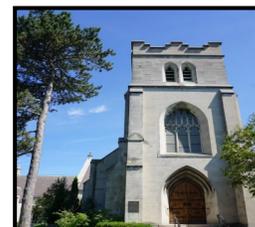




Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Gather - Inspire - Transform



Minister's Column: What does it mean to be a People of Imagination?

Let's carve some time out of this dreary, isolating winter to use our imaginations. Let's write poetry together! I am told this is a common exercise for writers and poets: take apart a poem and create something completely new. It's easy:

Here's how:

- Choose a relatively short poem
- Cross out every other line,
- Fill in the crossed-out lines with lines of your own.

You can stop there, or if your imaginative juices are flowing, you can keep going!

- Take the new poem you've created, cross out the remaining original lines (leaving the ones you wrote)
- Fill in the crossed-out lines with new ones of your own, making it a completely original poem.

For example:

<p><i>Step 1</i></p> <p>Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider who sat down beside her and frightened Miss Muffet away.</p>	<p><i>Step 2</i></p> <p>Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider who sat down beside her and frightened Miss Muffet away.</p>	<p><i>Step 3</i></p> <p>One snowy day, I sat on a tuffet, my imagination running wild. Along came a spider. Laughing, I took my cue and frightened Miss Muffet away.</p>
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<p><i>Step 4</i></p> <p>One snowy day, I Sat on a tuffet, my imagination running wild. Along came a spider. Laughing, I took my cue and frightened Miss Muffet away.</p>	<p><i>Step 5</i></p> <p>One snowy day, I looked out the window, imagination running wild. A snowman suggested cocoa. Laughing, I took my cue and made us both a mug.</p>
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Try it! Use "Little Miss Muffet" or any other poem! Write a haiku! A sonnet! A six-line short story. Consider it an adventure for your imagination! Fun for the whole family!

Send your finished poems to me (minister@buffalouu.org) and we will laminate them and hang them on the climbing tree in the garden. Together we will create an outdoor poetry gallery to brighten up the new year.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Pulpit Previews, Zoom Webinar Worship

(click <https://www.buffalouu.org/zoom-info.html> for Zoom Webinar instructions).

Jan 3: Soul Ablaze, Rev. Edith Love

What do we think of in the month of January....new beginnings, letting go, and figuring out what matters most? In this sermon we will examine the 'widow's mite' passage in Christian scripture, and how it might relate to us as Unitarian Universalists. What does our faith call us towards in a post-pandemic world?



Jan 10: Living into Our Radiance, Janice Marie Johnson

As a new year unfolds, we have yet another opportunity to collectively imagine and create new lifeways richly filled with grace and gratitude. Let us intentionally and creatively, "choose to bless the world."

Jan 17: Imagine a World... Rev. Joan Montagnes

Imagine a world of equity, peace and compassion. Imagine a world that treats the environment as a partner rather than a resource. Imagine being the change we want to see.

Jan 24: Showing Up for Each Others' Mental Health, Rev. Barbara Meyer

On any given Sunday approximately 20% of people attending a UU service might be experiencing mental health issues. While we feel relative ease supporting someone with cancer, we often experience difficulty addressing and supporting people with mental health issues. How can we learn to support people in mental health crisis or with chronic mental health conditions?

Jan 31: The Life of the Mind, Rev. Joan Montagnes

A reflective service that wanders through the hallways of imagination. Sometimes, when we open a door, we discover the completely unexpected.

Rev. Joan on Vacation

Rev. Joan will be on vacation from Dec. 25 – January 16. The staff and Board of Trustees know how to contact her. Please do not hesitate to reach out for any pastoral concern.

Joys and Sorrows

We hold in our hearts Mary Lou Hill whose mother, Kathleen Hill-Daugherty, passed away December 25.

We offer condolences to Kathy Kubala. Kathy's sister, Kandy, who suffered with dementia for six years, passed away November 21.

Our hearts are with Helen Lowry and Jeff and Rita Capizzi. Rita's father passed away on December 17.

We are also thinking of Marilyn Burke, Andrea Burke Harris' mother, who is experiencing a difficult and major life transition with her family as she entered permanent, full-time homecare last month.

Many in our church family have been visited by the specter of the coronavirus. We hold in our hearts:

- Lynn Mancuso and her mother Elizabeth Wolfe, both members of our congregation. While Lynn's mother is recovering from covid-19, Lynn's father, Robert, passed away last month from the disease. He had just celebrated his 98th birthday
- Jane Kustreba's daughter's family who are all fighting covid-19
- John Segman who has recovered from the coronavirus, and
- Sara Metcalf's father, Allan, who has completely recovered from a serious case of covid-19.

Religious Education News

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education



This January, we're looking forward to exploring the ministry theme of Imagination in several of our RE classes. Only one class will have a new supply packet this month. Please see below for details.

All our RE classes will continue to meet online this winter and spring.

PreK – Packets will be available for pick up at the church between 1 and 3 pm on Saturday, January 2. Please email lifespan@buffalouu.org if you cannot pick up your PreK packet at that time and we will get it to you another way!

K-2 Spirit Play – There are no new supplies for Spirit Play, but if you would like to pick up a package of Crayola's new Colors of the World crayons, we will have extras available at the PreK pick up on January 2 (see above).

K-5 Workshops – There will be no packets for January. We are going to celebrate our ministry theme of Imagination with "Come as You Are January"! No extra supplies are needed for our January sessions. News on February & March packets (including a set of Colors of the World crayons) will be available later in the month. Watch your RE email for details.

Graphic Novels (grades 4-9) – Our Graphic Novels class already has all the supplies they need. In the month of January, the class will pivot from fictional superheroes to real life superheroes, including the late congressman John Lewis and his graphic novels, March 1, 2, & 3. This class will meet on the following Sundays at 3 pm:

January 3

January 17

January 31

Coming of Age (grades 8 & 9) – As we continue to talk about what makes our values OUR values and how our Unitarian Universalist faith shapes them, we'll also make time for games and social time!

This class will meet on the following Sundays at 6 pm:

January 3

January 17

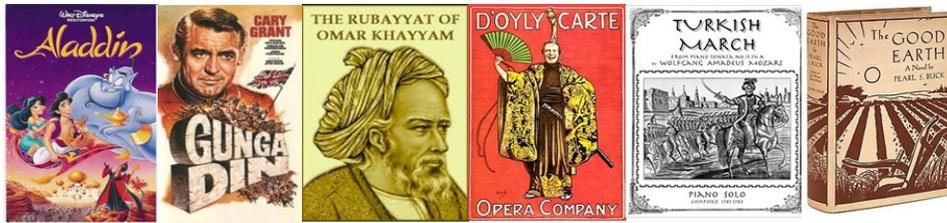
January 31

Youth Group will continue to meet online at noon on Sundays and 8 pm on Wednesdays.

For more information on any of our RE classes, or to be added to our RE email updates, please email lifespan@buffalouu.org.



Adult Faith Development



EAST MEETS WEST: A SURVEY OF ORIENTALISM

Michael Harris, instructor

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

14 Online Zoom Meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

January 27th to April 28th, 2021

Cost: \$75 for Full Course, or \$10 per Session

We look at the Orient through Western eyes: the China of Marco Polo and Pearl Buck, the Japan of Puccini and Gilbert & Sullivan, the India of Rudyard Kipling, and the Middle East of 1001 Arabian Nights and The Rubaiyat of Omar Kayaam.

To register, send your check, made out to UUCB, to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. The church office will send the Zoom meeting number and instructions for logging-in to your email address. For information, call 885-2136, or email at office@buffalouu.org.

Course Syllabus:

Session One (January 27): What is Orientalism? Travels along the Silk Road: The Travels of Marco Polo

Session Two (February 3): Music *à la Turk* – Janissary Music in the Classical Age – Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven

Session Three (February 10): Hafez, Goethe and the East-West Divan

Session Four (February 17): Thieves, Genies and Magic Carpets – Sir Richard Burton's The Book of a Thousand Nights and a Night

Session Five (February 24): “A Jug of Wine, A Loaf of Bread -- and Thou” – Edward FitzGerald's The Rubaiyat of Omar Kayaam

Session Six (March 3): From Haiku to High Modernism – Imagist Poetry

Session Seven (March 10): Japonisme/Chinoiserie in the Visual Arts

Session Eight (March 17): Orchestral Orientalism [Debussy's La Mer, Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, Borodin's “Polovetsian Dances”]

Session Nine (March 24): Asiatic Portraits at the Paris Opera House [Lakmé, The Pearl Fishers, Samson et Dalila, Thaïs]

Session Ten (March 31): Puccini's Operatic Orient [Madama Butterfly, Turandot]

Syllabus continues [HERE](#)

Music Notes – January 2021

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



We begin the New Year contemplating an auspicious question for a congregation of *inspiration* and *transformation*, such as ours: What does it mean to be a People of *Imagination*? As this second calendar year of the COVID crisis sets forth, your Music Ministry can reflect upon ten months of programming, and *imaginative* performance and re-creation of a musical culture which is so valued by our community. This month, we celebrate the depth and richness of repertoire pieces of your UUCB Choir in new versions recorded by our Soloists, Jessie Downs, Helen Lowry, Matthew Spaulding and Michael Harris, mixed especially for our Zoom services, and heard alongside the keyboard wizardry of our Accompanist, Jonathan Vogtle.

To begin, we welcome guest preacher Edie Love for the January 3rd Sunday service, *Soul Ablaze*. Our service Prelude is the haunting art song *Priez pour paix* (“Pray for Peace”) by Francis Poulenc, sung by Jessie Downs. The Kings Singers arrangement of pop musician, John David’s *You Are the New Day* has been in your UUCB Choir’s repertoire since the installation of Rev. Joan Montagnes, and our service Offertory will be Jane Lincoln’s mix of our Soloists in this soulful anthem. Our music concludes with Jonathan Vogtle’s rendition of hard bop pianist, Cedar Walton’s *Charmed Circle*.

Dr. Janice Marie Johnson leads the January 10th service, *Living into Our Radiance*. Jonathan Vogtle will offer up a pair of graceful keyboard works by J.S. Bach, complementing the richness of Jean Berger’s *A Rose Touched by the Sun’s Warm Rays*, in a new mix performed by our Soloists. Ennio Morricone’s popular instrumental theme to the film, *The Mission*, “Gabriel’s Oboe” serves as the service Postlude. We welcome Rev. Montagnes’s return for her service *Imagine a World...* on January 17th. Evocative nature pieces will be featured, including “Blind Tom” Wiggins’ *Water in the Moonlight* and Stephen Chatman’s *Voices of Earth: Snow*. Mark David Buckles’ setting of *The Seventh Principle* will be heard for the first time in a new digital mix featuring our Solo Quartet with Jonathan Vogtle on Keyboard.

The UUCB Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry present Rev. Barbara Meyers for our service on the 24th. Service music this Sunday explore the composers Robert Schumann and Thelonious Monk, both of whom had lifelong struggles with mental illness. Jessie Downs will also offer up the emotionally-textured aria from Giacomo Puccini’s *La Bohème*, “Donde Lieta Usci” (“From here she happily left”). Finally, we end the month with a reflective service of readings and music, *The Life of the Mind*. Service music will include your UUCB Choir in contemporary Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt’s *Solfeggio* alongside a work with origins a thousand years earlier, *Ut queant laxis* – the hymn to John the Baptist, which provided the structure for the modern musical scale. Igor Stravinsky’s teaching piano pieces from *Les cinq doigts* (“The Five Fingers”) will serve as Prelude, and a Clara Schumann Prelude and Fugue will provide a virtuosic ending to an *Imag-*



January Share-the-Plate: [HOME](#)

Since 1963, HOME has fought for fair housing in the WNY area. Founded by clergy and laity as a volunteer-run organization, HOME is now a thriving, impactful non-profit that serves thousands of clients each year. With the support of like-minded community organizations like UUCB, HOME has been able to fight against housing discrimination and ensure that housing insecure members of our community find a safe and affordable place to live.



HOME's mission is to promote the value of diversity and to assure the people of WNY an equal opportunity to live in housing or communities of their choice. The only agency in WNY providing comprehensive services for victims of housing discrimination, HOME records and investigates reported incidents of discrimination, provides paralegal counseling, advocates to conciliate validated complaints or prepares cases for legal action, and offers emotional support for victims and their families. HOME provides education and outreach through trainings, workshops, presentations and materials to home-seekers and housing providers, advising them of their rights and responsibilities under state, local and federal fair housing laws. Lastly, HOME administers a mobility program that assists individuals seeking to move to areas of higher opportunity through housing search assistance and security deposit grants. UUCB's continued support has made these services possible.

2020 was certainly an unprecedented year, full of challenges that none of us could have prepared for. Despite this, HOME rose to even greater heights to serve Western New York. With UUCB's support, we will be able to have an even more successful 2021. Here's to a new year with new opportunities to serve our fellow Western New Yorkers!

Leaving a Higher Stack

Some years ago, the governor of Virginia delivered a commencement address to the graduating class of one of the state's universities. In it he described a mountainous, sparsely populated area that would not have been hospitable to stranded journeyers, especially in inclement weather. A nondescript cabin was set back not far from one of the few roadways.

Now, Virginia is not New York, but it can get mighty cold there this time of year, and snow and ice are not unheard of, especially in the mountains. The cabin was simple and outfitted with necessities that would offer protection from the elements and relief until help arrived – a wood stove with an ample pile of wood, matches, water, canned goods, cooking and eating utensils, a warm bed.... The only directive given to visitors was that they leave a stack of wood higher than the one they found.

Considering these times where refuge from natural and human-made "elements" has seemed marginal at best, how many of us have sought and taken respite in UUCB – not the physical space per se, but the community that comprises it.

Our forebearers provided the functional and structural frameworks that have enabled us to seek and receive relief and comfort during life-altering journeys in addition to those in "normal" times.

If you have an interest in assuring that "UUCB's stack" is continuously replenished during our watch to provide for current and future travelers and would like to learn how you might join the dozens of UUCBers who have made or committed to make estate gifts, contact Endowment Committee Chair, Diane Bockrath (716-876-2986; diloboc@yahoo.com), who will gladly respond.

News from UAIM



Last month, UAIM reviewed the book, [Held-Showing Up for each Other's Mental Health](#). We also noted that the author would be part of The January UAIM Service (Sunday 1/24). The opening sentence of the review was taken from the book and it is worth repeating,"... On any given Sunday approximately 20% of people attending a service might be experiencing mental health issues and how important it is for everyone to learn how to support people in mental health crisis or with other mental health issues."

Rev Barbara Meyers is a UU Community Minister with a mental health ministry based in Fremont, California. She also is assistant director of the Life Reaching Across to Life Peer Support Center. Rev. Meyers is also President of the UU Mental Health Network. Barbara was very active in the creation of the AIM program which UAIM is part of. Recently, UAIM was certified for another three years. CONGRATS to all the members who worked hard to retain the CERTIFICATION.

Barbara Meyers's book can be purchased through [Skinner Books](#).



UAIM Sock Drive!

In conjunction with and in support of HOME the Justice Ministry team will be conducting a sock drive in January.

We will be collecting new socks from 1 PM to 2 PM at the Church on the following Sundays January 10, January 17, January 24, and January 31.

We have decided that all socks that we collect will go to Friends of the Night People. Friends of the Night People provide services to individuals who are homeless and thus often on the streets. Basic clothing items such as new dry socks are always in need particularly in wintertime.

If you have any questions you can contact Steve Wixson at wixsonsg@gmail.com

Thanks for your generosity in supporting others at need in the community.

Thanks to everyone for the many generous donations for Family Promise!



Your gifts and monetary donations made a big difference. Thanks to you, the 11 kids staying at Family Promise woke up to a magical surprise of "filled to the brim" Christmas stockings. The beautiful stockings were full of art supplies, toy cars, stuffed animals, puzzles, hair accessories, teething rings, play doh, candy, and a gift card. - Denise DePietro



Widow and Widowers Circle

At this point we are not meeting at all but I am available by email (collinsb@buffalo.edu) or by phone (648 4455) or text (867 9628). Rev Joan has offered the church zoom for a meeting if there is enough interest. Let me know by email, phone, or text if you want such a meeting. Stay safe! Namaste, Bonnie



Folk Dancing with Martha!

Here is a picture of six of us folk dancers not discouraged by Covid restrictions.

We are still meeting outside on Monday mornings!

- Martha Malkiewicz

**We gather in loving community, inspiring one another,
to transform ourselves, to create a more just and
compassionate world**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

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Administrator for Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org	Nursery Care Coordinator: Morgan Silver	Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org Weekly Announcements (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) announcements@buffalouu.org	



A chalice alit since 1831
A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

