed to go to the hospital every day to visit a loved one in the ICU, or the nursing home. Or reopening the "empty nest" to take in and care for a grandchild 24/7. Or living with bad neighbors, or in a bad neighborhood. Or facing a surgery that could dramatically change one's life expectancy. Or dealing with the loss of a job in an environment with limited employment possibilities. Or finding new meaning for life upon entering retirement.

Health issues - such as mobility, hearing loss, heart or lung ailments, chronic pain, hepatitis, migraine headaches, and more - require a special degree of daily courage. Starting an educational program later in life, and/or seeking a new career, or even just doing what one feels called to do when there is no guarantee it will work out - more courage.

Even breaking away from the religion one is born into and attending a liberal church takes a certain amount of courage. I am astonished by the number, and the diversity, of the acts of courage committed by members of our Pullman Universalist community.

But then again, maybe I shouldn't be so surprised. Those who find their way to our sanctuary find here a true community of love and support. We understand that life can sometimes be difficult and challenging and we don't sugarcoat that. We name it for what it is - simply Life - and accept that sometimes (oftentimes) it isn't fair. We share our Joys and our Sorrows because we know that here we are accepted for being human, and in so doing, we discover the energy to go forth courageously back into the world. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for allowing me to be a witness to so much courage.

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.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Minister</u> | <u>Notes</u> | <u>Coffee Hour</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| Oct. 28 | Rev. Maureen Thitchener | “Shifting Images” | Come Early – Stay Late: Enjoy Coffee & Bagels before and after each service. |
| Oct. 31 | Sarah Diemer | Samhain at 7:00 PM Wednesday | |
| Nov. 4 | Dr. Beth Allen | “Mindful Miracles and Unexpected Blessings” | Cake and Punch party |
| Nov. 11 | Lee Richards | “Utopian Communities: Why the best isn’t good enough” | |
| Nov. 18 | Susan Daiss | | |
| Nov. 25 | Lee Richards | “The 411 on Zombies: what you need to know” | Thanksgiving Dinner |
| Dec. 2 | Rev. Don Reidell | | |

Wednesday, Oct. 31 – “Samhain” service @ 7 pm with Sarah Diemer. Open Samhain Ritual — The Beloved Dead. It was believed by ancient peoples—and still is by modern Pagans—that Samhain (Halloween) is the day of the year when the veil between worlds is thinned, and our loved ones who have passed on come to visit us again. Come and take part in a ritual that honors those loved ones who have gone before you, hallowing out a time and space in your life for magic. This will be a full Pagan ritual, including circle casting, Goddess invocation and a meditation. Please bring an image or trinket that reminds you of the loved one you miss most.

Sunday, Nov. 4 – “Mindful Miracles and Unexpected Blessings” worship service @ 11 am. Dr. Beth Allen DVM will be the guest speaker and will describe her personal journey with a triple diagnosis mental illness (PTSD, DID, & Bipolar type 2). She will share the seven important components to managing mental illness and living life fully. She will also share the unexpected blessings she encountered along the way. Please join us for an inspirational morning of sharing, safety and supportive networking.

Monday, Nov. 5 – Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Open invitation: come share a meal and engage in amazing conversation. First Monday of each month. Bring a dish to pass.

Sunday, Nov. 11 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Nov. 11 – “Utopian Communities: Why the best isn’t good enough” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. The yearning to create an Eden on Earth has led both Unitarians and Universalists to try what may seem impossible, including our own George Pullman. Let’s see what we can learn from the errors of their ways.

Sunday, Nov. 11 – New Member Recognition @ noon immediately after the service. Cake and punch party to honor and recognize members who joined the church during the past year: Jenn, Sarah, Debby, Liz, John, Jenny, Sherry, and David.

Sunday, Nov. 11 – Book Discussion group meets @ 12:30 pm. This month we’ve agreed to all read the same book: “God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything” by Christopher Hitchens. Come, and share your insights. January’s “choose any book on the topic” discussion will be about the element of Fire.

Sunday, Nov. 18 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am.

Sunday, Nov. 18 – Worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Susan Daiss.

Sunday, Nov. 18 – Thanksgiving dinner @ noon, immediately after the service. You may bring a dish to pass, suggested food items are on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall, or send an email to closs@rochester.rr.com (Everyone is welcome, with or without a dish.)

Wednesday, Nov. 21 – NO Movie with the Minister. Movie night returns in January after the holiday excitement wears off.

Sunday, Nov. 25 – “The 411 on Zombies: what you need to know” interactive service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. We’ll explore how zombies influence culture and religion, from the Epic of Gilgamesh (circa 1000 BC) to our decade’s “zombie banks.” This service includes a “talk-back” time to share your thoughts.

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

Sunday, Dec. 2 – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

JOYS & SORROWS

Liz Schall shared that her brother in Texas had a stroke, and her father in Buffalo had a heart attack. She misses church and hopes to be back around soon.

Dave Hagnier – wanted to thank everyone who attended the fundraiser in Holley for Cody Coopenberg and/or donated money to the cause. They were able to raise around \$15,000 in that one day!

Gay Smith – was sad to report that her daughter-in-law has discovered that she has breast cancer! We are so sorry to hear that!

Louise Richards – came back from their vacation and was so pleased to see that the church was “sparkling” ..the rug looks good and so does the kitchen!

It was a joy to see **Rev. Don Reidell’s son Marcus** come out to celebrate with us for Don’s 35 year celebration on October 7th!

Jim Knight – rolled in to church today in his 1981 postal jeep, which only can achieve about 50 mph, so he said he could feel the negative ‘vibes’ of annoyed people on the road expecting him to pick up the pace. But he was thrilled to be riding in it!

Craig Smith – is also a proud new owner of a Harley Davidson motorcycle!! It set him back a few bucks but what a ride!!!

C.W. Lattin – has been experiencing a very exotic season for mushrooms in his backyard!! Mushrooms in all sizes are popping up everywhere!

Debby Rodriguez – proudly announced that her dear friend, **Beth Allen**, was selected by the YWCA of Genesee County to receive the **Fabulous Female of the Year** award! She will be honored on November 17th at 11:30 am at the Paddock Room, Batavia Downs. If you wish to attend, there are still seats at the table available -- please see Debby. Debby is also very happy because, following surgery she had recently, she is two months ahead of the healing process and that is great news! [Use the form at the end of this newsletter to sign up for the Brunch.]

Diana Dudley – had a visit from her baby sister recently, who has had surgery, chemo, and radiation but looks great. Diana has recently grown much closer to her sister and this is a blessing.

Sara Phillips – her daughter, Katie, will be married on October 27th in Rochester to James Sconfitto. Sara and her husband, Tom, are very proud!

Alan Nugent – has now gone back down to Florida to enjoy the sunny weather. He will continue to work on the Newsletter and manage our endowments, but his physical presence will be very much missed up here in cold New York!!

Tyler Orr was diagnosed recently with Juvenile Diabetes! Jenny Orr reported that Tyler thought it would be very cool to have his very own team in next year's JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes. He chose the name "Team Go Tyler" and will design shirts for everyone to wear who walks. The Walk draws people together in a healthy activity while raising money to improve the lives of every person affected by type 1 diabetes. The Walk takes place in Buffalo on June 9, 2013. Visit <http://www2.jdrf.org> to register.

Pastor Lee's – son is getting married. Congratulations, Lee and Louise!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Bill Lattin for giving an in-depth tour of the church to the visiting youth group from First Unitarian Rochester.

•**Beth Allen** – who donated a lovely couch that quickly found a new home with newlyweds Sarah Knight and Chris Bundy.

•**Pastor Lee Richards** – who has been working on the sound system. The hearing assistive devices are now ready for use by anyone who has difficulty hearing the service. Lee hopes to have new speakers up and working within the next couple weeks so everyone can hear better.

•**C.W. Lattin**, Heather Boyd, Beth Allen, and Chris Loss – who came in for a Saturday work bee and cleaned stains off the rug and did other cleaning..the church looks so much nicer!

•**Rev. Donald J. Reidell** – for 35 years of exemplar service to this church!

•**Chris Loss** – arranged the catering, cake, and presentation for Rev. Donald Reidell's 35th year celebration on October 7th. And thanks to Beth Allen for singing the song 'Grace' at the event! The Crooked Door did a wonderful job catering the event..the food was delicious!

•**Alan Nugent** – for his presentation on September 30th regarding the moving of endowments into the Vanguard fund. He was able to make a difficult subject easy for the congregation to understand, and the motion passed unanimously. Thanks also to **Rev. Richard Hood**, who had done a great deal of work on this several years ago.

•**Chris Loss, Pastor Lee Richards, Gay Smith, Diana Dudley** – who attended the cancer walk at Watts on October 14th...we raised \$165 for our team (the Pullman Pink Ladies and Gents). And Betty Knight, Beth Allen, and the Hagmier family in

honor of Cody Coopenberg..who donated to the cause!

•**Betty Knight, Jim Knight, Sarah Knight and Chris Bundy, Chris Loss, and Monica Beck** – who attended the walk to end Alzheimer's in late September. And thanks to all who also donated! We had a lot of fun!

•**C.W. Lattin** – gave a tour of the church to a group of students from the Universalist church in Rochester on October 21st. These students have traveled all over to see UU churches in the area.

•**Pastor Lee and Louise** – who attended the NYSCU (New York State Convention of Universalists) Conference on October 13th. Lee has just been elected to the board for a 3 year term! Congratulations Lee!

•**Diana Dudley** – who has been working on getting estimates for repair of the piano.

•**Beth Allen** – for all of the work she has been doing recently with the Peaceful Genesee series in Batavia.

•**Betty Knight** – and others who put together a fabulous 'ghost' basket to be raffled at the Cody Coopenberg event.

•**Heather Boyd** – who organized a fall walk that occurred prior to the Movie With the Minister night.

Report from the Road with Susan Daiss

Debby Rodriguez- has seen many Forsythia plants in bloom..very lovely.

Chris Loss – has been in absolute awe and reverence over the beauty of the leaves on the trees taking on the colors of fall.

Beth Allen – her husband, Mark, was in the process of cleaning out some birdhouses in the yard and was startled when some field mice jumped out at him.

New Member Recognition

Please join us after the service on Sunday, Nov. 11th for a cake and punch party to honor and recognize members who joined the church during the past year. Our new members include Jenn, Sarah, Debby, Liz, John, Jenny, Sherry, and David. We are happy to have them join our community so we'll take a few minutes to celebrate their presence among us.

Come Early, Stay Late

One thing we know is that hospitality really helps “sell” a church, and so does making attendance easy. 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!

Shop for Yourself or Others

The Pullman Memorial Universalist Church Online Store is open for business. This fundraiser venue offers a variety of Pullman collectibles, books, postcards, movie DVDs, and more. Check it out at pullmanmemorial.com, and watch for more items to be listed for sale soon.

Updates on Cody Coopenberg

Early in July of this year Pv2 Cody Coopenberg was injured by a gasoline explosion while serving in Afghanistan. Cody's in-laws are church members David and Sherry Hagmier. Cody is recuperating from his extensive burns at an Army base in Texas. He's been discharged from the hospital but still has daily rehab and a long ways to go physically and mentally before coming home.

It's difficult to estimate the financial impact on the Coopenberg family of this injury yet. No doubt it will be extensive, so many people have stepped up to help and to donate. A fundraiser was held on Sept. 29th at the Holley Fireman's Field which raised over \$14,000. It is also possible to make more donations online through the website GoFundMe.com. Many PMUC members have made donations and the family is very appreciative, as they are also thankful for the many prayers.

Upgrading our Sound System

The hearing assistive system is almost complete as of this writing. We have six hearing assistive devices on hand. 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 will 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.

Work continues on adding extension speakers to the sanctuary. These should be in place soon. Also, a new wireless mic setup for our presenters is now ready for use and is being fine-tuned. When all is said and done we should have a much better audio experience for everyone. If you've had trouble hearing a service in the past then please come and check out these refinements.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

It's the 21st century and payment sources like cash, checks, and plastic are **SO** 20th century! That's why PMUC offers the option of making electronic donations and pledge fulfillment via the internet so easy.

If you go to the website pmucdonations.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 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 Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

If you haven't yet checked out my online musings, here is a sample...

The future is uncertain. As the November elections near I've noticed folks becoming increasingly stressed. There is a fear in the air - not always verbalized but palpable nonetheless. The media tells us that presidential and congressional races are close, maybe too close to call. The future is uncertain for everything people care about - healthcare, the economy, jobs and housing, minority's and women's rights, militarism and war - you name it. The future is uncertain, *but isn't it always?*

It's useful to understand that worry breeds negativity, which spills over into relationships, and then decreases our efficiency, and ultimately works to blind us to the good things happening around us. What kind of life is that?

Buddhists speak of mental suffering - aka anxiety - and recognize that we can be our own worst enemies, brewing and stewing over things that we, realistically, have little control. Worrying about tomorrow - or next week, or next year - causes us to suffer. Their answer is to learn to let go and be in the moment, in the here and now, to live fully the life that is unfolding immediately before us today.

The media, on the other hand, needs to instill fear to sell their wares. Remember my sermon from the Patriotic service in July? "[Aim for the Heart](#)" was meant to prepare us for the onslaught of emotionality the media and politicians would use to try and whip us into a frenzy. I fear their tactics are working, even despite my warnings.

I was finally able to vote for the first time in 1972. It happened to also be my birthday, but I happily spent it going door-to-door to get out the vote for McGovern. I knew in my soul that he was the best person to take command of our country and I was ecstatic to cast my vote that day. And I was crushed that night when the polling results came in and McGovern not only lost, but lost by a landslide. My faith in the democratic system was not just rocked - it was practically shattered into non-existence.

But every year I go to my polling place and cast a vote. And, it seems, almost every year my vote doesn't count as some other candidate wins the election. Sometimes those candidates do bad stuff in office, and sometimes they surprise me in a good way. Yet, I go because to not vote would be to abdicate my responsibility for trying to influence the creation of a better world.

The future is, and always will be, uncertain. How we choose to live in the present affects us right now - in this moment - but also affects our future. I invite you to take the time - right now - today - to discover some Nirvana. Doing so will make tomorrow much less fearsome.

The Minister's Musings column appears in our 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

Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York

*How much would **you** expect to pay for a beautiful, full color book with life-sized reproductions of 200 historic postcards? \$39.95? 29.95? Would you believe this gem can still be had for a mere \$20 while supplies last? **But WAIT, there's more...***

Act now and you can get your book signed by the author, county historian C.W. Lattin. You can own one of these limited edition marvels, or obtain one or more for a gift, *but only if you act **NOW***. This book is moving toward a sell-out and when they're gone, they're gone.

Proceeds from the sale of this book will help keep our historic church "picture-perfect" for years to come so don't put it off or you may miss out. Books are available at the church, in our online store (pullmanmemorial.com), and selected area stores.

Eye on the Board

Following last month's special congregational meeting, the finance committee has rearranged part our endowment portfolio. Mutual funds have been moved into several Vanguard funds as the 2006 Investment Report recommended.

Repairs to the existing piano were approved and an estimate for repair of the non-operating parts of the organ will be requested during its next tuning. One estimate is in, and additional ones are being sought, for air conditioning the sanctuary. The costs for upgrading the sound system matched the amount budgeted for the year. Roof repairs have been delayed until spring because they require a minimum ambient temperature to be done properly.

Two fundraising ideas were presented - a wine-tasting and a December concert. A Legacy Committee consisting of the minister and church secretary was authorized, and a Planned Giving Packet approved. The board will take a mini-retreat in January to become better informed about large-scale fundraising.

Complete minutes are available upon request.

Sign up for Brunch honoring Dr. Beth Allen

YWCA OF GENESEE COUNTY
2012 Fabulous Females Brunch
Saturday, November 17, 2012
The Paddock Room, Batavia Downs
Noon

R.S.V.P. by November 9, 2012

Please make reservations for _____ individuals @ \$25.00 per person.
Seating is in tables of eight (8) for \$160. Sponsorship table \$250, includes 4 seats.

Name/Company _____

Phone _____

Name(s) of Attendees

_____ **I/We cannot attend. Please accept this contribution in support of the programs and services of the YWCA.**

⇒ You may fax this form to the YWCA 343-0143. You will be sent an invoice.

⇒ You may return this form with a check made payable to the YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.

⇒ You may make a credit card payment: VISA or MasterCard

Cardholder Name (Please Print) : _____

Card #: _____ **Expiration** ____ / ____

Cardholder

Signature: _____

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