



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton



July 2012

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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

During the summer we rely on volunteers to serve as greeters and social hour hosts.

Please be sure to sign up for these important tasks on the kiosk in the Social Room.

July 1

Mish-Mash - Peter Van de Water, Pulpit Guest

Peter will read excerpts from his recently published book of essays, *This Is What I Thought at the Time*. Originally published in the *St. Lawrence Plaindealer*, the essays cover topics from farming to politics.

Peter Van de Water has been a UU for more than 40 years. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1958, where he was an administrator until his retirement in 1984. Peter has been very active in the community and our church. He was the chairman of the Investment Committee for many years, and has served as president of the congregation.

July 8

Teachable Moments - Maria Corse, Pulpit Guest Through her lifetime, Maria has discovered that for her spontaneity, intuition, and humor are the most effective tools in any learning environment.

Maria Corse lives in Pierrepont in an off-grid homestead with her husband Mike and two children, Ian and MacKenzie. They operate a CSA that supplies veggies, eggs, and mushrooms to ten local families. Maria has been a teacher at Little River Community School since 2003.

July 15

The Writing on the Wall: Spiritual and Ethical Implications of the Environmental Crisis –

Reverend Eugene “Guy” LaMothe

Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr proposes that “Reason is the instrument of our transcendence. Man lives in nature, yet transcends nature.” Yet few could argue that our current confrontation with the biosphere is reasonable, or even rational. We have thought ourselves “transcendent” for too long. Indeed, with a little hindsight, we appear to be living through a uniquely devastating cluster of decades, inflicted by our own hands. What are the implications for our ethics? How can our religious perspectives inform our response to the environmental crisis? Or are we destined to “spoil the nest”?

Guy LaMothe was ordained in 1997 after completing his training at Harvard Divinity School. He focused his studies on Environmental Theology. Guy served UU congregations in San Diego and New Orleans, where he was settled as minister to one of the oldest congregations in the Deep South. In 2005 he visited the wilds of the North Country to help start a grass-fed sheep and cow ranch with his father, near the village of ntwerp. Hurricane Katrina cemented his move, and his new life as a shepherd caring for approximately 800 sheep. Learning to live modestly, he maintains an active reading and study schedule. Guy tends to his flock with the support of his partner, Mike; and the help of his sheepdogs: Kepler, Hobbes, and Mr. Samuel Peyps.

With music by Dr. Michael Sitton, Dean of the Crane School of Music. See page 2 for more about Reverend LaMothe and his sermon topic.

July 22

Otaku - Richie Fennessey, Pulpit Guest

"Otaku" is a Japanese word used to describe someone with a strong interest in computer technology, especially as it intersects with the animated film genres of anime and manga. Richie will share insights from his journey to becoming an *otaku*, and explain how this has impacted his spiritual life.

Richie Fennessey is a member of our high school youth group, and has been attending services at our church since he was born. He is a student at Potsdam High School. Next fall Richie will start a term as a member of the Youth-Adult Committee (YAC) for the St. Lawrence District of the UUA.

July 29

The Weave: Mediocracy Unspun -

John Collins, Pulpit Guest

The Weave is a website founded by faculty and students at SLU in 2006. It seeks to contribute to positive social change and the cultivation of an informed citizenry by providing critical perspectives on important stories, voices, and processes that are not receiving sufficient public attention. It is a small but determined response to the concentration of more and more media power in fewer and fewer hands.

Dr. John Collins is Professor and Chair of Global Studies at SLU. He holds a B.A. in religious studies from Wesleyan University, and a Ph.D. in comparative studies from the University of Minnesota. He is the author of two books on Palestine, and is co-director of *The Weave*.

PASTOR'S PRISM Gone Fishin'

During the month of July, David will be on vacation. In case of emergency, please notify the Church Office. Church Council leadership will know how to reach David should it be necessary for him to return to Canton.

WATER, STONES, SHELLS

The summer months mean different things for all of us – some travel far and wide, others stay close to home. However and wherever you spend your summer, you're invited to collect a sample of water or a stone or a shell. Kids, too! Then at our Homecoming service in September, you can join others in placing your water, stone, or shell on the altar. This is a tradition we share that symbolizes coming together in a diverse and loving community.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

If you were in church for Religious Education Sunday, you know how blessed we are here, with both talented and creative children and youth; and lots of committed adults who volunteer to be part of these young lives in the RE program. Thank you all. If you volunteered and did not receive your pair of hand-rolled beeswax candles, just stop by the RE office and get yours.

This summer, we have a relaxed playful hour during RE, with games, art and outdoor play with sidewalk chalk, bubbles, jump ropes and hula hoops. This RE is available every summer Sunday, thanks to many volunteers. On that note, we still need a helper for July 22, 29, Aug 12, and Aug 26. Please call or email the church to sign up for one of those dates.

Have a relaxing, delightful summer.

Jan Hutslar

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

✚ To the Coming of Age team for organizing and presenting a great orientation and to the youth and their families for participating.

✚ To our amazing RE Committee for their time, energy, and ideas in creating RE Sunday.

✚ To the wonderful children and youth, preschool to 8th grade, for a terrific RE Sunday – great job!

✚ And to the RE Sunday musicians: Nelly Case and Susannah Sudborough; Betsy and Lee Van de Water and Jay Kepes; Gretchen Koehler and Syl Foisy; and Carol Gable and Zach Barnes - wonderful!

✚ To all of the RE volunteers for this school year - you are much appreciated!

✚ To the folks who helped with the Free Will Dinner in June: Maria Corse, Mike Corse, Ian Corse, Andrew Hosmer, Mark Berninghasusen, Rajiv Narula, Linda Kenny, Lorraine Olendzenski, and Aaron Ashley.

✚ A special thank you to ALL who participated in the Photo Directory project. First, for the great turnout of folks/critters who sat for a portrait. Secondly, to those who served as welcomers and hosts as people checked in: Helen Hutchinson, Peggy

Sperling, Marilyn Ross, Jim Rudd, Judy DeGraaff, Janet Green, Erica Beekman, Lindy Pynchon, Louise Bixby, Stevie Michaelson, Peggy Mooers, Robin

Collen, Katherine Brown, Carol Pynchon, Joan Kepes, Pat Dunkelberg, and Judy Gibson. Thirdly, for "Robo Rev's" awesome automated calls. And last but not least, to the Outreach Committee and to Carol Pynchon who waved her magic wand and got it all in motion.

JOYS & SORROWS

✚ Welcome to the new newest members of our church family, born just one day apart: Phineas Wilder Weld was welcomed by his parents Rebecca and Tim, his big brother Tighe, and his grandparents Janet Learned and Michael Greer. Thaddeus Wilem Boczarski joins his parents Ron and Katie.

✚ On June 23, the Sokol/Madden family gathered for a service to celebrate the life of Tom's brother James, who died in January. His ashes have been interred in the Memorial Garden where his memory will rest.

✚ Condolences to Ryan Hicks and Sarah, Emma, and Caleb following the death of Ryan's mother.

✚ Word on the street is that Jon Montan will soon be entering the land of "Retirement"! Congratulations!

✚ We are sorry to learn that the Welsh/Graham family will be moving this summer. Rick and Mary have accepted positions on the faculty at Syracuse University. We will miss them and Douglass.

✚ Also stolen away by the Salt City is Stacey Banfield-Hardaway who has accepted a position at LeMoyne College.

✚ Jay Kepes and Syl Foisy will have roles in the CPS summer production of "Beauty and the Beast."

† Also “on the boards” this summer is a production of “Sunday Rock” directed by Karen Wells!
† Slightly belated (6/21) birthday greetings to Sally Van de Water who only has two years to wait until Willard Scott will announce her birthday on the Today Show! Sharing the same birthday was Janet Green (who has a lot longer to wait for Willard!).
† Congratulations to our high school graduates: Austin Antle, Carli Baldwin, Brigid Carr, Colleen Conklin, Shea Conley, Joe DeJoy, Jay Foster-Grover, Gabrielle Hopkins-Betters, Hannah Roberts, Max Romey, Ella Rubio, Susannah Case Sudborough, Shayla Williams.
† Our deepest condolences to Sandhya Parikh following the death of her son, Dr. Smiral Parikh, in India.

UNDER ONE ROOF CAMPAIGN

We Did It...and Then Some!

We were very pleased to announce, at the Sunday service on June 24, that the Under One Roof Capital Campaign has raised \$283,511 from pledges and donations. This total, more than \$33,000 over our original goal, demonstrates a remarkable commitment on the part of church members and friends. The financial resources are now available to replace the church roof and make improvements to our sanctuary (sound, lighting, carpet) and kitchen (redesign). All of us involved in the campaign are heartened and incredibly grateful for this generous response.

Although the active solicitation phase of the Capital Campaign has ended, we will gladly accept pledges or donations to the campaign going forward. If you were unable to pledge previously and would like to do so now or if you are new to the church and would like to make a contribution to the campaign, please contact Pete or Kathy Wyckoff (386-2046; wyckoff16@msn.com). Additional gifts to the campaign will go toward completion of several smaller building maintenance and improvement projects.

We would like to thank the talented and hard working Campaign Committee for all their efforts: Co-chairs Peter and Becky Van de Water; Members and Friends Chair Margaret Harloe; Projects Coordinator Pete Beekman; Treasurer Natalie Panshin; Events Chair Barb Beekman; Communications Chair Carol Pynchon; Development Consultants Tom Pynchon, Pete Beekman, Dan Sullivan; Church Council President Walt Conley; Minister David Blanchard

Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the church members who enthusiastically canvassed a few of their fellow congregants: Bart Harloe, Bill Short, Marilyn Ross, John Tyo, Tim Opdyke, Lila Hunnewell, Charles Hunnewell, Roger Hutchinson, Helen Hutchinson, Robin Collen, Oscar Sarmiento, Tim Nolan, Lorraine Olendzenski, Todd Moe, Rebecca Rivers, Kim Bouchard, Mary Graham, Dick Morrow, Laura Foster, Peter Van de Water, Becky Van de Water, Pete Beekman, Barb Beekman, Carol Pynchon, Margaret Harloe, Natalie Panshin, Dan Sullivan, Jim Michaelson, David Blanchard.

There are more benefits to a fundraising effort than simply raising money. A campaign should promote and increase the culture of giving within an organization. The 2012 annual pledge drive, the most successful in our church’s history, and the Under On Roof Capital Campaign demonstrate, beyond a doubt, a strong culture of giving and a willingness on the part of this congregation to support the church we love. Thank you all.

Kathy and Pete Wyckoff

INVESTMENT NEWS

The church’s Investment Committee voted to move all of the church’s endowment investments to the UUA Common Endowment Fund. This fund is managed by UUA’s investment committee and treasurer who have

far more investment expertise than our small committee in Canton. Our church's endowment of approximately \$280,000 is now pooled with funds of the UUA and other UU congregations across the country to form an endowment totaling more than \$143,000,000. The net year to date return earned on the UUA endowment through April of this year was 8.2 percent. The annual returns for 2011 and 2010 were -1.1 percent and 13.0 percent, respectively.

This UUA endowment fund is invested in a highly diversified portfolio, much of it in investments deemed socially responsible. The size of the fund provides the opportunity for the UUA to join with other institutional investors such as the New York City Pension Fund and Boston Common Asset Management Fund to seek positive changes in corporate behavior. Currently the UUA is working with these other institutions to call on CEOs of leading companies in the U.S. to speak out on immigration policy reform and implement climate change initiatives.

The church's account with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney will be closed and a new stock gift account has been opened with Charles Schwab & Co. Members of the congregation wishing to make gifts of stock to the church may instruct their brokers to wire the stock to the church's account as follows.

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
DTC 0164
Account Name: First Universalist Society in the Town of Canton
Account Number: 7028-9750

Stock certificates may also be deposited to the account. Please ask Pat Glover or Carol Gable for instructions on how to do this.

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the June SASO for Unirondack camperships. Special recognition is extended to David Blanchard for matching some of the donations.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who participated in the June social action activities, including the Dairy Princess parade, highway clean up, and the Free Will Dinner.

Congratulations to Margaret Weitzman the 2012 Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award recipient.

This month's "Feed the Need" food collection box item will be ingredients for summer dishes. One example of this is elbow macaroni for pasta salad. Think of your favorite summer dishes and choose an ingredient accordingly. As always any and all items contributed will be appreciated.

The Committee has been discussing social action issues and ideas related to the upcoming election. If you have any ideas for activities related to the election, please pass it on to Mark Berninghausen or Pat Turbett. Have a great summer.

USHARE Help Wanted!

As many of you may have observed during our beautiful outdoor social hour beside Priest Field last month, the UShare gardens are in full summer mode. Everything has been planted and the first harvests of greens have been donated to the Community Meals in Canton. Our early season adopters have been busy weeding and watering and the gardens are looking fantastic.

This year, we have expanded our gardening space thanks to Joan and Dick Kepes who are letting use a portion of their large garden. We have planted 12 hills of winter squash and will cover the remainder of the garden with tarps to kill all of the grass, so the full garden can be used next year. The idea is to make this garden as self-sustaining as possible, growing crops that need little attention and then storing them for later distribution during the winter season.

The following dates are open in the Cecilie Garden adopter schedule: July 1-7, July 8-14, August 5-11, August 26-September 1, September 9-15, and September 16-22. Please contact Duncan and LoisCutter dcutter1@twcny.rr.com to adopt. The Cecilie Garden will continue their Friday afternoon workdays at 4 o'clock each week – we hope you can join us.

HUUT'NANNY 2012

Make friends and have fun with fellow UU kinfolk at the 2nd annual HUUT'NANNY, Saturday, July 21, at 11 a.m., at the Fish Creek Pond Campground, Pavilion #1, Saranac Lake.

"Last summer I went to the inaugural huut'nanny at Fish Creek Campground. It's located off Route 30 between Tupper Lake and Lake Clear Junction. The day was perfect and we made the most of it. Most of the participants were from the Saranac Lake Fellowship but a few souls from the Canton church made it too. After one of those legendary UU potluck meals under the shelter of the pavilion, we enjoyed a charade game, some music, and set forth in canoes and kayaks to ply the waters of Square Pond. There is also a nice swimming beach, changing rooms, bathrooms and a playground for kids. Fish Creek Campground is located relatively centrally to UUs in Canton, Saranac Lake, and Plattsburgh and I hope that we have an even better turnout this year. I highly recommend it!" *Jon Montan*

Please bring...

\$8 entry fee, bathing suits, an instrument for some music making, a kayak or canoe, a game or craft to share and a side dish. Beverages will be provided and local grass fed beef burgers will be on the grill. In an effort to create minimal waste, this is a "leave no trace" event. Please bring your own plates, napkins, flatware, and beverage glass.

To RSVP for this event, please see the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Social Room or contact Kathy Montan at kmontan@northnet.org or 379-9218. Interested in carpooling? Please be sure to check this off on the sign-up sheet.

FROM THE COOTS LIBRARY

Most UUs with Canton and SLU connections recognize the name Owen D. Young. They probably know that the college library bears his name, that he was Chairman of the Board of GE and of St. Lawrence's Board of Trustees, and maybe even that it was he who brought Marie Curie to St. Lawrence. What they likely do *not* know is that Owen D. Young was raised in the Universalist Church of Van Hornesville where he became Sunday School superintendent when he was 15, and that later in his life his philanthropic generosity helped build the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, D.C. And they may not know that this very successful industrialist was both philosophically and actively committed to the rights and dignity of the working class. He favored heavy taxes on inherited wealth, and during the Great Depression supported Social Security, including unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and old age pensions.

This information, and several more pages about ODY can be found in John Buehren's *Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History*, published just last year and shelved with other "brown label" books on

church history in the Coots Library. One reviewer said, "The big names are all here, but they share space with forgotten feminists, rural radicals, and faith-filled capitalists." (The last must be a reference to Young.) Another called the book "a vibrant history populated by real human beings, not just dates, ideas, and famous figures. A good summer read for new UUs and old? Yes, indeed!

Judy Gibson

I Just Read

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation #1: The Pox Party by M. T. Anderson

If you're an adult reader who hasn't yet discovered the joy of young adult fiction, you're in for a treat! YA novels are all the rage among librarians and other savvy readers who appreciate compelling, creative, well-written, and emotionally resonant stories. Anderson's book meets all of these criteria and then some. Ambitious, complicated, and chilling, it's a tale of slavery set in Boston on the eve of the Revolutionary War. Octavian is a little black boy who lives in a household of eccentric scientists. Though others of his race are raised as slaves, Octavian is given a classical education as part of a somewhat dubious experiment. Because the story is mostly related through his journals, Anderson has created a unique perspective: a slave who can write about his plight in relation to ancient history, whose speech is more scholarly than colloquial, and who expresses his rage by mournfully playing his beloved violin.

Though Octavian is raised as a quasi-prince, misfortunes eventually cause him to experience the more typical life of an 18th century slave; because he has a better life with which to compare, his sense of injustice is even more pronounced and heartbreaking. This isn't always the easiest book to read; the language is sophisticated, the subject matter serious, and at 350+ pages, it's a bit of a time commitment. But don't be daunted -- this book is well worth the effort, especially if you have a strong interest in American history. If you're a Revolutionary War buff, you'll especially enjoy the second installment of the series (*The Kingdom on the Waves*, available at Potsdam Public Library), which focuses more specifically on combat.

Beth Andrews

CELEBRATION INVITATION

Arlene Oey invites her UU Church Friends to join her at her 80th Birthday Celebration on Sunday, August 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Kilburn Manor, 59 Milwaukee Street in Malone (just one block from Route 11). Please come and help her mark this special occasion. For directions see the Kilburn Manor website www.kilburnmanor.com/details.htm or contact Esther Oey at 386-1518.

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, July 1

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

Sunday, July 8

9:30 a.m., UShare meeting

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

Sunday, July 15

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

Sunday, July 22

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

Friday, July 20

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday, July 19

6:30 p.m., Investment Committee meeting

7 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee mtg

7 p.m., Worship Committee meeting

Saturday, July 21

11 a.m., HUUT'NANNY 2012

Thursday, July 26

7 p.m., Stewardship Committee meeting

Sunday, July 29

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

Be sure to double check standing committee meetings this month; schedules often change during the summer! *All events and activities are at church unless otherwise noted.*

Visit www.uucantonny.org for updated information about July church events.

If you would like to receive weekly electronic
"UU News to Know" messages, please email the church office
office@uucantonny.org

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

The Reverend David S. Blanchard, Minister

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeritus

Jan Hutslar, Director of Religious Education

Sarah Coburn, Congregational Administrator

Nelly Case, Music Director Carol Strome, Choir Director



Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, July 20