



*News & Information from the  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton*

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**September 2015**  
**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

Worship services and religious education for children and youth begin at 10:30 a.m.

**September 6**

*The Gilded Age: A Story of Yesterday and Today* – Bart Harloe, Pulpit Guest

This Labor Day sermon on income inequality in America will compare the Gilded Age described by Mark Twain in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with our own gilded age of the early 21st century, where extreme concentrations of wealth and power are once again undermining American democracy. There will be a special focus on how the protests against capitalism back in the 19th century compare with the kinds of resistance we are seeing today with movements like Occupy Wall Street.

Bart Harloe was University Librarian at St. Lawrence University for 16 years and then coordinated a library consortium of 18 colleges in NY until his retirement in 2015. He went to school in California at San Francisco State in the late sixties and early seventies where he participated in civil rights struggles and protests against the Vietnam War. He has been an active member of our church since soon after moving to Canton.

*Greeters:* Jim Williams & Donna Dilworth, Carol Gable, Lana Rodriguez

*Social Hour:* Karen Bage, Robert Best & Anita Figueras, Janet McFarland, John Trombley

*Worship Associate:* Doug Rubio

*Collection Counters:* Ruth Baltus, Valerie Ingram

**September 13**

*Ingathering* – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

*Greeters:* Rich Fennessey & Carmen Stuart-Fennessey, Brian & Claire Gardam, Cliff & Janice Westerling

*Social Hour:* Richard Grover & Valerie Ingram

*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

*Worship Associate:* Doug Rubio

*RE Ambassador:* Rhonda Rodriguez

*Library Table:* Lorraine Olendzenski

**September 20**

*Yom Kippur* – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

*Greeters:* Andrea Ferro & Hugo Attermann, Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Emmy Stevenson

*Social Hosts:* Betsy & Mike Bommer, Theresa Witmer

*Worship Associate:* Valerie Ingram

*Collection Counters:* Janet Green, Jon Montan

*Library Table:* Pat Gengo

**September 27**

*Harvest Sunday* – Rev. Joel Miller, Interim Minister

*Greeters:* Sally & Gary Hoose, Jill Rubio

*Social Hour:* Charlie Bradt, Dick & Peggy Mooers

*Worship Associate:* Mark Berninghausen

*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

*Library Table:* Judy DeGraaff



**Church Office Hours**

Please note that the church office will be open  
Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 pm.

## IN THE INTERIM - REV. JOEL REPORTS

We had a successful Pledge Canvass last year, reaching our goal of \$211,000 in pledges for this year. A big part of the Canvass was the 15 "Canvass Conversations" that well over half the congregation attended. In each of the conversations I asked three "Appreciative Inquiry" questions: (1) How does the UU Church of Canton make a difference? (2) What obstacles and challenges have you experienced in making this difference? (3) How would you describe the "Glowing Coal" at the heart of your church?

The advantage of using "Appreciative Inquiry" is that human beings think and reason effectively when focusing on the context of their conversations on their strengths and joys. Conversely, human beings, when merely "problem solving" become "problem focused," and problem-based thinking has been scientifically measured to stifle creativity and cause needless conflict. Appreciative Inquiry, in asking good questions, measurably opens our creative spirit, deepens our relationships, and empowers us to reach our shared goals. I find myself turning to that Civil Rights era song, "Eyes on the Prize," when I find myself mired in problem-focused thinking (you can listen to Sweet Honey In the Rock sing this online at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_tcZAqQUAg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_tcZAqQUAg)):

When you see a man walk free  
It makes you dream of jubilee  
When you see a child walk free  
It makes you dream of jubilee  
When you see a family free  
It makes you dream of jubilee  
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on

I found your Canvass Conversations responses to the first question closely matched how the congregation budgets for its ministry areas: Religious Education, Worship and Music, Social Justice, and Caring Community. But there was one additional set of responses that I think reflect how you, as a congregation, deeply value your Liberal Religious tradition, as well. This isn't really something that can be measured as specifics in a budget, but I see it as something you cherish that infuses all the ministries you do as a church. And I know you've heard it from me, but several of you also spoke about how the ministries of this church saved your lives. You know you make a difference, and were expressive and clear about how you do it.

The second question was "What obstacles and challenges have you experienced in making this difference?" Three significant obstacles appeared in my reading of your responses. The first was the amount of change you have been experiencing. That shift from a "minister-centered" congregation to a "ministry-centered" congregation is well known for being complex, and much of our interim work together has been growing the congregation's skills so you are all part of the ministry of your church. Two other obstacles have to do with welcoming, one around differences in class and education in the North Country community. The third significant obstacle is a realization that the people of this congregation very much cherish each other, but the converse side of that is the difficulty newcomers have being integrated into this deep web of relationships. Church Council and I will consider these two obstacles as we work on this last year of interim transition.

The last Appreciative Inquiry question was about that "Glowing Coal" at the heart of the congregation's spirit. My favorite response to this question was "We just became a Green Sanctuary and we are talking about carbon-dioxide-spewing coal?!" All gaseousness aside, I see how much you cherish each other and the world around you. "Community" was a frequently used word in your responses to this last question. Your focus on each other was the most-frequent theme in your responses. You all wrestled hard with this question. The theme I think is obvious, but an actual description of that "glowing coal" didn't quite appear. Maybe this is because you, as a community, would prefer a different question? Or it may be that you need more time to answer it to your satisfaction. This makes sense to me, too. Your Search Committee will have

a better understanding of how to answer this, I suspect, and I know your best answers to it will come in your conversations with your next Settled Minister.

As you respond to this report, please let me know your thoughts, corrections, suggestions, and questions. I'm available by phone (716-480-7064), email ([minister@uucantonny.org](mailto:minister@uucantonny.org)), or for coffee.

*Rev. Joel, Interim Minister*

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are back! September is the time for reconnecting, reengaging and recommitting. And I am here to let you know of the many opportunities for you to do just that. In addition to Sunday services, there are many events that need your participation. Just in September we have the Cottage Conversations and a meeting with our Search Compensation Consultant (seems like we are featuring the letter C!) A little later in the fall we will be featuring our annual Canvass, and in December we will have a Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop to inform and direct the work of our Search Committee.

All of these are moments that engage us and connect us more deeply to the life of our church community. We can offer up a part of ourselves in an effort to shape the larger thing that is the essence of our church. The transparency of the process is driven by how much you are willing to participate in that process. You cannot see what is on the other side of the door if you don't open it.

Your time is precious, but so too are your thoughts and dreams for our church community. Share them with the rest of us; hear what others are thinking and dreaming, be a part of the process that affects our future.

*Barbara Beekman, Church Council President*

### WHAT'S NEW IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

Fall is here and it's time for the new RE programming. This year children and their parents can look forward to the following programs:

- **Children 3 and under** - Our nursery is open every Sunday staffed by two loving, trained caregivers.
- **Children 4 years to 1st grade - Spirit Play** - Our youngest structured class based on Montessori methods, which allow children to explore UU values, history, traditions, and stories.
- **2nd to 4th graders - Signs of Our Faith** - This curriculum guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents 14 traits or values that most Unitarian Universalists love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness. <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs>
- **5th to 6th graders - Toolbox of Faith** - This program invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/toolbox>
- **7th to 8th graders - Building Bridges** - This world religions program will deepen our youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/bridges>
- **9th to 12th graders - Youth Group** - Our active youth program changes its focus each year, fostering youth empowerment through the components of service, worship, and sharing.

### What's Coming Up in September?

September 13 - Teacher Orientation, 12:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

September 20 - Religious Education Program begins

September 26-27 - JR High OWL Sleepover and First Session

Please take a moment to register your child for the 2015-2016 year at this link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5TRJ9BH> Thank you!

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Rhonda Rodriguez, Jennifer Whittaker, and Esther Katz for assisting with the preparation for RE Sunday.
- † David Bradford, Jacque Young, Jenn Whittaker, Esther Katz, Laura Foster, Sally Hoose, Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, Rhonda Rodriguez, Maria Dickinson, Bill Kirchgasser, Evelyn Barton, Wil Rivers, Linda Kenny, Janet Green, Katie Boczarski, Kate Whitehorne, Emma Bentley-Hicks, and Anna Dickinson for volunteering for the summer RE program.
- † Sally Hoose, Wil Rivers, Sue Powers, Tera Siegfried, and Maria Dickinson for helping prepare the RE classrooms for this upcoming year.

### JOYS & SORROWS

- † Our deepest condolences to the family of Tom Cutter following his passing in July.

### MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT

As we proceed with the search for a settled minister, a critical step in the process is determining who we wish to be as a church community and what traits we would like to see in a minister. You should have by now received a letter inviting you to participate in what are calling "Cottage Meetings," at which we will receive your input. You may sign up for these at church or indicate your availability to attend using an on-line scheduler at <http://doodle.com/426qaxcsk5w5vpw2>. The Search Committee has attempted to make the date and time choices and locations of these cottage meetings as convenient as possible for as many as possible. As a complement to the meetings, we will later administer a survey with some specific questions. The results of your participation will characterize who we are and will be summarized in the packet that we send to prospective ministerial candidates. I think you can well appreciate how important this step is in attracting candidates who are most likely to be the best fit for our church community! Search Committee members are hoping for strong participation in the cottage meetings and the survey.

### And Don't Miss This!

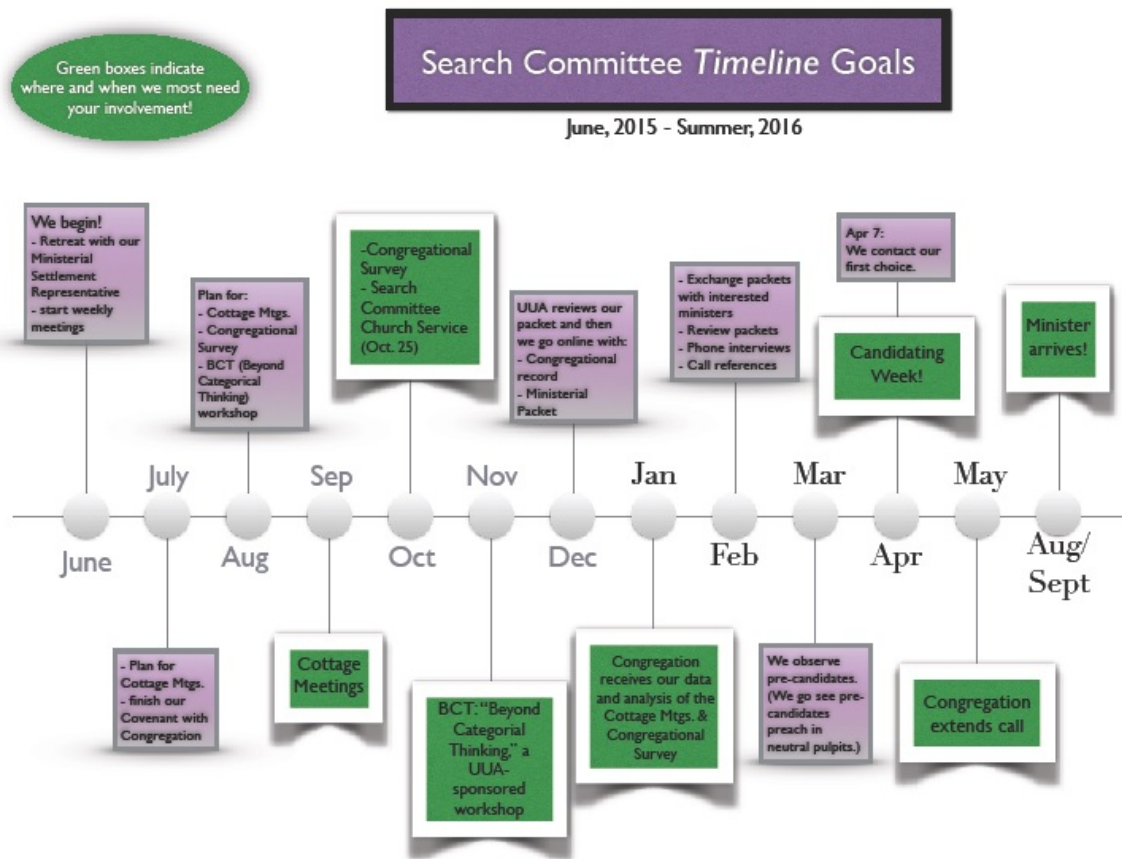
Jason Smith of Syracuse will be giving a presentation on compensation as it applies to our Settled Minister search on Sunday, September 20, after our service. Jason's official title is UUA Compensation Consultant, and he will be answering questions about how congregations approach ministerial compensation and what we might expect in our current search. This is open to the entire congregation, and ALL are encouraged to attend. Compensation affects all of us, from its role in our search for a settled minister to its impact on our budget. Come listen to Jason, ask questions, and be informed.



Please be sure to sign up for a Cottage Meeting at church or  
on this Doodle scheduler

<http://doodle.com/426qaxcsk5w5vpw2>

The following timetable provides a general idea of the Search Committee's work.



*Jon Montan, Chair*

### SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK

As we come back to our regular lives and schedules with the beginning of the school year, it is a good time to think about the commitments we are making. The Social Action Committee seeks to help our members and friends educate themselves about social issues, advocate for justice with our governmental representatives, and take meaningful action to change things for the better for everyone. We hope finding ways to make our community, nation, and world more just is among your commitments.

You are invited to check out what is on offer for this year and how you might help make some of our goals a reality by attending our opening gathering of the Social Action Committee after church on Sunday, August 30. If that time doesn't fit your schedules, plan to join us for our September 27 meeting (also after church). At these gatherings, we will be updating everyone on where we are with our continuing work, and discussing possible new activities or initiatives. We hope you will join us, and also stop by the Social Action Table after church to learn about new justice work underway in our community and in the wider world.

For more information, please contact Eileen Raymond, Pat Alden, or Margaret Harloe at [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org)

*Eileen Raymond, Chair, Social Action Committee*



## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION!

The Environmental Action Committee has been partnering with external groups to help promote sustainability in the region. The ability to provide leadership within the community and promote our Seventh Principle is one of the key elements of our Green Sanctuary Program.

**Solarize Canton.** Carol Gable is one of the key members of the Canton Sustainability Committee and has been deeply involved in the Solarize Canton program. Solarize Canton, which was supported by our congregation, has been a great success with more homeowners signing up for assessments every day. Eighteen contracts have been signed to date for solar installations, many with members of this congregation. Installations began a few weeks ago and homes in Canton, Potsdam, and Rensselaer Falls are now generating electricity from their solar panels. The campaign was originally scheduled to end September 30, but has been extended to October 31 as so many people are still interested in getting assessments for their properties. Another information session will be held at SUNY Canton the evening of Tuesday, September 8 (time/place TBA, check [www.solarizecanton.com](http://www.solarizecanton.com) for updates), for anyone who did not have a chance to learn about solar electricity installations and the financial assistance available to do so. In light of NOAA's recent report that this past July was the hottest July on record, it's good to know that so many in our community are helping to move away from dependence on fossil fuels by generating electricity from sun.

**Toy/Book/Game Swap.** The Environmental Action and Religious Education Committees are partnering with the Deep Root Center and the Local Living Venture to host a Toy, Book and Game Swap as part of the Local Living Festival being held in Canton on Saturday, September 26. Our goal is to get gently used goods out of your closet, out of the landfill, and into the hands of children who will use them. What can you do? First, please donate: before 9/26 drop materials off at the Deep Root Center (7 Main Street, 2nd floor) or the Potsdam Public Library; before noon on 9/26 at the church. Then, come to the swap: acquire free new toys, books, and games on Saturday, September 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in our church basement. For more information, please go to <http://www.uucantonny.org/documents.php?docid=550>

*Sue Powers, Chair, Environmental Action Committee*

## COOTS LIBRARY BOOK reMARKS

While we were away on summer vacation, members of the Library's Wednesday Work Group were busy accessioning books. Swing by the Max Coots library and check out some of our newly purchased UUA bookstore titles: *Detained and Deported – Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire* by Margaret Regan (the author of *The Death of Josseline*), *Undocumented – How Immigration Became Illegal* by Aviva Chomsky, and *Nothing Gold Can Stay – The Colors of Grief* by Mark Belletini. Other brand new titles include *Restored to Sanity: Essays on the Twelve Steps By Unitarian Universalists* edited by Ken and Cathlean, and *Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality* edited by Kathleen Montgomery. We're grateful for the many donations we received over the summer. Newly available donations are: *Science as a Contact Sport*, by Stephen Schneider, *The Road to Character* by David Brooks, the beautifully illustrated children's book *Emily* by Michael Bedard (which gives us a glimpse into the life of the poet Emily Dickinson) and *I'll Be There* by Holly Goldberg, which looks like a must read for anyone who likes young adult novels. And if you've read anything from the Max Coots library this summer that moved you, get it touch. We would love to hear about it!

*Lorraine Olendenski, Chair, Library Committee*

## SUMMER FELLOWSHIP FUN...AND MORE ON TAP

Thanks are overdue to the many folks who stepped up this summer to help out with events, including the rainbow sherbet scooping we offered at the Dairy Princess Parade, the big annual church picnic in June, and the outing in August. Lila Hunnewell took on the Sunday foray to Massena on a beautiful afternoon. Many hands made light work of the picnic at Bend in the River Park, a family-friendly church event with much preparation and clean-up. Though we may have omitted doing this in a timely manner, we are always so appreciative of those who offer support and a helping hand for our congregational gatherings.

Be watching the Wednesday e-news for more fun in the fall. An inter-generational line dance (with instruction!) is scheduled for an evening in November when it's dark and chilly. Sound like fun?

*Stevie Michaelson, Chair, Fellowship Committee*

### BELL AP-PEAL

It's time to begin a new season of bell ringing here at the UU, but a number of our regular ringers have conflicts in September and October. So we are eagerly looking for substitutes and/or short-term commitments. No prior experience is necessary, only the ability to read music and keep a steady beat. Our regular rehearsals are 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays beginning September 10. We plan to play in church this fall on October 4 and November 1. Anyone interested in giving the bells a try, please contact the director, Nelly Case.

### REPORT FROM THE USHARE GARDENS

We're having a great season so far. Both gardens are producing. This is the best time to volunteer as there is a lot to do and our team has a great understanding of what is needed in each garden. Cecilie, in particular, needs a bit of catching up. The bee balm planted last year has been a great source of nourishment for the humming birds and butterflies. Even the mosquitoes were a great midnight buffet for the resident bats. Unfortunately for them, there aren't nearly as many mosquitoes at this date. Priest Field is shaping up to be a real gem. The beds are nicely maintained and the paths are covered in cardboard and wood chips.

Totals as of August 23 are (all numbers are in pounds unless noted):

<b>Priest</b>		<b>Cecilie</b>	
Broccoli: 2.25		Broccoli: 5.9	Honey: 25.6
Chard: 1.75		Cauliflower: 12.75	Red Potatoes: 8
Cucumber: 10		Carrots: 6	Rhubarb: 22.25
Green Peppers: 4.25		Garlic: 5 buckets (no weight at this time)	Summer Squash: 85
Kale: 28.75		Garlic Scapes: 3	Tomatoes: 97.75
Spinach: 16.5		Green Beans: 33.5	Yellow Patty Pan: 35
Tomatoes: 6.25			Zucchini: 34

That's 438.5 lbs. of food, so far, to help our community in these times of cutbacks and greed.

*John Tyo, Chair, UShare*

### NEW WEBSITE NEWS

The Outreach Committee is very excited to introduce the new church website. We think everyone is going to love it! We are very grateful to the many committee members and others who contributed to the complex and time-consuming update. To make sure the site is as attractive and engaging as can be - to newcomers AND ministerial candidates! - we are hiring a photographer to take photos that show our vibrant congregation and beautiful church space. We will hold off on the launch of the new site until we have current photographs added. A photographer will be at church one Sunday in September to snap some candid and likely some "set-up" shots. We apologize for any inconvenience or distraction this causes and appreciate your cooperation with requests for "photo shoots." Watch for news on the unveiling later in September, following which we will have information/tutorial sessions on the new site.

*Carol Pynchon, Outreach Committee Chair*

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email: [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)  
Deadline for next newsletter:  
**Monday, September 21**

## ON THE CALENDAR

### **Wednesday, September 2**

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee meeting  
10:00 a.m., Library work day  
12:15 p.m., Staff Relations Committee meeting  
6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

### **Sunday, September 6**

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting  
10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### **Monday, September 7 - LABOR DAY**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, September 8**

5:00p.m., Fellowship Committee meeting  
6:30 p.m., Welcome Committee meeting

### **Wednesday, September 9**

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### **Thursday, September 10**

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

### **Sunday, September 13 - INGATHERING & RE TEACHER ORIENTATION**

10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

### **Monday, September 14**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, September 16**

10:00 a.m., Library work day  
6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting

### **Thursday, September 17**

7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee meeting

### **Sunday, September 20**

10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE  
11:30 a.m., Congregational Meeting with UUA  
Compensation Consultant

### **Monday, September 21**

*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*  
Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Tuesday, September 22**

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

### **Wednesday, September 23**

10:00 a.m., Library work day

### **Saturday, September 26**

All day, Local Living Festival

### **Sunday, September 27**

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE  
11:30 a.m., Social Action Committee meeting

### **Monday, September 28**

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### **Wednesday, September 30**

10:00 a.m., Library work day



## **The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton**

Interim Minister, Rev. Joel Miller

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Nelly Case, Music Director                      Carol Strome, Choir Director

Gwen Cunningham, Congregational Administrator

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus

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