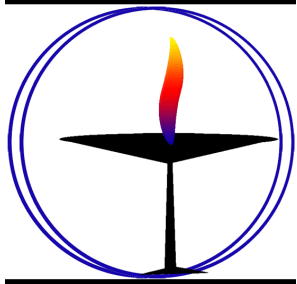


The UU Church of Buffalo



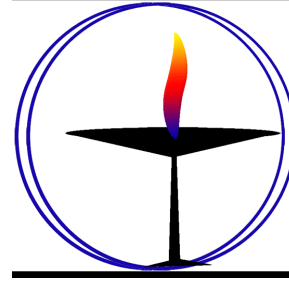
Gather – Inspire – Transform

March 2015 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave ∩ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136

www.BuffaloUU.org



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 22 after worship service in the Sanctuary

Lunch will be provided.

March 1, 10:30am

Where We Place Our Faith

Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

This week we consider the life long quest for true community, the search for common ground, and the role of spiritual friendship.

March 8, 10:30am

And They Pay Me to Do This – Rev. Martha Munson

Is ministry a job, a profession, a calling, or something else? What makes a good minister? What makes a congregation attractive to a minister? How do they thrive together?

March 15, 10:30am

Volunteer Sunday

March 22, 10:30am

Tough New Planet – Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

This Sunday initiates the month designated by the Unitarian Universalist Association for focusing on Climate Justice beginning with “World Water Day”. The Root Children will be present to help us welcome the new season of spring.

March 29, 10:30am

Politics of Spirit – Evolution and Revolution -- Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

(Palm Sunday according to the Christian Calendar)

The Jewish and Christian rituals that recount their respective stories of liberation and understanding of salvation, have the power to bind the community as well as to suggest its limits. They put people in touch with a sense of order in the midst of chaos, remind people of things of importance they have forgotten, and facilitate the letting go of ideas or emotions that no longer serve present need.



From the Interim Minister

Russell McClendon in his blog called Mother Nature Network wrote last month about how the cultural concept of “Hygge” can help us get through the winter. He says that subarctic Denmark, even with its very long winters when the sun often departs the sky at 4 pm, is according to the United Nations, the happiest country on earth, topping the charts with its capacity to cultivate a sense of well-being. This word *hygge* originally Norwegian, albeit difficult to translate into English, McClendon says, means something like “cosiness” in the material sense. But really “it has more to do with people's behavior toward each other,” according to author Helen Dyrbye in "[Xenophobe's Guide to the Danes](#)." "It is the art of creating intimacy: a sense of comradeship, conviviality and contentment rolled into one.”



The congregation has risen to the occasion magnificently more than a couple times this past month in the face of unusually frigid weather. I have been reminded of this idea: *Hygge*, a number of times in the last month, but particularly by the efforts of the community coming together to make the festive and fabulous annual choir dinner happen, in spite of record low temperatures and winter weather warnings. Last week (still February) The day following my return from Death Valley, CA (hottest and driest place in the USA) I observed a group of people arm in arm, dancing down Elmwood singing *We're Having a Heat Wave* - It was 14 degrees! The next day of course it was -2. When the staff came into church in the morning, the functioning of our trusty furnace was the most popular topic of conversation. Fortunately everyone's sense of humor remains intact, and perhaps is even magnified.

Meanwhile, it's March! The promise of spring cannot be avoided. March *is* the gateway month. I am getting a bit impatient. Really it's a lot of pressure! Quite a few kindly people have cautioned me that in fact here in Buffalo, actual spring does not actually arrive until mid-April. I am going to buy daffodils anyway.

There a number of ways in which March is really a making-ready month for a big event happening in April. We are very expectant at UUCB for more than one reason. Everyone is preparing for something. The Ministerial Search Committee is very active now and we are beginning to turn our minds toward the kinds of activities and conversations we may wish to engage in with a prospective candidate in April. We have a newly constituted Board of Trustees who are taking up their responsibilities and are attending to the congregation's need to plan for the future. Rev. Martha Munson, will be a guest in our pulpit and will offer insight in the ministerial psyche. We will celebrate our volunteers on the 15th. March 22 marks the beginning of the UUA month dedicated to Climate Justice. The Saint Lawrence District Meetings are also held at the end of the third week. There is much more activity and a growing sense of aliveness that can only increase.

On a personal note, I offer my thanks to so many of you who took time write notes of condolence following the death of my mother. I deeply appreciate your kind thoughts.

In Faith,

Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

On the Runway and Ready for Take Off

Barbara Kloberdanz

I'm writing this in February when we are all weary of the cold and piles of snow. That seems to lend itself to contemplation. I've recently been honored to have been elected President by my fellow Board of Trustees members. And so I am thinking deeply about the message that I am bringing to you. My first as President.

I envision that our Board is an airplane that has landed for a few minutes as we take on a new crew. But be assured the destination is the same. We have now reboarded and when you read this the plane is aloft. In addition to me, our Executive crew is Liz Parke, Vice President; Tom Petrocelli, Treasurer; and Julie Taylor, Secretary. In addition we have Sharon Walker, Kirsten Anderson, and Jeff Lowry as Trustees.



I hope to use this space each month to help with the understanding of how the work of the last few years is being put into practice. As you know, much work has been spent on restructuring many of our governance policies and procedures. This is our “shake-down” year. We are learning how our plans are working and what we might want to tweak.

The Board of Trustees has created seven Advisory Committees to help us with our work. They are: Finance, Strategy, Governance, Personnel, Endowment, Fixed Assets, and Oversight. These Advisory Committees are doing their work and reporting to the Board. That helps the Board to work on broader policy issues as opposed to micromanaging. More detailed information is on the web in our policy book. You can find this at <http://buffalouu.org/> Please let me know if you are interested in any of these areas and if you might want to become a member of any of the committees. We welcome your participation.

I sincerely hope that you will take advantage of the information that we are providing in this newsletter and on our website. You just might find something that tickles your curiosity. Or you might have a new idea.

We need you to board the airplane and join with us as we travel into our future. Please know that I am always available to you. My email is bklober@aol.com. My phone number is available from the office upon request.

Spring Fever

Sonja Jensen, CRE, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

I am writing this as I work from home on one of the days of biting wind chill we are having in February. I hope by the time this newsletter comes to you this is a thing of memory. But, given my history with upstate New York winters, I'll guess that there is still plenty of winter left. Most of us are ready for the warmth of spring.

But, Spring will be here in just a few weeks. On March 22 the children will join us in the sanctuary for the Story of the Root Children with all of our bright costumes and pageantry. As mother nature awakens her children, the bugs and seeds will "come to life" before your eyes.

In real life we can start to plan our gardens both at home and here at church. I am looking for a corps of volunteers to help plan and prepare the garden to be used in our church program this summer. If you know you'll have extra plants or seeds to donate to the church, let us know so we can work them into our plans. We're also looking for a seed growing stand with lights so that our kids can start seeds in the classroom to plant when it's warm. None of our classrooms has ideal lighting for this effort.

We are beginning preparations for rites of passage such as Coming of Age and Stepping Stones. If you have a child or youth who will be participating in this, it is important to attend church regularly for the remainder of the spring.

It is also time to plant the seeds for volunteers for the summer program and the Faith Development program in the fall. Our program is strong in the early years. With the introduction of Spirit Play and summer programs and a baby boom, we have a great group of kids from birth to about 3rd grade. Many of our teachers are staying on next year, but we will need some excellent UU teachers for our middle years. From the ages of 10-14, children do a significant amount of personal faith formation, but these are the years that attendance drops off and we find it hardest to reach our kids and find committed teachers who are comfortable and skilled at working with these middle school years. But, these are the years when our children most need to be here. It is our goal to really build up this age group in our church and provide compelling programming that they *want* to attend. If you are interested in being a part of this team next year and can bring commitment and a passion for UU values, please contact Sonja at lifespan@buffalouu.org.

The long winter is also a little bit metaphoric of our interim period. While we know that hibernation and "working on our house" has had its benefits, we're ready for the warming of spring and eager to see what the new year has in store. We've got our eyes on the rainbow and are hoping to find our "pot of gold" at its end. Hang in there dear friends. Whether or not we find the perfect minister, through this process we've been finding that which is golden in each other. We will have our treasure either way; in the loving community that we are building and the new mindfulness we are bringing to how we do church. The sun will shine upon us and new life will be emerging in the weeks to come.



The Simple Seven

Christine Derby-Cuadrado, Membership Coordinator

Think of a time when you visited a new place and how you felt. Maybe it was a new restaurant, or a convention or the first visit at the Doctor's office. For me walking into a new gym is what first comes to mind. It can be daunting not knowing the guidelines of using the equipment, what the people are like, where the bathroom is located and the schedule of classes. I might wonder if I belonged there or not, even though I know attending is in my best interest. I usually feel overwhelmed the first few visits as I figure things out. Maybe your experience in a new place has some similarities?



Some people may feel this way the first few times they attend the UUCB. Things they may be trying to figure out are: which door do they enter, where are the bathrooms and sanctuary located, the Order of Service, are newcomers really welcomed at the social time and how to sing unfamiliar hymns. If they have children they are wondering where do the children go or if they are welcomed in the sanctuary; where can they change diapers and nurse. There's so much to think about!

I want to share seven ways we can help newcomers feel more comfortable and welcomed:

1. Smile and say "Hello and Welcome."
2. Wear your nametag.
3. Invite a new person to our coffee social time. Yes, they heard the announcement but a personal invite is more meaningful.
4. A good conversation starter is to ask what they thought of the sermon.
5. Keep conversations simple and sincere.
6. Ask if they have any questions. Do let them know we have a welcome table, where it is located and what is available there.
7. Introduce them to someone else in the Church.

Invite you try one or two of these out. Please let me know how they worked for you!

COMPASSIONATE CARING

The Care Network is sponsoring a coffee clutch after service on March 1st to discuss how to respond compassionately to friends, relatives and acquaintances when they tell you unexpected and distressing news. We have asked Nicole Urdang to moderate the hour.



At times, we can feel that we do not have the appropriate words to respond to a person who is grieving because of a loss. There are many kinds of losses: Loss of a spouse, friend, child, relative, beloved pet or a loss of a job, a loss of a spouse through a separation or divorce. These are only some of losses that we may experience. Sunday, March 1st, is an opportunity to explore with others how to be verbally compassionate and caring.

Please join us Sunday, March 1st at 12:15 in the Women's Lounge to explore and discuss compassionate ways to respond to family members, friends or acquaintances. For addition information contact Ginny Vaughan Wixson at 768-1077.

March 2015 Ministerial Search Committee Report

Respectfully submitted by Rita Capezzi for Dave Batt, Gigi Helliwell, Richard Leimbach, Martha Malkiewicz, Juli Van Woert, and Steve Wixson

You may have wondered where your Ministerial Search Committee has been, since you aren't seeing us at church. Well, we are in the midst of the weekend-long meetings with our pre-candidates. In April, we will be able to report on how these weekends have gone. For reasons of confidentiality, we can't tell you much about the ministers who are pre-candidating with us.

We know your will respect our need to keep conversations within the committee at this point.

But, looking ahead, we have every reason to hope that on the UUA-designated date (sometime in the first or second week of April), we will approach one of our pre-candidates with an invitation to become our candidate. As our candidate, this minister will spend an entire week with us in late April for a series of interviews, receptions, and meetings, including two Sunday services. During this intense week of events, the candidate gets to know the congregation, the local ministerial community, and the greater Buffalo area. This time enables us to decide if this is the minister we wish to call into settlement. At the same time, the minister decides if they are willing to be called into settlement with us. Candidating week is not a mere extended job interview; rather it is a sacred time and space where together we will discern our willingness and desire to covenant together as a congregation and a spiritual leader so that we might fulfill the mission and vision of our church among ourselves and in the larger world.



In this time of intense activity and patient waiting, we ask that you learn about the financial state of the church and support the Board of Trustees as it seeks ways to ensure that the church is fiscally healthy and ready to fully support a new settled ministry. If you have not already done so, please make your pledge to the 2015 Budget Drive. Watch for announcements of an upcoming and important Special Congregational Meeting. Listen carefully to Rev. Mary and other ministers as they prepare us to welcome and sustain a new settled ministry. Think about what patience and compassion you personally can bring to ease a new settled minister into our community. When we call a minister, we are also called to stand with this minister, learning together how we can grow spiritually and act justly in the larger world, how congregation and minister can create together a church shining as a beacon of faith and hope for a community in need.

The Women's Society Welcomes Donna Fernandes Ph.D

On Thursday March 19 we welcome the President and CEO of the Buffalo Zoo, Dr. Donna Fernandes. Her topic will be, " The Buffalo Zoo, Past Present and Future." We will begin our program at 11 with fellowship, appetizers, and beverages. Our speaker will start at 11:30 and at 12:30 we will be served a special catered lunch. Our event will be one day away from the first day of Spring so do sign up and awake from hibernation!



The fee for the lunch is \$15. You can make a reservation at Josettepc50@gmail.com or in the parish hall on Sunday March 1 and 8. **NEW PAYMENT AND RESERVATION POLICY:** Those of you who wish to mail in your check, the funds must be received in the office no later than the Friday before the program, which for this month will be March 13. Make your check payable to the UUCB and in the memo line write, Women's Society Program. On your envelope write, ATTENTION: Josh Layton. If you make a reservation on the final Sunday before the program, payment will be due at that time in person. Once the catering order is called in on Monday morning, no further reservations nor payment can be accepted. The only exception being if you made a reservation on time, but wish to pay at the door on the day of, the fee will then be \$17.

FOOD DRIVE

The selected food items for donation for the month of March are peanut butter and jelly. Place your items in a bag labeled Women's Society and place the bag in the red storage bin that will be on a table in the parish hall during our program. Other times the bin will be in the kitchen. Your generosity is appreciated.

Souper Sunday

On the 2nd Sunday of this month, the Faith Development Program will host another Souper Sunday. The price for lunch is a sliding scale of \$3-5 dollars per person and includes the soup of your choice and bread. There is also a kids meal of a bagel, apple and a juice box available for \$2.00. It is our intention to be inclusive so if the cost is prohibitive, please see Christine at the membership table. She has soup coupons available. We will generally serve one soup with meat, one vegetarian and one vegan soup. We try to be mindful to have a gluten free and soy free option at every event. A list of ingredients is posted by each of the soups and at the head of the line. If you have mobility issues, please use the "Helping Hands" which will be available on the tables and will alert our servers that you need to be served at the table. While Souper Sunday is on the 2nd Sunday of most months we do not serve every month. Please confirm with The Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Sonja Jensen, if you are depending on the lunch for an event that you are planning.



St. Patrick's Day Potluck!

Shoveling got you down? Wishing you had opted for a goldfish instead of a dog, because most goldfish don't need to be walked? Kids on your last nerve? Missing Sunday night football? All caught up with Game of Thrones and Season 5 not yet started?.....

Then come to the 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck, March 15 5-8 p.m. in the parish Hall. Just be a member or friend of the church, with a dish or beverage to pass in hand, and you're in! This is an evening for new friends an old, put together by the Membership Team and the Covenant Groups. Child care will be available where needed. Please let us know as soon as possible what will help you to join us.

Fellowship and food aren't the only things that will be shared. You can learn about Covenant Groups. What's a covenant, anyway? Why do we have them? What happens during a typical session? Who leads the meetings? When do they happen? What on earth is "Deep Listening"?

At dinner you can meet new people, including the facilitators of each group. After dinner, we will experience a covenant group session together. If you find it interesting and want some more of the experience, we will gladly find a place for you. If the evening was interesting, but you're not sure about joining a covenant group, don't worry, we won't be offended. If not, well, you still had the good meal and good company.

And Game of Thrones still won't be on until April 12.

To find out more about this event or covenant groups in general, stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish hall. To RSVP, please email Beryl Smith at beryljeanne@hotmail.com and in the subject line please say "Pot Luck".

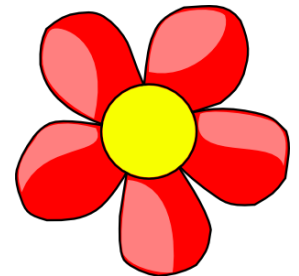
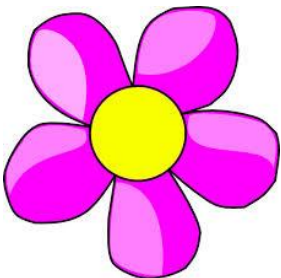
See you then and Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Pulpit Flower Ministry

March Schedule:

March 1st: Rebecca McCauley
March 8th: Hope & Dick Kraus and Bonnie & Jim Collins
March 15th: Kathleen Burke
March 22nd: Liz & Bill Parke
March 29th: Reserved



Please consider participating in this wonderful ministry by reserving a Sunday for Pulpit Flowers. Only a few dates remain available in this program year; so if you would reserve one of them, please see us at the flower table after Sunday service, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call 716-885-2136 ext.4. The cost is just \$35.00 and your desired text dedication will be included in our OSS.

District Assembly 2015

“This joint effort of the Ohio-Meadville and the St. Lawrence Districts will take place March 27-28, 2015 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY.

The Rev. Scott Tayler is the keynote speaker. His keynote address is titled *The Space Between: Building a new day by strengthening the ties that bind*. Gould Lecturer is Rev. Thomas Chulak, speaking on *The Sum of the Parts*.

Eleven workshops will be offered in two time slots covering an array of topics important to congregational life.

For more information on the conference and to register go to: www.sld.cerguua.org”

For the past couple months this notice has been going out in our monthly newsletter and in our weekly blasts.

So what’s all the fuss? Why attend?

- Meet fellow UUs from around New York State, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia. Share your stories.
- Inspirational Speakers and Services
- Workshop and discussions on Ferguson, Stewardship, Leadership Development, Communication
- A truly intergenerational event.

Want to attend but have transportation questions? Need a ride or able to give a ride? Contact me, Sharon Walker, a sharonw447@gmail.com. I will be coordinating carpooling.

So please check out the attached District Assembly Brochure, review the website and try it out.

Hope to see you there.

Sharon

VOTE NOW FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

UUCB Volunteers are the best – lighting up our lives with the fire of commitment, illuminating our worship and warming our hearts. All deserve our thanks. Again this year, we’re asking you to help identify one especially worthy volunteer to be recognized as the UUCB Volunteer of the Year, on Volunteer Appreciation Sunday, March 15.

Read about the candidates in the attachment with this mailing and cast your vote on the ballot provided. Information and ballots are also available at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall on Sunday. Voting may also be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GMDMHPY>. **The voting process ends on Sunday, March 8.**

Return your completed ballot to Josh in the church office; to Christine at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall; or with a volunteer at the door to the Parish Hall after Sunday service.



Sharing the March Plate with The Clean Air Coalition of WNY



In keeping with our mission to create a more just and compassionate world, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo shares our weekly collection plate with a local agency, living out our generosity in the Buffalo community. The March share-the-plate recipient is the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York; CACWNY.

The Clean Air Coalition builds power by developing grassroots leaders who organize their communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns in Western New York. The Clean Air Coalition envisions a world where our environment promotes health and equity and where communities are actively engaged in decisions that impact their lives. The CACWNY is undertaking several campaigns in our community. Truck Traffic

on the West Side, Dust and Soot in the Seneca Babcock neighborhood from the Battaglia Demolition, Clean air in Tonawanda, Bus Lots in the City of Buffalo and many others. CACWNY runs a website; CACWNY.org where citizens can sign up for “toxic tours”, join a book club dedicated to environmental awareness and find ways to get involved.

In the Share-the-Plate program, the church donates half the unrestricted donations made during each Sunday's offertory to a designated charity or organization identified by the Social Justice Task Force under policies formulated by the Board of Trustees. Recipients of the UUCB Share-the-Plate program must be either a 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 non-profit organization, and they must do work that is consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. Any member of the congregation may nominate a recipient organization through the UUCB Social Justice Task Force.

Pledge payments may still be placed in the collection plate, either in a donation envelope or clearly marked “pledge” in the memo line. All undesignated cash goes to Share the Plate. If you wish to donate to Share the Plate by check, or with cash in an envelope, please note “Share the Plate” or just “Share” in the memo line or on the envelope. Envelopes are available from the ushers.

On going efforts by the Social Justice Task force are the collection of non-perishable food donations for the Network of Religious Communities as well as recycling of old cell phones and printer cartridges. Donations can be left in the baskets at both entrances to the sanctuary. The next meeting of the Social Justice Task Force will be March 8th at 12:30 PM.

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Organist/Accompanist:

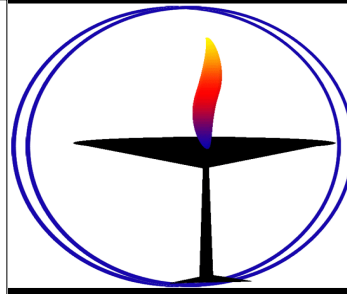
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Barbara Bartz



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Wedding Coordinator:

Paulette Notaro
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Care Network:

Ginny Vaughan
716-838-1255
wixsonsg@gmail.com

Happening at the UUCB

Not for Knitters only!

UUCB Yarnbusters

Happy New Year! The "Not for Knitters Only" group will be meeting on March 10 and 24. Please join us from 6:30ish to 8ish in The Women's Lounge. This is an open group, church membership not required. For more information email me, Sharon Walker, at sharonw447@gmail.com.



Grief and Renewal

March 15 at 11:45am in the Library

Everyone is welcome. Whether you are dealing with a divorce, illness, unemployment, death, or any other life change that has left you bereaved and in flux. For more info please feel free to contact Nicole S. Urdang: info@nicoleurdang.com