



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

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**From the Board President – “Are You Uni-Curious?”**

*February* – A month of groundhogs, presidents and paper hearts. The shortest month, it was also the hardest for me to learn how to pronounce as a child. (Mainers have a unique relationship with the letter ‘R’.) In February, our hemisphere’s leaning back toward the Sun becomes much more noticeable, and the promise of a future Spring can make the inevitable snows harder to bear.

Does February borrow part of its name from “febrile,” indicating a prescription of “cabin fever reliever?” Maybe the etymology describes the slow warming of Earth (far too slow for Northern North America)? Attending PMUC is a wonderful way to warm my heart, to relieve Winter’s cold loneliness and to hold my feet to the fire of social justice.

One of my favorite Winter events is always a church Potluck Supper. There is warmth, food and face-to-face socializing. Did I mention food? What more could we ask for? How about films and presentations from our greater community’s wealth of activism and knowledge? We have that, too, in abundance!

This month, and in coming months (with other events sprinkled throughout), we’ll explore our two-thousand-year religious and social history through a documentary film series made available by the UUA. “Long Strange Trip” is a six-part journey from early Christian times, through the reformation, to the development of Unitarianism and Universalism in America, to the present day UU. Follow researcher/director Ron Cordes as he explores the historical threads and weaves them into the colorful tapestry that is modern UUism.

Read more at <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/resources/long-strange-guide>

**Bring a dish to share and join us on Monday, February 5th at 6pm. UU dinner theater, anyone?**

*Darrell A. Dyke*

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

(unless otherwise noted)

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February 4	Rev. Lori Staubitz
February 11	Susan Frawley
February 18	Susan Daiss
February 25	Susan Frawley
March 4	Rev. Donald J. Reidell



*Assisted listening devices are available for services – available near the lectern*



## Coming Events

**Sunday, February 4** – Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Monday, February 5** – 6:00 pm, Potluck Supper with viewing of part one of *Long Strange Trip* video series by Ron Cordes. Please bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and fellowship.

**Thursday, February 8** – 7:00 pm, Meditation with John Mosher, Ph.D.

**Saturday, February 10** – 9:00 am, Workbee. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Diana Dudley ([diana527@gmail.com](mailto:diana527@gmail.com)) with any questions.

**Sunday, February 11** - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting/Building & Grounds

**Sunday, February 11** - Susan Frawley

**Sunday, February 18** - 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

**Sunday, February 18** – Susan Daiss

**Sunday, February 25** – Susan Frawley

### \*IMPORTANT\*

Please note: Some of our members and friends have sensitivities to fragrances and strong scents. We ask that you refrain from wearing strongly scented products when attending church so as not to negatively affect the health of those with sensitivities. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

## Joys and Concerns

Sun, Jan 14

Chris Loss - reported that her daughter's mother-in-law, Janelle, was scheduled to have surgery on her aneurysm on January 17 in Philadelphia and wanted everyone to keep her in their thoughts. Also, they welcomed a new dog into their home recently. Beau is a cute little beagle.

Sun, Jan 21

Rich Della Costa - was proud that his wife, Eileen, spent all day Saturday at the Brockport High School helping out with a special Christmas event for migrant workers and their families. He also is glad that our sign welcoming immigrants and refugees is up and intact. He believes that there may be more people in the area sympathetic to the plight of all people who are struggling for a better life and have come to the United States to realize that hope.

Darrell Dyke - when he asked his son, Aiden, what he wanted for Christmas, he replied that he wanted to go to Ireland, specifically because he has a dream of one day owning his own Irish Pub. So over the holidays, the family ventured there. Right away, they learned that the Irish take their holidays



seriously, as hotels were closed! They eventually got a room. They were able to walk around and find all kinds of treasures, such as the oldest pub, quaint countryside, shops, etc. And they visited a UU church, and listened to many voices. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Monica Beck - spent a day with Fiona on Friday in Fredonia at her orientation. It's official. . . she's off to college! Enjoy your time there, Fiona! It's a wonderful college!

Jessica George - spent all day yesterday at Seneca Falls for the Women's March! She said that around 10,000 people were there! Also to note - Debby Rodrigues was also at the Women's March!

Mark Crosby - recalled back in 1970, he had applied to three schools following his High School graduation for Architecture and he had been accepted at Kent State on May 3rd. On May 4th of that year, the Kent State massacre had occurred. He often reflects on that, and also the wise words of his mother.

Dennis Seekins - went to the Lancaster open house to see candidates opposing Chris Collins (R-NY 27th District). Five people were there, and it was a very engaging evening! Dennis was pleased to see so many candidates.

Joyce Riley - said God puts things in your path for a reason and can try your faith! Her 6-year-old grandson, going through a rough time, is helping her remember to grab as many teachable moments as possible. Joyce has been helping her son and grandson adjust to new circumstances following a divorce.

Chris Loss - was happy to report that Janelle, her daughter's mother-in-law had her surgery and it was successful. Janelle has had this awhile and the surgery was risky, but she's an incredible fighter!

Chris Loss - also pronounced that she has had it with President Trump! The lies and the stunts and the ridiculous decisions . . . he is not fit for the office.

**Save the Date** – March 5<sup>th</sup> Potluck Supper will include guests from *Lakeshore Mothers and Others Out Front*.

*Lakeshore Mothers and Others Out Front* will give a brief overview of their mission. They are working to ensure a livable climate for all children in ways that also nurture healthy children and support healthy communities.

## **Share the Pulpit Continues**

If you would like to volunteer to be a worship associate and read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship, please contact Chris Loss ([closs1626@gmail.com](mailto:closs1626@gmail.com)) or Darrell Dyke ([darrell.dyke2@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.dyke2@gmail.com)).

### **\* PMUC Pledges \***

The budget year for PMUC ends 3/31/18. Please remember to honor your pledge. Contact Sylvia Goodstine ([mgoodstine@yahoo.com](mailto:mgoodstine@yahoo.com)) if you need a current balance or need to adjust your pledge amount. She may also be contacted for a Statement of Contribution Letter for tax purposes.



## Leon Sidari Memorial Fund

From Chris Loss:

On Christmas morning this past year, when children were busy opening their gifts and families were getting together to celebrate, a tragedy was unfolding for the Sidari family. Their son, Leon Sidari, only four years old had fallen ill with the flu and was struggling to breathe. A team of good doctors worked to keep him alive, but sadly, he passed away. It wasn't supposed to happen to a great family with all the advantages. His mother, Laura, is a wonderful woman I know. What an incredibly sad event for this family to suffer. Laura's father, Nathan Lyman (a well-known attorney in this area) decided to set up a GoFundme for Leon, to help children suffering medical problems over the holidays. He felt he needed to do something in Leon's honor. The family also wants to send a message to everyone to please go get a flu shot...don't put it off. They had planned to take Leon to get his shot after the holidays, and who knows if he would have survived or not, but most of the children so far who have died of the flu had not gotten the shot. Please consider contributing to the fund for Leon. Most people in this area know the Lyman family and may want to do so. But mainly, don't forget to get a flu shot!! Pass this message to your friends and family!

Leon Sidari Memorial Fund: <https://www.gofundme.com/leon-sidari-memorial-fund>

“To continue Leon's legacy of love, we are establishing a Memorial Fund in Leon's name. 100% of the funds will be given to help children with medical problems at Christmas time to find the same joy that Leon did. In the first year, this will be focused on children of military parents, but with your help this will grow in the years to come.” (Retrieved 1/28/18, <https://www.gofundme.com/leon-sidari-memorial-fund>)

## Eye on the Board

The Board of Trustees met again on January 21, 2018:

- The endowment is holding strong.
- Rich Della Costa has orchestrated the purchase of a 2011 Kawai piano at a cost of \$4800 to the church and \$200 in donations. The fund established in honor of Ron Beiswenger in the amount of \$1440 will assist with this purchase including moving costs.
- The Humanitarian Award will be presented to our nominee on March 4th assuming he accepts the honor.
- At the next Potluck on February 5th, Darrell Dyke will present the first in a series of video presentations of 'Long Strange Trip', about UU history.
- The Board discussed our UUA and CER membership dues because we are being asked to pay a large amount for the size of our congregation, it was decided to review our membership listing and continue the conversation.
- Sylvia Goodstine will provide a statement of contributions for tax purposes if a member or friend requests it.

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“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.” — **Oscar Wilde**

## Pullman Plaudits

- Darrell Dyke and David Purdy - the congregation sang Happy Birthday to them at the service on Jan 21st.
- Rich Della Costa - was applauded for his jazzy musical piece at a service on Jan 14!
- Darrell Dyke, Monica Beck, and Chris Loss served as Worship Associates in January.
- The Potluck on January 8 turned into a girls night out! Four women had an appetizer, a main dish, a salad, dessert, and a fabulous time! Thanks to Diana Dudley, Sylvia Goodstine, Bonnie Beiswenger, and Chris Loss for attending!
- Many thanks to Don Olsowski, Custodian, who has been shoveling the snow, vacuuming, doing dishes, taking care of the garbage, and watching out for the church. He's doing a fantastic job!
- Rich Della Costa - was a hit again at the Fireside Service with his presentation on film. Rich had many examples of early attempts at cinematic special effects. Great job, Rich!
- John Mosher PhD - was here on Jan 7 to give a talk on his experience with "angels". Many thanks to John for agreeing to come out. It was a nice service!
- Meditation group - met again on January 11, with eleven people in attendance. Thanks to John Mosher PhD for leading the group, and Diana Dudley for opening the church.
- C.W. Lattin - many thanks to him for the beautiful decorations that we had for the holiday season. It has never been more glorious!
- Sylvia Goodstine, Chris Loss, Diana Dudley, Liz Schaal and Monica Beck provided goodies for Coffee hour for the month of January. Yummy!
- Diana Dudley, C.W. Lattin, and others attended a meeting with Country Contractors on January 24th!
- Rich Della Costa - has been looking at pianos and has found one that is in our price range, highly rated, and relatively new (2011). He will be, hopefully, purchasing this within the next few weeks! And thanks to Bonnie Beiswenger for donating the \$1440 raised in honor of Ron towards the purchase of a piano. This will help a great deal! We needed Rich's expertise to be able to make this happen!

## Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

Our website [pullmanmemorialdonations.com](http://pullmanmemorialdonations.com) offers several choices for making contributions. 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 and PayPal are accepted.



## News from Central East Region (Evin Carvill-Ziemer)

### Racial Justice Conference in Buffalo, February 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Diving into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice: An Experiential Conference

Racial justice is a spiritual practice. Experience this in a day of stories, dialogue, activities, and song so that we can transform ourselves, our congregations and the world. Kenny Wiley will guide us through what it means to create authentic diverse community.

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 9am – 4pm

Cost: Sliding Scale \$25-\$65

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/WNYUURacialJustice>

#### UU Church of Buffalo

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Buffalo, NY 14222

Kenny Wiley is a third generation Unitarian Universalist from Houston, Texas, who lives in Denver, Colorado. Along with being on the Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective, he is a UU World senior editor and program director for congregational engagement at the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. His writing has appeared in the Boston Globe, the Houston Chronicle, and Skyd Magazine.

### “Seaway Gathering” in Syracuse, NY

This spring we will have what we’re calling the “Seaway Gathering” in Syracuse NY April 13-14. This is open to all UU’s but with a special invitation to those congregations of the former St Lawrence District.

Friday night is the annual Gould Lecture followed by a coffee house and possible other entertainment.

Saturday our keynote speaker is Central East Region’s Regional Lead Rev. Megan Foley. We will have opening and closing worship, youth bridging, workshops, break out groups, and childcare.

Registration is coming. *Save the Date!*

#### Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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*We are a welcoming congregation*

