



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



**Summer 2016**

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

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

## **July 3**

*Naming, Knowing, Listening, Loving –*

Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel and Valerie Ingram, Lay Leaders

This experiential worship service, borrowed from the Rev. Erika Hewitt and adapted for our congregation, explores “prayer” – defined in a broadly UU way - and four ways to experience prayer: naming, knowing, listening, and loving.

*Council Welcomer:* Todd Moe

*RE Ambassador:* Arthur Freeheart

*Collection Counters:* Tim Opdyke, David Doran

## **July 10**

*A Diversity of Opinion –* Dorothy Latta, Pulpit Guest  
Freedom of the Pulpit and Freedom of the Pew are long-standing traditions for Unitarian Universalists. But are these freedoms absolute or do they come with responsibilities?

Dorothy has lived in North Country for 28 years and been an active member of UU Fellowship in Plattsburgh for about 25 years. She has served in a variety of roles including president, and, for many years, member of their Worship Committee.

*Lay Leader:* Robin Collen

*RE Ambassador:* Sally Hoose

*Collection Counters:* Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

## **July 17**

*Bad Fathers –* Doug Rubio, Pulpit Guest

Last month was Father’s Day, when we celebrated all the great things our fathers taught us and did for us. But not all fathers deserve to be celebrated. What about those fathers who were ill equipped for parenthood, whose behavior made them very poor role models, or – worse yet – who were psychologically or physically abusive? Doug will reflect on his personal life experiences, and explore the path we might take towards wholeness and forgiveness.

Doug is a member of the Worship Committee. He has been attending our church for over 20 years, and has held a number of leadership positions, including president. In his non-church life he is a professor of classical guitar at SUNY Potsdam.

*Lay Leader:* Mark Berninghausen

*RE Ambassador:* Esther Katz

*Collection Counters:* Janet Green, Jon Montan

## **July 24**

*Dandelions are Divine –* Bill Vitek, Pulpit Guest

With the invention of agriculture 10,000 years ago, humans unwittingly embarked on a path that cleaved the world in two: Wild nature to be subdued or ignored, crops and livestock to be grown entirely for human benefit. But there’s a quiet revolution underway that seeks to provide scientific understanding of – and real-world applications to – Thoreau’s most radical provocation: “In Wildness is the perseveration of the world.”

Bill Vitek teaches philosophy at Clarkson University. His collaborations with Wes Jackson, founder of The Land Institute and Natural Systems Agriculture, have resulted in two edited collections, *Rooted in the Land* and *The Virtues of Ignorance*. Vitek and Jackson are currently working with colleagues around the country to establish Ecosphere Studies as the educational analogue to Natural Systems Agriculture.

*Lay Leader:* Robin Collen

*RE Ambassador:* Dave Bradford

*Collection Counters:* Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

## **July 31**

Jan Hutslar, Pulpit Guest

Jan joined our church in 1998 and served as Director of Religious Education from 2002 to 2014. In the fall of 2014 she started her official journey to ministry, as a divinity student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. Having completed two years of study at Starr King, Jan will soon begin an internship at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Concord, MA, but not before she spends a couple of weeks in her home in the woods in Pyrites.

*Council Welcomer:* Katherine Brown

*Lay Leader:* Mark Berninghausen

*RE Ambassador:* Anna Sorensen

*Collection Counters:* Valerie Ingram, Lorraine Olendzenski

### **IT'S SUMMER - YAHOO!**

*We hope you enjoy the summer months, whether you stay put in the North Country or explore places further afield. We will be here, and encourage you to join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings...even when the sun is shining! Please note that during July, we do not assign volunteers to serve as greeters and social hour hosts. If you can volunteer in July, please contact the Church Office and let us know the Sunday(s) you are available.*

### **Summer Office Hours**

Please note that for July and August, the church office hours will remain the same:

**Monday through Friday 1 to 4 p.m.**

Gwen is also available by appointment as needed. Please email or call the office if you need to schedule time outside these hours: 386-2498 or [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org).

Have a great summer!

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As we begin our Summer of Transition, I thought you would appreciate a brief review of what will be happening in the next two months.

We have a plan for the month of July that covers most situations that might come up. During office hours, contact Gwen, otherwise, should an emergency occur, contact me at [president@uucantonny.org](mailto:president@uucantonny.org) or at my home phone number which is in the church directory. Summer is a sleepy time, but we have contingency plans for the most likely situations.

Kudos to those congregants who are assuming the responsibilities for the UShare gardens in the wake of John Tyo's untimely death. This stunned us all, and left much to be done right at the beginning of the growing season. As is so often the case in our community, people stepped right up to shoulder the additional burden. Many thanks to all who have taken on more of UShare's work. You can help support these efforts by signing up to care for the Canton garden for a week this summer or pitching in at the Cecilie garden in Potsdam.

James officially begins his ministry with us on August 1. He and his family will be arriving in Canton the last week of July. James will be assisting with services in August and you can expect to see him in the pulpit in September.

As part of the process of bringing on a new minister, the UUA provides professional support for a "Start-up" weekend. This provides an opportunity for the congregation and the new minister to examine expectations, build relationships, and plan for future. We have scheduled an all-congregation event for Friday, September 16, with an all-day training session for church leadership on Saturday, September 17. Expect more details as plans are finalized.

As we all know, summer is fleeting in the North Country, a precious commodity to be savored. The Worship Committee has worked hard to provide summer services to be savored as well. I hope our paths will cross on some Sunday, and that you enjoy your summer endeavors.

*Barbara Beekman, Church Council President*

## RE PONDERING/UPDATE

Summer has a magical quality! For some, it's a time for bare feet to connect to the energy of the earth and souls to be fed by the sun's energy. For others, it's a time to connect with family and friends around a barbecue or during that yearly family reunion visit. Summer magic can also be found in the growth of flowers and trees, the birth of animals, or the sheer abundance that is felt throughout the natural world. In religious education this summer, we will be creating some magic of our own. During Sunday RE classes from July 10 through August 14, we will be entering the magical world of Harry Potter and Hogwarts. We will experiment with potions, play quidditch and send owl posts to our family and friends. Please join us for some magical moments. If you won't be joining us for summer RE, may you find some summer magic and may it help your spirit grow.

*Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education*

### *What's Coming Up in July and August in Religious Education?*

Sunday, July 3 - Summer Fun Day

Sundays, July 10-August 14 - Summer at Hogwarts

Sundays, August 21 & 28 - Summer Fun Days

Saturday, August 27 - RE Committee Retreat at Carol's Home

### THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Debs Kalicin, Joan Kepes, Linda Kenny, Becky Van de Water, Kate Whitehorne, Natalie Panshin, and Fred Glover for their help with the Blood Drive on June 14.
- † Wil Rivers, Maria Dickinson, and Jenn Whittaker for being Acting DREs during May and June.
- † Wil Rivers, David Bradford, Margaret Harloe, and Joel Miller for assisting with the planning of the RE Sunday Worship Service.
- † Wil Rivers, Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, and the youth and children in RE for creating a beautiful worship service on June 12.
- † Sally Hoose for organizing and placing bird houses at Indian Creek Nature Center.
- † Pete Wyckoff for sharing his passion for and knowledge of the natural world with our children and youth.

### JOYS & SORROWS

- † Welcome baby Evelyn Jean Boczarski, born May 27, and congratulations to her happy parents Katie and Ron and her proud big brother and sister Thaddeus and Sofiya.
- † Our deepest condolences to the family of John Tyo, following his untimely death on May 24. He will be remembered with great fondness.
- † Congratulations to Julia Grigel, daughter of Theresa Witmer and Carol Strome, on her recent marriage to Olivier Gohier. The wedding was celebrated with family and friends near their home in France, and a North Country ceremony and celebration are planned later this summer.
- † Proud congratulations to Kathy Wyckoff who was recently named Distinguished Alumna at SUNY Canton.
- † Our thoughts are with Lorraine Olendsenski, whose father passed away in May.
- † We are so saddened by the death of Pam Short, who passed away in Buffalo, where she had traveled for treatment. We extend our most sincere sympathies to her husband Bill Short, her mother Peggy Sperling, and the rest of Pam's family.

- † Longtime friend of the church Marga Edwards passed away on June 4 after a long period of declining health. If you would like to send a note of condolence to Marga's daughter, Audray, you may contact the church office for her address.

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### *Social Action Committee Kick-Off*

All who are interested in social justice work are invited to join us on Monday, August 22, at 4:30 p.m. We have a lively agenda for the fall. Join us in shaping it!"

### *Blood Drive*

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, August 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We've hosted two consecutive drives with robust turnout. Help continue the trend! If you have a big heart and the ability to give blood, consider scheduling an appointment for this drive by calling 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Walk-ins are always welcome too. In addition, the Social Action Committee needs volunteers to help with registration and dispensing refreshments. Please contact Pat Alden in person or at [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org) if you can help with this.

### *C&CP News*

- The Church and Community Program operates throughout the summer. Families with children who get meals at school during the school year face even more need during the summer. Please remember the "Feed the Need" box in the Social Room.
- For the "School Supplies" Program, UUs are invited to contribute 3x5 index cards and highlighters (and/or anything else you feel school children need in their first-day-of-school backpacks). Place items in the "Feed the Need" box or take them to Church and Community Program at 7 Main Street by August 12. Young or old who'd like to participate, we will need help packing the back packs during the week of August 14. Contact Pat Alden at [socialaction@uucantonny.org](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org) if you can help.
- You can always donate clothing - including jewelry - to the Thrift Shop.
- The food pantry needs volunteers. If you have an hour a week, or a half-day once a month, please contact Connie Jenkins, director, at 386 3534.

### *Campus Kitchens*

- Campus Kitchens continues its Monday dinner program through the summer. With few students on campus, they could use our help, either in preparing, serving, or clean up. You can sign up to volunteer in two ways: (1) directly through Ashlee Downing at [adowning@stlawu.edu](mailto:adowning@stlawu.edu) or (2) sign up (and also see where volunteers are most needed) by at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/122K3XiPIPl3sVyQhXLHynG6ruPswT56w1huYJNiUCg/edit#gid=0>

*Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee*

## **USHARE UPDATE**

John's unexpected passing left big garden boots to fill, but thanks to the contributions of many, both the Cecilie and Priest gardens are in. In fact, the Priest garden has already produced a small crop of radishes that was delivered to the Church and Community Program in Canton! It is fitting that C&CP should receive our first harvest as earlier this year they submitted a grant application to the Food Bank of Central New York on UShare's behalf to support community gardens. We received \$250 that is being used to purchase replacements for some well-loved (read worn out) tools and much-needed fencing and irrigation

supplies. Our great thanks to C&CP Director Connie Jenkins for her leadership and support in pursuing this grant. We will make good use of our new tools!

If you are new to our church, UShare is a congregation-wide social action project focused on growing healthy fresh produce for distribution to local neighborhood centers, community dinners, and food pantries. We have worked together to tend the Cecilie and Priest gardens for over 10 years and always welcome new comers. Families are especially encouraged to get involved. No gardening experience is necessary, just a willingness to pitch in. We have a number of experienced gardeners who provide support and instructions but we need weekly adopters to keep up with watering, weeding, and harvest. Gardening is a great group activity so don't hesitate to double up with another adopter. You can learn more about UShare and find links to the adopter schedule on the church website <http://www.uucantonny.org/social-justice/ushare/> Sign up today and help us to keep UShare growing!

### **MULTI-SITE MINISTRY**

#### **Strengthening Our North Country Cluster Connections**

On Saturday, June 11, members of our congregation hosted friends from the Adirondack UU Community, the UU Fellowship of Plattsburgh, and All Souls UU Church in Watertown to continue our discussion of multi-site ministry. This was the second meeting for three of these congregations and we were pleased to welcome the Watertown congregation to the conversation. When we first met last October, we explored ways that our cluster congregations could support one another and the growth of UUism by sharing our expertise, support, and resources such as RE curricula. Four areas of collaboration have emerged: religious education, worship and music, stewardship, and social action.

Our regional primary contact, Joan Van Becelaere, was a great resource as we debriefed what has happened over the last six months and looked ahead to more and stronger connections. She helped stimulate a lot of good and thought-provoking conversation by showing us a video called *When God Left the Building*, about the demise of church as an institution over the last 30 years, a trend that is especially noticeable but not exclusive to younger adults. Reasons for such disaffection include a feeling of being let down by institutions (including but not limited to church), and common experiences of condemnation or judgment in mainstream Christian/Protestant denominations. It was a sobering documentary, but the hopeful news is that the inclusive and welcoming message of Unitarian Universalism, our commitment to social justice, and our efforts to build communities both within and beyond our congregational walls offer a different, and to many, a more attractive option.

Working to build a stronger web of interconnection among UU congregations in the North Country is a smart and positive step. By supporting each other, sharing ideas, and building relationships we are positioning ourselves to move into the future...and making new friends in the process! Along those lines, mark your calendar for the 2016 HUUTENANNY, Saturday, August 7, at Meacham Lake. The AUUC is hosting this year and it will once again be a fun day for all. Stay tuned for more details.

*Margaret Harloe, North Country Cluster Cheerleader*

### **COFFEE, CONVERSATION & MORE**

Coffee, Conversation & More will be returning in the fall, beginning on September 18. Twice a month - on the first and third Sundays - members and friends will gather before church to enjoy lively conversations (and coffee!) on a variety of topics. One great strength of this group so far has been the diversity of conver-

sations, and we are hoping for another rich potpourri in the fall. If you have an idea for a discussion topic, please talk with any one of the CC&More planners (Margaret Harloe, Helen Hutchinson, Stevie Michaelson, Lorraine Olendzenski, Esther Katz, Susan Powers, Carol Zimmerman) or send a note to [CCMore@uucantonny.org](mailto:CCMore@uucantonny.org).

### COOTS LIBRARY BOOK *reMARKS*

Following up on the Coffee, Conversation & More session earlier this year that focused on the Aid in Dying movement, we have two new adult books in our Memorial Collection as well as a few related children's books. The two new books are Diane Rehm's *On My Own* and Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air*. In *On My Own*, the author talks about the long death of her husband of 50 years, who suffered from Parkinson's disease. Her book touches on practical aspects, including the Aid in Dying movement, as well as the deeply emotional aspect of struggling to create a new reality while clinging to memories of the past. *When Breath Becomes Air* deals with how one can face their own death; Judy Gibson bought this book on impulse, after having read some rave comments about it. Remarking on *When Breath Becomes Air*, Atul Gawande wrote: "Rattling, heartbreaking, beautiful....Proof that the dying are the ones who have the most to teach us about life."

Also in the Memorial Collection are two illustrated books intended for children: *Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way To Explain Death To Children* by Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen and *What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?* By Trevor Romain. These are small volumes, good for young and old alike.

Other new books that have appeared in the last few months include: *I'm Sorry for Your Loss: Hope and Guidance in Managing Your Grief* by Lillian L. Meyers and a beautifully illustrated children's book, *Just A Dream* by Chris Van Allsburg.

Books will be accessioned periodically throughout the summer, so check back often to see what is new. Soon to be available for check out is *Christ for Unitarian Universalists: A New Dialogue with Traditional Christianity* by Scotty McLennan. The newly published book by Peggy Orenstein aimed particularly at parents of teens - *Girls and Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape* will also be available. If you are looking for something a little lighter to fill a lazy summer day, we also have many YA books for entertaining and quick reads. We hope you will stop by the Coots Library often to find your summer reading.

Lorraine Olendzenski, Chair, Library Committee

**Do you receive the weekly church e-news on Wednesday evenings?** A monthly email with a link to the church newsletter? Periodic emails from the Religious Education program? Emails from the Social Action Network?

If you are **not** receiving those emails but believe you are on the email list, you should:

- Be sure the sending email addresses are in your address book, e.g., [office@uucantonny](mailto:office@uucantonny.org), [socialaction@uucantonny](mailto:socialaction@uucantonny.org), [dre@uucantonny](mailto:dre@uucantonny.org), etc.
- Check your **Spam** and **Junk** folders and mark any church emails you find there as not spam or junk to "train" your mailbox to send them to your inbox.
- If you use Gmail, check your **Promotions** folder regularly. If you find an email from the church there click on it and drag it to your Primary folder. You may need to do this a couple times to "train" the little google mail sorter to always send those emails to that folder, which you likely check regularly.

If you'd like help with this, please contact a member of the Communications Committee at [communications@uucantonny.org](mailto:communications@uucantonny.org).

## ON THE CALENDAR

### Saturday, July 2

10:00 a.m., Memorial Service for Pam Short

### Sunday, July 3

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### Monday, July 4

*Church Office closed*

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Wednesday, July 6

6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

### Sunday, July 10

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

### Monday, July 11

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Tuesday, July 12

1:30 p.m., Communications Committee meeting

### Thursday, July 14

7:00 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

### Sunday, July 17

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

### Monday, July 18

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Wednesday, July 20

6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee meeting

### Thursday, July 21

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

### Sunday, July 24

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

### Monday, July 25

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

### Sunday, July 31

10:30 a.m., Worship and RE

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,  
please email: [office@uucantonny.org](mailto:office@uucantonny.org)

This is the "Summer " newsletter, meaning there will be no newsletter in August.  
There will be a calendar published and distributed, along with an  
August "Month of Sundays"

The deadline for next regular newsletter:  
**Monday, August 22**



## 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

Summer office hours:

Monday-Friday 1:00pm-4:00pm

(315) 386-2498

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