



# The Grapevine Newsletter

March 2017

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

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## From the Board Chairman

It is difficult during a typical February in Western New York to find much to celebrate, even with the current 'warm' temperatures. Having just returned from Florida, I can say that with a degree of relief and a little sarcasm thrown in. But I am happy to be back. Anyone who has endured the traffic and noise and chaos of the Orlando area will know to what I am referring. At any rate, I have kept informed of our progress at Pullman Memorial and would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the hard work that goes on in our church. We are making progress, solving problems and seeing a brighter future. That involves people working with people, cooperating and caring about our mission. More than ever before our principles are being tested by the forces of reaction and exclusion in our society. We will be seen by some as an enemy of 'reform,' by others as a beacon of progressive thought. That being stated, we also need to listen to others who we may not agree with and allow that we all have our concerns, our worries, our hopes.

*Rich*

## Save the Date!

The *123rd Annual Congregational Meeting* is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the regular church service. Lunch will be served. A quorum of members is required to conduct business, so your attendance is vital! In addition to recapping the year's activities, voting on by-law changes and officers, and going over reports, we will engage in discussion regarding the coming year. Your input and ideas are much needed!

Please plan to attend! The Board and other members and friends have worked very hard this year and a lot of progress has been made. Your input will help us all make even more strides!

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### Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

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March 5	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
March 12 -- <i>Daylight Savings</i>	Susan Daiss
March 19	Rev. Lori Staubit
March 26	Amy Koban, "Origins of Easter"
April 2	Rev. Donald J. Reidell

\* A sign-up sheet is available for anyone who wishes to bring a snack for Coffee Hour \*

## Coming Events

**Saturday, March 4** – 9:00 am, Workbee, \*Volunteers Needed\*, see page 4

**Sunday, March 5** – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

**Monday, March 6** – 6:00 pm, Potluck Supper and Movie. *Please note the earlier time – 6pm!* Michael Moore’s movie, “Where to Invade Next” will be shown. Join us for good food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.



Image from [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

**Saturday, March 11** – 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Albion Merchants' Associations Sip and Stroll and Farmers Market \*Volunteers Needed\*, see page 4

**Sunday, March 12** - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting

**Sunday, March 12** - Susan Daiss

**Sunday, March 19** - 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

**Sunday, March 19** – Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Sunday, March 26** – Amy Koban, “Origins of Easter”

Amy is a Wiccan Priestess in the Cabot/Science Tradition, a Reiki Master, psychic/medium, and offers courses in various subjects at her shop in Lockport, NY (<http://amyks.com/>).

**Sunday, April 2** – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

**Sunday, April 2** – Following the service: *Members and Friends Lunch Meeting and Pledge Kick-off*  
It will be an informal discussion about the progress we've made this year, prepare us for what to expect at the Annual Meeting, and talk about how pledging will assist the church in planning for the coming year. Pizza, salad and dessert will be served. Please plan to attend!!

## Joys and Concerns

Sunday, Feb 5

-Debby Rodrigues wished Jim Hobbs a very happy 70th birthday!!! Happy Birthday, Jim!

-Darrell Dyke - thanked Debby Rodrigues for getting the 'Immigrants Welcome' sign for the church, which recently caused the media to do several stories on us. His son, Leyland, saw the WXXI piece on us in his classroom and was proud of his church and his dad. In the picture they used, our Wayside Pulpit was in the background and Darrell Dyke was listed on the sign as a speaker and that made him proud. Debby added that Ed Koban used a media piece on the church in his classroom as well.

-Chris Loss - thanked Darrell Dyke for his interview for the Daily News, and Debby Rodrigues for the Channel 13 interview, spurred by our sign 'Immigrants and Refugees Welcome'. Our church was well represented. The feedback so far has been mostly very positive. We knew that in a mostly Conservative area that there would be some criticism, but it has been very minimal.

Sunday, Feb 19

-Sara Philips said as of this past Friday, she has officially retired from her job and her husband will retire soon. They will be starting a new chapter in their lives and plan to have some fun! They will be heading to Florida in March, where they will be 'snowbirding'! They will be going to Florida in the winter months and back in the Spring. Well, Sara, it is hoped that you will very much enjoy this new venture!! You and your husband have put in your time at work and have done a great job and now it is time to reap the rewards!! Congratulations!!

-Darrell Dyke - used to travel every month to visit his cousins, and next week he will meet with his niece and nephew and their spouses. His niece is the first person in the family to have graduated from High School and College and he will get a chance to tell her how proud he is of her. This will be a great joy for him!!

-Susan Daiss - had the wonderful experience to hold a beautiful 16-month old baby recently, and said it is amazing to be a Great Aunt!!

-Pat Cammarata -- celebrated her birthday by going away for a few days with family!! Happy birthday Pat!!

-Rich and Eileen Della Costa - have been spending the month in Florida and enjoying being with their daughter and family, and especially their beautiful granddaughter! They will return at the end of the month!

### **Support PMUC and the Planet**



Just a reminder – We have a bin for refundable cans/bottles and one for aluminum. *Both our church and the environment benefit!!*

- The bins are located in the vestibule at the ramp entrance.
- Please be sure the aluminum is clean and labels are removed.
- Please do not crush the aluminum.

### **Eye on the Board**

A special planning meeting took place on January 28<sup>th</sup> and a regular board meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>:

- By-laws were reviewed and some recommended changes were proposed. The recommended changes will be presented to the members and voted on at the upcoming annual meeting.
- The Social Justice Scholarship for Albion High School students was discussed. The scholarship has been available for several years and will be offered again this year. However, continuation of the scholarship and monetary details will be discussed with members at the annual meeting.
- A survey will be sent out to PMUC members and friends to gather information for the Pulpit Committee and for next year's planning.

- The books in the dining room will be recycled as they are covered in dust and not fit for sale. Ron Beiswenger is willing to take on the recycling task. Building and Grounds are working on a priority list for the upcoming year.
- Chris Loss, Darrell Dyke, and Diana Dudley will be checking with several local churches to see about doing a few partnered events.
- Technology needs were discussed. Checking on telephone and internet service.
- The pledge drive was discussed for the upcoming year. Hoping to have a kick-off event.
- The annual meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>:

- An update on the Child Protection binder was given by Pat Cammarata. The binder contains information if a referral is needed or if members would like to go through the clearance process. The binder will be in the office. A locked box will also be put in the office with information regarding how to do background checks.
- Budget concerns were addressed. Trying to work with limited information provided from the past board has been problematic. For example, the planned audit for January had to be delayed as the past documentation was not available. Hoping to do the audit for the April 2016-March 2017 fiscal year.
- It was reiterated that communication is incredibly important. If there are concerns or issues that people are frustrated over, then they need to be brought to the board so that we can address them. Agreement is not always possible, but we want to make sure we understand each other and prevent misunderstandings as much as possible.
- The bid/estimate of \$1297 from Klaus Fladt of Gaines Electric for the installation of electric outlets in various locations was approved. Buildings and Grounds continues to work on their priority list.
- Technology was again discussed with information provided by Debby Rodrigues regarding the possibility of a Tracfone for the church. No decision has been made yet.
- Members and friends pledge kick-off to be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Darrel Dyke to check with RESTORE regarding a display that the agency would like to put on PMUC grounds.
- Need to come up with ideas for the Strawberry Festival in June. To be discussed further at future meeting.

**\*VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED\***

Saturday, March 11th, 2-8pm

PMUC will be participating in the 2017 Albion Merchants' Associations Sip and Stroll Through History on March 11th. We have been asked to host the VIP event as well as Registration. A Farmers Market will also be available. The AMA will be doing most of the work for the VIP event, but we still do need some volunteers between the times of 2 pm - 8 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Debby Rodrigues ([sage1014@yahoo.com](mailto:sage1014@yahoo.com)).

Saturday, March 4th, 9-12 pm

The monthly workbee will be one week earlier to prepare for the big event on the 11th of March. We need volunteers to help us make sure PMUC is in its best condition for the event. Please contact Diana Dudley ([diana527@gmail.com](mailto:diana527@gmail.com)) if you are willing to volunteer that day.

## Pullman Plaudits

-On January 29<sup>th</sup>, Tom Rivers from the Orleans Hub appeared at the church and requested to interview several of us...Darrell Dyke, Tobin Carson, Diana Dudley, Liz Schaal, and Chris Loss. And a picture was taken with all of these people with the sign out front, 'Immigrants and Refugees Welcome'. Mr. Rivers came to the church in response to the sign, which was perceived to have been put up as a result of President Trump's travel ban on persons from 9 different countries. Actually, it has been up since Christmas, thanks to Debby Rodrigues who obtained it for the church. Comments from Darrell, Tobin, and Chris appeared in an article in the Hub that evening. And Channel 13 News a few days later went to Medina and interviewed Debby Rodrigues, and the Daily News interviewed Darrell Dyke. Plaudits for all who participated even though it was a bit scary. We live in a very Conservative community, and this could have invited angry comments or worse. Thankfully, the response was mostly very positive. All who commented represented our church very well, and are to be commended for your courage. Even though the sign was not put up in response to the travel ban, it might as well have been. Let's be clear that our church has always believed in the worth and value of every person, and that we need to champion the cause of all persons who are unfairly targeted or in harm's way. These are beliefs we have had since the church was built in 1891 and this has not changed through the years. This is where we put our beliefs into practice. And here is where we find out how hard it can be to not just pay lip service to what we believe. Remember that back during WWII, when Hitler's henchmen were beginning to round up Jews to send to concentration camps, America was turning away many people who tried to get to the US. And to our shame, a ship turned away would often mean death for those returned to Germany. At that time, America was not feeling generous about refugees, and they feel the same about refugees today. And America now looks back in shame. And also keep in mind, that UU's were over in Europe trying to save children and scientists and anyone they could. This is who we are. This is who we need to continue to be.

-Pat Cammarata has put the Child Safety Policies into a binder and background checks have been completed.

-Monica Beck completed the Food Safety course online! Great job Monica!

-Thanks to Pat Cammarata, Liz Schaal, Darrell Dyke, Diana Dudley, and Chris Loss for their participation in the all-day Board Retreat on January 28th. It was a long day of great work!!

-Debby Rodrigues and Pat Cammarata have been working on plans for the Sip N Stroll in March.

-Pat Cammarata, Chris Loss, and Diana Dudley participated in the workbee in February. Pat worked on the binder for child safety, Chris pulled important documents down from the upstairs room, and Diana did various cleaning. Chris and Pat also purchased items that will be needed for organizing the church office.

-Sylvia Goodstine has been taking the collection!! Many thanks Sylvia!

-Monica Beck, Liz Schaal, Bonnie Beiswenger, Diana Dudley, Debby Rodrigues, Sylvia Goodstine, and Chris Loss have brought items for coffee hour for this month.

-Many thanks to Diana Dudley, Jim Hobbs, and Dennis Seekins for the drywall going up in the downstairs room, the new water heater, and new outlets which are going in soon.

## **Your Feedback is Needed –Deadline 3/7/17**

If you have not yet completed the PMUC survey, we would appreciate your constructive feedback on the following short, 6 question survey. The feedback will be used by the Pulpit Committee as well as to help with next year's planning. See the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHR2Q3Y>

Your input is greatly appreciated.

## **PMUC in the News!**

Orleans Hub –

<http://orleanshub.com/albion-church-puts-out-banner-welcoming-refugees/>

Channel 13 WHAM Rochester –

<http://13wham.com/news/top-stories/albion-church-banner-welcomes-refugees-immigrants>

The Daily News –

<http://www.thedailynewsonline.com/bdn01/albion-church-welcomes-immigrants-with-sign-20170201>

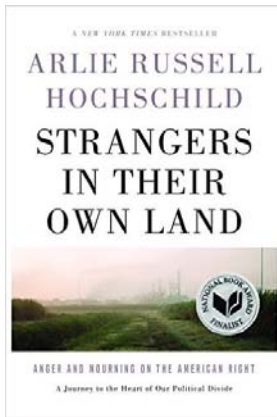


## **Share the Pulpit**

The "share the pulpit" initiative continues in which some of our ministers have invited members to join them in leading Sunday Services. If you would like to volunteer to read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship, please contact Chris Loss, Rich Della Costa, or Darrell Dyke.

## **Books in Dining Room**

Per Ron Beisenger, a few people have asked if they could have some of the books in the dining room. Many of the books are not in the best condition and have drywall dust on/in them. The plan is to recycle the books. However, if you are interested in taking a few regardless of the dust, please check with Ron.



## Next Book Discussion – May 7th

The book for the next book discussion is “Strangers in Their Own Land” by Arlie Russell Hochschild. A 2016 National Book Award Finalist for Nonfiction – please see the description below from Amazon:

*In Strangers in Their Own Land, the renowned sociologist Arlie Hochschild embarks on a thought-provoking journey from her liberal hometown of Berkeley, California, deep into Louisiana bayou country—a stronghold of the conservative right. As she gets to know people who strongly oppose many of the ideas she famously champions, Hochschild nevertheless finds common ground and quickly warms to the people she meets—among them a Tea Party activist whose town has been swallowed by a*

*sinkhole caused by a drilling accident—people whose concerns are actually ones that all Americans share: the desire for community, the embrace of family, and hopes for their children.*

*Strangers in Their Own Land goes beyond the commonplace liberal idea that these are people who have been duped into voting against their own interests. Instead, Hochschild finds lives ripped apart by stagnant wages, a loss of home, an elusive American dream—and political choices and views that make sense in the context of their lives. Hochschild draws on her expert knowledge of the sociology of emotion to help us understand what it feels like to live in “red” America. Along the way she finds answers to one of the crucial questions of contemporary American politics: why do the people who would seem to benefit most from “liberal” government intervention abhor the very idea? (Retrieved from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))*

## News from Central East Region of UUA

On April 1, the candidates for UUA President will participate in a Forum here in the Central East Region. The Forum will focus on Interdependence. The event will be livestreamed to May Memorial UU Society in Syracuse, New York from Cedar Lane UU in Bethesda MD.

Following the Forum, Rev. Richard Gilbert will offer the 2017 Gould Lecture, titled:

“THE PROPHETIC IMPERATIVE IN A MESSY WORLD” -- The election of 2016 has done more than upset the political world. For Unitarians and Universalists – and many others – it has challenged the soul. Its meaning is far more than political. There are also moral, spiritual and religious meanings in what has happened and is happening. What are those meanings and what are we to do with them? Leonard Cohen has caught the spirit of the age in his phrase “broken Hallelujahs.” While we may wonder what he meant, it is more important what that phrase may mean for us.

Then there will be workshops and focused discussion groups following the Gould Lecture.

*Reverend Lori Staubitz will be leading one of these workshops!*

See website for more information:

<http://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/st-lawrence-spring-gathering-and-uua-presidential-candidates-forum>

### **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church**

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*We are a welcoming congregation*