



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



June 2012

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

Sunday, June 3

A Wedding in the Family, Rev. David S. Blanchard

Greeters: Tim & Rebecca Weld, Dave Weissbard & Karen Wells

Social Hour: Valerie Ingram, Kelly Johnson-Eilola, Austin & Stefanie Kenyon

Altar Decorations: The DeJoys

Council Welcomer: Galen Pletcher

Library Cart: Ann Elmer

Collection Counters: Valerie Ingram, Ruth Baltus

Sunday, June 10

Blessed are the Troublemakers

Rev. David S. Blanchard

The Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award will be presented during the service.

Greeters: Janice & Cliff Westerling, Eileen Wheeler, Jim Williams & Donna Dillworth

Social Hour: Pat Gengo, Boris & Kim Jukic, Bill Kirchgasser

Altar Decorations: The Jukic family

Council Welcomers: Todd Moe, Galen Pletcher

Library Cart: Sara Ricalton

Collection Counters: Tim Opdyke, Rick Welsh

Sunday, June 17

Love Surrounds You: Religious Education Sunday

The children and youth, preschool through 8th grade, will present an enjoyable and interactive service

on the theme of love. Throughout the service, they will weave our UU Sources into stories, activities, and songs. The 7th and 8th grade class will present the culmination of their year-long project, a slide show about what makes a family. We will also honor all our RE volunteers with a gift and our grateful appreciation.

Annual all-church picnic immediately after the service, see page 6 for details.

Greeters: Eric & Jean Williams-Bergen, Pete & Kathy Wyckoff

Chalice Lighters: RE Committee

Altar Decorations: RE Committee

Council Welcomer: Gary Hoose, Erika Barthelmess

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Peggy Sperling

Sunday, June 24

The Livin' Is Easy:

A Celebration of Summer in Song and Story

David Blanchard,

with Dan Duggan & Peggy Lynn

Greeters: Dick & Donna Kimball,

Dick & Peggy Mooers

Social Hour: Lois & Duncan Cutter, Brian & Claire Gardam

Chalice Lighters: Pat Gengo

Council Welcomers: Galen Pletcher, Tom Pynchon

Library Cart: Lorraine Olendzenski

Collection Counters: Dick Morrow, Lonie Bogett

Don't forget Photo Directory Picture Days

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, June 6, 7, 8, 2 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you haven't made your appointment yet
call the church office or do some from the home page of the church website.

www.uucantonny.org

PASTOR'S PRISM

The last time I was in Syracuse, I took a "short-cut" through a grimy industrial area and got stuck behind a cement truck maneuvering to make a "deposit." I had to sit there a while, waiting. So much for the shortcut. A small flock of pigeons were fluttering around a large puddle, wading in and out, splashing water on their feathers, and occasionally pecking at the filthy water. Lacking any other entertainment, I just observed them for a while as the truck unloaded.

They were, by and large, a rather average assortment of fowl. Their feathers that dull, battleship grey that must have been assigned to them when the spectacular feathers were all claimed by cardinals, gold finches, and indigo buntings. I have never heard anyone say that the pigeon is their favorite bird. Never. It may be the only species I can say that about. A drab and lowly scavenger, with a nondescript call and a propensity for leaving "reminders" on the freshly washed hoods of cars. I've heard people call them "flying rodents." I sense that their self-esteem has suffered. I felt for them.

Before long, another bird joined them. It was a pigeon, but the difference seemed to be that no one had ever told this bird that it was a pigeon. It strutted around with a kind of enthusiasm and *joie de vivre*. Its feathers, though largely grey, had patches of astounding iridescence--greens, blues, and purples. It held its head high and carried on as if it might have been the Mayor of that particular puddle. I caught my reflection in the rear-view mirror, and I was smiling broadly. I liked the notion that this living creature somehow had escaped a fate to be less than something spectacular. And in my imaginary thoughts, I think that this bird looked herself up on Wikipedia when she was freshly hatched, and learned that she was of the species *Columbidae livia domestica*, and decided to act as if she was proud of that fact.

The reality remained unchanged. This was a pigeon. Always was. Always will be. But the expression of that reality became something wonderful. The next thing I knew, a car behind me was sounding its horn. The pigeons and the "un-pigeon" launched into flight. The cement truck was gone. The way was clear. And in the rush of wings, I lost a few of my favorite excuses for remaining a "pigeon" myself.

Love, David

DSB Summer Schedule: I will be on vacation for the month of July, and the first three weeks of August will be used for the bulk of my allotted Study Leave. I will use the final week of Study Leave later in the fall. During vacation I will be, well, on vacation. Short of dire emergencies, I will be largely "off the radar." Arrangements will be made with Church Council should an emergency arise. Those details will be described in the July church newsletter and in summer E-News communications. Study Leave is a time, free of routine responsibilities, for planning, preparation, and study/reflection. As a solo pastor, I have learned the hard way that one cannot be "sort of" on vacation. Refreshment comes only after rest.

If you have been waiting to find a time to talk something over with me, or anticipate needing/wishing my input during the summer, June would be a great time to attend to those intentions.

-dsb

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were many dramatic developments in science in the nineteenth century, but undoubtedly the most important of these in terms of understanding the place of humankind in the Universe (and arguably the most important idea in the whole of science) was the theory of natural selection....

from The Scientists,

by Cambridge astrophysicist John Gribbin

Charles Darwin is often acknowledged as a genius because of his contributions to the understanding of life sciences. His ideas on Natural Selection are well known and even non-biologists like John Gribbin recognized their importance. The idea is simple and some have tried to capture it in the phrase “survival of the fittest,” a phrase neither coined nor favored by Darwin.

But peacocks bothered Darwin. Natural Selection could not explain their beautiful plumage. Pondering the often dramatic differences observed between the males and females of many species, Darwin suggested that another type of selection was at play. He suggested that beautiful plumage, songs, and dances of many males were adaptations to attract the greatest number of females. This is Sexual Selection and other scientists believe this was Darwin’s most innovative idea.

Yet there were still other observations of nature that did not gel with Natural Selection. Many animals self sacrifice or put themselves at risk for the benefit of their social group. Examples of these altruistic behaviors include the tail slap of a beaver and the thumping of a rabbit, both warning signals of predator proximity. The behavior draws the attention of the predator. Darwin suggested that these behaviors would be adaptive if the behavior increased the survival or reproductive success of close relatives. More than 150 years of research have supported all of these ideas.

Altruism is a word that often pops into my head when I look at the actions of our congregation. The sacrifice is not survival, of course, but the in-

vestment of time and financial resources to benefit our social group and our Unitarian Universalist Principles of Faith. If “deeds not creeds” define our faith, we are a faithful group indeed. There are so many examples it is hard to know where to start. Approximately 30 percent of our members are actively engaged in governance through our committee structure. Another 30 percent are actively engaged in religious education. Our church becomes a beehive of activity (with a nod to Mark) during Buildings and Grounds organized work-days. Our generous spirit was demonstrated in our most recent and most successful annual canvass and the remarkable generosity observed during our Under One Roof Capital Campaign. Many members and friends work tirelessly for social justice and environmental awareness.

As we move into a relatively quiescent time of our annual cycle of activity, church leaders will be quietly contacting members and friends to solicit involvement as we plan for the next cycle of activity. It is a great time for us to reflect on our contributions to our shared beliefs and the actions required for their support. If you have been shy or reluctant to engage in the past, but believe your time is now, please contact a member of Church Council. Communities are built upon the generous nature of their members.

Walter James Conley

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

I am so inspired in the springtime, I have so much more energy for, well, everything! New life is bursting forth, I can wear sandals instead of boots, I soak up sunshine and hear birdsongs, all the delights of the outdoors. Lucky me, I work in an environment in which I am inspired by the activities of the indoors as well.

I am inspired by adults who spend their Sunday mornings bent over a table covered in dirt, helping young people plant itty-bitty seeds into soil blocks. I am inspired by the intention those seeds hold, to feed those in need, to share. I am inspired by the youth group with their singing and reflec-

tions, literally giving me hope for the future and encouraging me to work toward being the best “me” I can be. I am inspired by our younger RE children whose smiles assure me that they feel at home here.

I am inspired by people willing to pitch in to help care for our nursery children. Sometimes at the last minute! I am inspired every time our minister David Blanchard walks into the sanctuary singing down the aisle.

I am inspired by the Religious Education Committee. They come together every month to discuss the best ways to reach and teach our children. They are dedicated and caring and a wonderful support system for Jan and me.

For all these reasons I was inspired to write this newsletter article. I know I am lucky to be a part of this loving cooperative community. Thank you all for all you do.

Gina Nicoletta-Budler

THANK YOUs!

- † To Rebecca McCarthy for generously lending her awesome collection of fabric markers to the quilt efforts.
- † To Laura Foster and David Bradford for offering to chaperone the Youth Group sleepover at church.
- † To the members of our wonderful Youth Group for the amazing and absolutely awesome worship service they created and presented.
- † To Esther Katz for the handsome framing of the colorful library poster Max Romey created a few years ago.
- † To ALL the volunteers who showed up for our spring workday - their hard work made for a very successful day. Special thanks to Pat Gengo, Becky Van de Water, and Richard Grover for organizing workday projects. Congratulations to our gift card winners: Pete Wyckoff - Rex Hardware; Carol Pynchon - Coakley Ace Hardware; Judy Gibson - Potsdam Agway; and Jim Rudd - Evans and White Ace Hardware.

JOYS & SORROWS

- † Our heartfelt sympathy to Brian Gardam on the death of his father.
- † Condolences to Liliana Trevizan and Oscar Sarmiento following the passing of Liliana’s father in April.
- † Three cheers for Jean Thompson, who recently passed her medical coding certification exam.
- † Congratulations to Max Romey, who is the Alaska High School State Champion in both the 1- and 2-mile track events.
- † Congratulations and best wishes to our recent college graduates: Will Romey (Hampshire College), Kate Harloe (Hamilton College), Mary Rubio (SUNY Potsdam), Dominic Grimberg (Cornell University), Mary Barthelme, Ellie Brown, and Samantha Short (St. Lawrence University). Please let the office know of others so they can be acknowledged in the next issue of the newsletter.
- † Congratulations to Madelyn Ball who received honorable mention in the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, the most prestigious award in the country conferred on undergraduates studying the sciences, awarded annually to 300 students nationwide.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm and hearty welcome to these new members who signed our Membership Book on Sunday, May 19: Elizabeth (Beth) Andrews, Katie and Ronald Boczarski, Andrea Ferro. We are delighted that you have found a church home here.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

Under One Roof

The solicitation part of the campaign is winding down. At this point we trust that all church members and friends have had an opportunity to make a pledge or donation to the campaign. If you have not been contacted but would like to make a contribution to the campaign, please call Pete or Kathy Wyckoff (386-2046) or Margaret Harloe (386-2158). The generous pledges of church members and friends continue to exceed our expectations. A grand total will be announced on Sunday morning, June 24.

We have special events planned the weekend of June 23 and 24 to celebrate the success of the campaign. See the announcement below to learn more.

Projects News

We received three responses to our Requests-for-Proposals to area contractors for the roof project. Roofing contractor RSI (Roofing Sheetmetal Inc.) from Gouverneur has been selected to complete the roof replacement and ventilation details. The project is scheduled to begin in September and should be completed by the end of October. The Projects Committee continues to collect information about sanctuary lighting (with leadership from Kim Bouchard), sound (with Tom Sokol as resident expert), and flooring upgrades.

After a little time off to get things settled at home with a new baby, Rebecca Weld will turn her attention to plans for better access and use of the church kitchen.

*Kathy and Pete Wyckoff
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs*

DAN DUGGAN & PEGGY LYNN IN CONCERT!

Saturday, June 23, at 7:30 pm
~ in the sanctuary of our church ~

Dessert reception following the concert

As a part of a weekend celebration of our Under One Roof Capital Campaign, we will welcome Dan and Peggy to our church for this Saturday evening concert, and for the service the next morning. Dan is an amazing hammer dulcimer player (among other things) and Peggy is a gifted vocalist and songwriter (among other things). You can find them on YouTube!

For many years Peggy lived in Paul Smiths, but now she and Dan make their home in Red Creek, New York. I officiated at their marriage about 10 years ago, and they were members of my congregation.

The concert will not be publicized to the "general public," but it is our hope that members and friends of the congregation will invite friends and neighbors to attend with them. The concert will be less than an hour, and will be entertaining for all ages.

Look for a mailing next week, check the church website, or call the office for more information.

Mark your calendars!

PICNIC & PARTY IN THE PARK

Please plan to join us for food, fun, and fellowship at Canton's Bend in the River Park on Sunday, June 17. We'll head down to the park after church and fire up the grills. The church will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers, as well as chips and drinks. What should you bring?

- If your last name begins with A – J bring a salad to share.
- If your last name begins with K – Z bring a dessert to share
- Your own table service (we'll have back-up if you forget).
- Outdoor games, sports equipment, Frisbees, etc.
- Lawn chairs

This year we will hold the 2nd Annual UU Dingle Ball Tournament! According to the unofficial UUDBT rule book, teams of two need not be related and should be composed of an adult and a child/youth contestant. But heck, we'll let everyone play! Will last year's champions hold on to glory and the Dingle Ball Crown? Will a new team break from the pack to crush the competition? Not even sure what Dingle Ball is? We assure you it is a family friendly and fun game, but come to the picnic and find out for yourself! No registration needed, brackets will be formed at the picnic.

Come along, even if you don't have anything to bring. We'll have plenty! Directions to the park will be available at church. In case of rain we'll picnic in the Social Room but we'll hope for a warm, early summer day with lots of sunshine. Contact Margaret Harloe (386-2158) or Pete Beekman (379-9249) if you have questions.

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

The April Social Action Shared Offering (SASO) raised \$781 for the Climate Reality Project.

June is a busy month for social action activities. Saturday, June 2, is the Dairy Princess Parade for those who wish to march in support of gay pride. Meet at 12:30 behind the Social Services building

(on Judson Street, the parking lot is next to the Priest Field garden behind the church). Look for the PFLAG banner. Volunteers are also needed to help serve rainbow sherbet in front of the church during the parade. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Social Action Bulletin Board.

On Sunday, June 3, there will be a SASO for Unirondack camperships (see Matt Barnes' article below).

After social hour on June 3, the Social Action Committee will work on road clean up. Sign up sheets have been posted on the Social Action bulletin board. Please join us and help clean up our community.

On Sunday, June 10, the Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award will be presented.

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be on Sunday, June 24. The committee will be discussing activities for the fall.

Thoughts of a Unirondacker

Summer camps that can act as an extension of a spiritual community while still achieving a relaxed environment are rarities, yet Unirondack's greatest success. During my time there, as both a camper and staff member, spirituality was always encouraged and incorporated into our everyday activities while never seeming too intentionally structured. I have thus come to value highly what Unirondack stands to offer, particularly in recent years with its remarkable initiatives and increased attendance. But simultaneously, as some of you may have heard, they are increasingly unable to provide scholarships to those who cannot afford the cost.

As a community that treats diversity to be of great importance, the campership program acts as a prime contributor to Unirondack's ongoing effort towards enabling underprivileged children to attend. For the decade of coming to Unirondack, I've watched the camper diversity wax and wane. Without a doubt, the years of increased diversity proved more worthwhile, illuminating, and enjoyable. At this point in time, when Unirondack finds

itself unable to achieve its commendable goal alone, I ask members of our own community to contribute. In doing so, you may very well make the summer of a child or teen.

Matthew Barnes

Feed the Need

During June we will continue to collect

Canned fruit & fruit juice

for the Church and Community Program's food pantry.

Don't forget you can get \$5 off any photo package you order through our directory company if you bring a Feed the Need item to your photo session!



Sponsored by your Social Action Committee

Mother's Day Breakfast

Raises Money for Renewal House

Those who attended the Social Action Committee's Mother's Day breakfast not only enjoyed a yummy meal of pancakes and locally raised bacon, but helped raise money for a peace-promoting organization in honor of Julia Ward Howe who founded Mother's Day as an international day of peace. We raised \$163, and used a ballot of choices to select the recipient. Renewal House, the winner by a wide margin, responds immediately to the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in St. Lawrence County through services that empower victims and increase community awareness.

YEAR-END "DEBT" CLEARANCE

I owe such a huge debt of gratitude to all those who have participated in the handbell choir since last September, either as a regular ringer or a substitute. Unlike many other types of musical ensembles, every member of a handbell choir is a so-

loist. No one else covers the bells assigned to any one ringer. Each person is indispensable, but almost everyone needs to miss a rehearsal or performance at one time or another. So those willing to fill in on occasion are as vital to the "cause" as more long-term ringers. It is such fun to make music with all of you and even more fun when we are able to join with the singing choir or do works with other instruments.

This summer I'm going to a national handbell seminar in Cincinnati, where I hope to learn new ringing techniques and find more pieces we would enjoy ringing. But for now, let me underscore my thanks to all of you for another memorable year of making a joyful noise together.

Nelly Case

USHARE MAKES CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Our minister David Blanchard recently came across an article written in 1921 about the Priest Field. He thought it would make a nice addition to our UShare article.

One thing that drew me to the UU church five years ago, was the commitment of the congregation to the community at large and the work everyone here does to ensure that remains a truth about our church. That is the reason I became involved with UShare. Obviously, the intention of social action has been with this congregation for a very long time. But, sometimes we need to see actual evidence to make it believable. The article from 1921, is just that, a reminder, and will serve that purpose here.

Now the history lesson. The public school was on Judson Street in Canton, where the social services building is now. Mrs. Flora Priest, a member of our church, was concerned that the children needed an outdoor play space. After much contemplation, she purchased a large field behind the school building and donated it to be used as a place for the children. That land now belongs to the Village, and when members of our congregation went to them to request use of a parcel of Priest Field for

one of our gardens, they granted permission with the knowledge that children would be a big part of the UShare garden. So in essence, the purpose of the original donation is, to this day, still very true. Our kids are an integral part of UShare at Priest Field garden, through RE classes, work parties, and adopting the garden with their families.

Both gardens need your help this summer. Please consider adopting for a week or signing up to help harvest when we have bountiful crops (I am remembering the beans from last year!). For more information on volunteering opportunities, please feel free to contact me at mariacorse@gmail.com.

Lets keep the connections going!

Maria Corse

FROM THE COOTS LIBRARY

Last month I called your attention to seven books in the "Religion in American Life" series that were recently accessioned and shelved near the "Religion and Spirituality" section of the children's collection. Those books are actually adult books, but available space dictated their placement. This month I do want to recommend a *children's* book that also contributes to our broader understanding of other religions. It's the beautifully illustrated and written *A World of Faith* by Peggy Fletcher Stack and Kathleen Peterson, who use a single page to introduce each of 28 religious traditions. It was a gift to the library from Pete Wyckoff. "This is not academic history," the authors say, "but faith stories in the words of that tradition." Organized alphabetically "so as not to show preference," the book starts with the Amish and ends with, yes, Zoroastrians. The authors again: "Bigotry begins with ignorance, and many of today's children know little or nothing about faiths other than their own. We hope these pages will show them similarities and connectedness so that they can be tomorrow's peacemakers." This is a splendid, useful book. Come borrow it!

Hey, parents! Only a few days remain for your children to enter the library's *Kids' Reading Raffle* and perhaps win a \$20 gift certificate for books

from the SLU bookstore. All they have to do is read a Coots Library book, write a very short review (forms are available in the library), and drop it in the designated box in the library. Three winners will be announced as part of the story time on Sunday, June 10.

All five copies of *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, the congregational Common Read scheduled for discussion on September 30, went flying off the book cart and windowsill. Let's keep those copies circulating during the summer months so everyone has a chance to read Parker Palmer's book.

Judy Gibson

I Just Read...

Some of the children in our congregation have been busy reading and entering the Reading Raffle. Here are their thoughts on a few of the books they have read from our library. Scott Visser read *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, by Katherine Paterson. He thought this was a funny book and especially liked when Gilly tried to run away but the cops got her. Ruth Stevenson has been reading the Ivy and Bean series, by Annie Barrows, about two 9-year old girls who are quite different, but become best friends. Ruth thought these books were funny and liked when Ivy and Bean threw worms at Bean's sister, Nancy. In *Ivy and Bean Take Care of the Babysitter*, the girls make Nancy clean up dirt and hide in the attic crawl space.. Emma Bentley-Hicks read *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Her favorite part of this exciting and suspenseful book was when Katniss volunteers for her sister Prim. Rebecca McCarthy read *Raggedy Ann* by Johnny Gruelle and found the book amusing and exciting, especially when the puppy splashed Raggedy Ann. Arianna Whittaker enjoyed *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter. She reminds us that first Peter ate lettuce, French beans, and radishes, after which he felt rather sick, but then he went to look for parsley.

Thanks to all the kids who have submitted entries so far.

Lorraine Olendzenski

ON THE CALENDAR

Be sure to link to the [Calendar](#) on the church website for current and complete information.

Saturday, June 2

1 p.m., Dairy Princess Parade (meet at 12:30 behind social services building)
6 p.m., Youth Group overnight

Sunday, June 3

9:30 a.m., Environmental Action Committee meeting
9:30 a.m., Over 70 Group
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE
11:30 a.m., Highway Clean-up

Wednesday, June 6

8 a.m., Building & Grounds Comm. mtg.
10 a.m., Library Work Day
2 - 9 p.m., Photo Directory sessions
6:30 p.m., Church Council meeting

Thursday, June 7

2 - 9 p.m., Photo Directory sessions

Friday, June 8

2 - 9 p.m., Photo Directory sessions

Saturday, June 9

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Photo directory sessions

Sunday, June 10

9:30 a.m., Over 70 Group
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

Tuesday, June 12

4 p.m., Church & Community Program meeting

Wednesday, June 13

10 a.m., Library Work Day

Thursday, June 14

1 p.m., Outreach Committee meeting

Sunday, June 17

FATHER'S DAY

9:30 a.m., Over 70 Group

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

11:30 a.m., Picnic & Party in the Park

Wednesday, June 20

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

10 a.m., Library Work Day

1:15 p.m., Library Committee meeting

6:30 p.m., RE Committee meeting

Thursday, June 21

6:30 p.m., Investment Committee meeting

7 p.m. Budget & Finance Committee mtg.

7 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Saturday, June 23

7:30 p.m., Campaign Celebration Concert & Dessert Reception

Sunday, June 24

9:30 a.m., Over 70 Group

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

11:30 p.m., Social Action Committee meeting

Wednesday, June 27

10 a.m., Library Work Day

Thursday, June 28

7 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

HUUT'NANNY 2012

Make friends and have fun with fellow UUs at the 2nd annual HUUT'NANNY

Saturday, July 21 11:00 am - ??
Fish Creek Pond Campground, Pavilion # 1
Saranac Lake

Watch for details in the E-News and on posters in the Social Room.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

The Reverend David S. Blanchard, Minister
Jan Hutslar, Director of Religious Education
Sarah Coburn, Congregational Administrator
Nelly Case, Music Director Carol Strome, Choir Director
The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus



Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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If you would like to receive periodic electronic news updates,
please email office@uucantonny.org.

Please call or write to the church office if you would like to have future
copies of the church newsletter mailed to you via regular mail.

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday, June 20, 10 a.m.