

# The UU Church of Buffalo



*Gather – Inspire – Transform*

**April 2015 Newsletter**

695 Elmwood Ave ∪ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 - [www.BuffaloUU.org](http://www.BuffaloUU.org)



"Let the rain kiss you.  
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.  
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.  
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.  
The rain makes running pools in the gutter.  
The rain plays a little sell-song on our roof at night--  
And I love the rain."

- Langston Hughes, 1902-1967, *April Rain Song*

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

- *Mark Twain*

April... Ready or not, here it comes!

There is a lot going on in April. Though a light gray shawl of rain and mist floats over the city, there is a sense that it is making way for a new season. This year we honor the festival of Easter the very first Sunday in April and will happily be welcoming four new members during the service. The following week is a long awaited Music Sunday with Dan Bassin directing and the Choir performing. April 19 is the Sunday closest to Earth Day and a time of preparing for the week ahead. The last Sunday April 26, is currently scheduled TBA - as the first of the two Sundays of the prospective Candidating Week!

It seems, looking at the calendar, that there will be barely enough time to take a breath! Nevertheless, if ever there was a time for a congregation to take on the spiritual practice of committing to stay in the moment as things unfold this is certainly it.

April this year is filled to the brim with suspenseful and auspicious moments as well as various occasions for celebration and for lending a hand. During the very first week of the month our Ministerial Search Committee will put forward an offer to be UUCB's Candidate to a minister whom they have gotten to know well and in whom they have confidence. This event alone, has the power to generate something very close to what Mark Twain refers to in the quote above as spring fever. We offer our gratitude in advance, for the MSC's faithful work and for their deep engagement in the process whereby Unitarian Universalist congregations call their ministers.

If all goes as we expect, it will now be your turn! The power to decide finally who will minister to you and beside you as a congregation is an authority that has been historically held sacred by both Unitarian and Universalist traditions. In order to conscientiously assert your authority, of course you will want to get to know the Candidate in the various ways that are made available to you. That is really the main purpose of a "candidating week" which is planned to include events of worship, of focused discussion, and of course social events. During this week I as your Interim Minister will be intentionally invisible, though available if there is need. This makes it possible for you to take the time out to get to know the Candidate, to learn as much as possible both in terms of information but also to exercise your intuitive skills to sense that this is the right minister for you at this time in your unfolding history. This will be a minister who, though not a perfect person who will neatly fit into all your expectations, yet will be the right one to carry UUCB forward in this still youthful century, with vision and skill and heart....

With Hope and Affection,

*Mary*

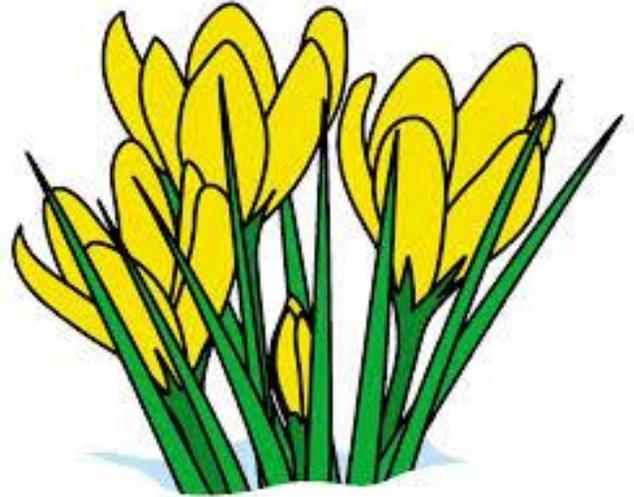


# Change, Vision and Opportunity

Barbara Kloberdanz

As I write this it is still March and we are looking forward to Spring. There is still some snow on the ground, but after the mounds that we had it almost seems like nothing. And now we find ourselves a bit on edge and wondering what comes next.

Last Sunday, March 22 – we had an important Congregational Meeting where we voted to take a Special Endowment Draw to begin in January 2015. We did this now much in advance so that we can show that we have a vision for our future. We want to keep our programs alive and we want to take care of our precious building. And we want to deal with our finances realistically.



On Wednesday March 25 a hearing took place in Albany to formalize our application to be placed on the National Historic Register. Bill Parke, our Church Historian, was kind enough to represent us at this hearing. Many thanks!! Thanks also to Tom Yots who together with Bill spent many hours getting this done. This opens up many possibilities for our congregation as we go forward.

Thanks also to our well-functioning Finance Committee and Endowment Committee for all the work they put into this. Good job!!

The next date we are looking at is Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is the first date that the Ministerial Search Committee can call one of their candidates and see if that candidate would be interested in coming to Buffalo to be our settled minister. If this candidate says yes, then there is much negotiation and planning to be done. So much on this front will be happening in April. Please remember, there is nothing firm that can be reported now. But, I am making you aware – so that you know that if we have a candidate at that time, the official candidating week is April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. You may be called upon to participate in activities which will allow you to interact with the candidate and then there will be a Congregational Meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to vote on accepting this candidate.

Then I have another change to report. Our Membership Chair, Christine Derby-Cuadrado has let us know that she will be leaving. As many of you may know, Christine is an accomplished guitarist. She has worked very hard at perfecting her craft and has recently auditioned and been accepted at two different schools. It is clearly her dream to pursue this career and we wish her well. Thank you Christine for all you have done for us.

And so it goes...

## Looking Ahead – Nuts and Bolts

While April is incredibly full... I am looking ahead to May and the fact that the public period of Interim Ministry will be coming to a close at the end of June.

I want to let you know that during the week following April 5, I will be working away from Buffalo. You can reach me by calling my office at UUCB and also through the usual congregational email addresses. In addition during the prospective Candidating Week, the Guild of Unitarian Universalist Interim Ministers meets for an annual seminar in Texas and also begins the processes of placement during the coming year.



As President, Barb Klobberdanz mentioned in her letter, we will be saying good bye to Christine Derby-Cuadrado who has served in the position of Membership Coordinator. April 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a special opportunity following the service to express your appreciation to Christine for the ways in which her work here has enhanced our congregational outreach and welcomed visitors and new members into the community. Christine has been preparing during this year for to return to school in the fall and is excited to share the fact that she has been accepted into two programs!

Here at UUCB we will be doing preparation for the up-coming year, considering our staffing, how to improve structures in support of lay leaders, how to clarify leadership succession, and especially how to provide for the greatest best connection with a new Settled Minister in order to make the Fall of 2015 as smooth a transition as possible.

In May I will be inviting all team leaders to meet with me for a half-day retreat to participate in conversation regarding some of these matters. If you are a member of a team without a current chair (not a Staff Member), allow me to encourage you now to think ahead about whom you might send to represent the leadership of your team. Please feel free to be in touch!

In Faith – Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

### April Worship Service

#### **April 5, 10:30am**

#### ***Celebration of Easter and New Member Sunday-Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen***

More than the matters of worshipping a particular spirit or understanding of deity, the ways we practice our religion can be understood to pervade our lives. This reality is not only integral to our relationship to the wide world, but also our relationship to other beings in the ways we conduct our everyday lives.

#### **April 12, 10:30am**

#### ***Music Sunday-Daniel Bassin and The UU Church of Buffalo Choir***

Join us as the UUCB Choir and a professional orchestra of winds and brass share in Anton Bruckner's rarely-performed Mass No. 2 in E-minor, of 1866. A devout catholic from rural Austria whose career would take him to Vienna, the capital of European musical life, Bruckner was a direct contemporary of Johannes Brahms and Johann Strauss, Jr. and his uniquely dramatic and alternately austere, folksy, and intense music took as its influences JS Bach, Richard Wagner, and Palestrina. The music that resulted served as an inspiration for Gustav Mahler (a Bruckner pupil), other late romantic-era composers, and even classic Hollywood composers.

#### **April 19, 10:30am-Wake Now My Vision - Earth Day**

#### **Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen**

Our service today will be future oriented as we prepare for the days ahead, speaking of what sustains our hope for the future of our planet and how it is that our ministry together can make a difference.

#### **April 26, 10:30am**

This Sunday has been designated as the first Sunday of CANDIDATING WEEK. Please highlight this in your calendar.

# Ministerial Search Committee Report

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

Your Ministerial Search Committee is back at church after an intensive period of pre-candidating weekends and follow-up conversation with several ministers who might settle with us. While each weekend was packed full of concentrated conversation (and more than our share of snacks and restaurant meals), they were also spiritually renewing and rewarding as we began to imagine the possibilities for our church to change and progress with the guidance of a new settled minister. At this point in time, we cannot say much about the ministers in search or about our prospects for a settlement; there is still a lot of process to go.



An important part of this process was the congregational vote to authorize a Special Endowment Draw. The vote was scheduled for March 22, and the outcome provided maximum information to our pre-candidates as they make final decisions about which churches-in-search present a solid financial picture for launching a new settled ministry. Your presence in this important discussion and your unanimous vote demonstrated your stewardship of our church. We are grateful for the confidence this vote demonstrates in our congregation and its future.

While April 2 is the designated day for all churches in search to call their first choices, some negotiating will take place a few days prior. During this period, representatives in the Transitions Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association are ready to assist us and our interested pre-candidates to make an appropriate match. On April 5, search committees may announce whether they have candidates, and they may indicate the names of the ministers if those ministers have already informed their congregations that they plan re-settlement. Ministers, however, may need more time to decide among offering congregations. We remain very hopeful that we will be able to announce a match on April 5.

During our final meetings in March, we made our final decision about which pre-candidate we would like to invite to candidate with us. Each of the ministers who has pre-candidated with us is talented, accomplished, and experienced. The quality of the ministers-in-search made this choice quite challenging, and we are grateful for your thoughts and prayers, for each of us individually and the Committee collectively. Our call, as a committee, was to move beyond our personal preferences and inclinations, and to discern together which of these capable ministers is the “best good fit” for our church. What do we mean by the “best good fit”? Not simply a talented, accomplished, and experienced minister—all our pre-candidates are of this quality. Rather, we seek the minister who is best suited to serve our congregation—where we are at this moment, with all our capacities and our needs, and into a future that is potential within our church, our city, and in each of us.

Should we call a candidate, this minister will spend the week of Saturday, April 25 through Sunday, May 3 with us—preaching two services, meeting with church leaders, sharing meals, conversing about the strengths and challenges of our congregation, as well as touring Buffalo and Western New York. The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Search Committee and Rev. Mary, will create a Candidating Week Task Force to plan and organize this important time in the life of the congregation. Stay tuned for more information about this team and the activities they plan so as to facilitate the formation of a covenant between our congregation and a new settled minister mutually beneficial to our church and the larger community.

A strong new ministry requires the financial commitment of our congregation and the fiscal health of our church. So, once more we ask that you please make your pledge to the 2015 Budget Drive, if you have not already done so.

# The Heart of our Faith is in the Incarnation of Love

Sonja Jensen, DFLD

A Unitarian Christian view...



I recently cleaned my office. And took a little time out to read a volume of the American Unitarian: Journal for the American Unitarian Conference that had been recently gifted to me. (Volume 4 No. 2 June 2005 to be specific.) In this volume I found a wonderful discourse on the nature of Incarnation. As we approach Easter, a Christian celebration that we continue to embrace even in increasingly humanistic church life, the concept of a God Incarnate, as Jesus is purported to be by many, intrigues me, as does the idea of what it means if we are all incarnations of God on some level. I selected several quotes from this reading to share in this newsletter and challenge you to consider how we might reclaim religious language and concepts with one foot in the land of faith and one in the land of reason and possibly realize that both are truly one land after all.

*“What is incarnation? As the word signifies, it is God manifesting himself in the flesh, that is, in the highest form of his creation. But is there any part of his creation in which he does not manifest himself? Surely not; for creation is just God—the Infinite Power and Life and Goodness that is behind all nature—objectifying himself, coming forth into manifestation. Thus the sun shines by his light, Saturn and Uranus pull by his strength, the flower smiles by his beauty. If we “live and move and have our being in him” [Acts 17:28], so do the birds, so do the planets, so do the constellations.” ~ Jabez T. Sunderland*

*“A man does not manifest God any more really than does a flower. But a man manifests God on a higher plane than the most beautiful and perfect flower can do. A flower is only a thing. It cannot think, it cannot know, it cannot will, it cannot love. But man can do all these things. Hence man partakes of the moral and spiritual nature of God, as the flower does not.” ~ Jabez T. Sunderland*

*Not only are new worlds being created in the skies, but this world on which we live is being all the while created anew—recreated to higher and higher ends.” ~ Jabez T. Sunderland*

*“Christ was not a strange, solitary, abnormal manifestation of God in human form, once in all the ages, with nothing anyway like it before or after. He was a type of our humanity. He was a foretaste of what waits for the race. The sleeping possibilities which are in your soul and mine came to full blossom in him. He is a prophecy of what God holds in store for all humanity, sometimes, somewhere.” ~ Jabez T. Sunderland*

*“Yes, ‘God was in Christ.’ That is a great and precious truth. We cannot prize it too highly. But there is another even better that crowns it, that completes it, that gives it full significance and glory, and especially that brings it into practical touch with our lives. That other truth is, ‘Every one that loveth is begotten of God’ [1 John 4:7]; ‘If we love, God dwelleth in us’ [1 John 4:12] thus our limitations, finiteness and poverty become reinforced from the Infinite and eternal Foundation of all Power, Wisdom and Love. ~ Jabez T. Sunderland*

I hope you all enjoy this season of Equinox, Passover, and Easter with an open and loving spirit. I leave you with one last quote:

*“A religion that dwells in the tongue or the brain or the custom is no religion. It must have the heart....The heart must become religious or religious hands or lips will profit nothing.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# When Music is Religious

Daniel Bassin, Music Director

The American composer, guitarist, and rock icon, Frank Zappa, famously entered “musician” under the “father’s religion” box on his son Dweezil’s birth certificate. I myself grew up in that ever-present and frequently talked-about religious category, the “none,” though, if I take Frank’s lead, I could certainly self-identify as a rather devout musician. What always felt a bit hollow to me about Zappa’s seemingly flippant reappropriation of the term given to his life’s work is that the very music most important to him took as its source inspiration very specific religious traditions.



The Franco-American modernist composer, Edgard Varèse was a firebrand of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century’s musical revolutions. His contemporaries, Arnold Schoenberg and Igor Stravinsky (also major influences for Zappa), similarly sought out essentially brand new means of musical expression, amplifying ultimately overturning centuries of what seemed to them as linear musical development, however, unlike Varèse, they remained connected to and throughout intensified the connection of their music and their religion – Schoenberg’s opera *Moses und Aron* and Stravinsky’s *Symphony of Psalms* are modern counterparts to the great religious works of Bach and earlier masters. And, it must be noted that this music, which we may refer to as “Western Classical Music,” grew up in direct relation to the Catholic Church.

Of course, the far more noticeable musical traditions from which Zappa’s music emerge are those of Rock and Blues. These hybrid genres are the byproduct and the result of a many centuries-long blending of various West African, Caribbean, and Indigenous American musical traditions with received European musical traditions of hymn singing and ceremonial music/military marches. This most fruitful cultural gumbo was, of course, the result of the enslavement of millions after the capture and forced migrations of what we currently estimate at nearly 600,000 people between the years 1619-1865. What emerged as Delta Blues (after the rhythmic advances of Ragtime, and Jazz’s reconciling of non-European harmony within received musical forms) has served as the bedrock for essentially all forms of contemporary popular music we now enjoy.

Believe it or not, this leads me to the subject of our **April Music Sunday**, which will take place in our sanctuary at **10:30am on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. This service will feature a work of art as specifically *religious* as a piece of music can get – and one written by about as devout a *musician* there ever was! **Anton Bruckner** was born in the small Austrian village of Ansfelden, outside Linz, in 1824. His career would eventually take him to the musical capital of Vienna, where he succeeded his own teacher as professor of music theory at the Vienna Conservatory, and later took on a position at the Vienna University. His symphonies were performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, and his music was hotly contested in the most informed and passionate circles of musical life...ultimately with Vienna’s principal critic, Eduard Hanslick “siding” against the Liszt- and Wagner-influenced “New-German School,” which Bruckner’s music too-closely resembled, and instead favoring and fully-supporting the music of his contemporary, Johannes Brahms.

**Continued on Page 7**

The music of Bruckner's we'll hear at Music Sunday will not, of course, be one of his famously powerful-and-lengthy symphonies, but rather his **Mass No. 2 in E-minor for Eight-Part Chorus, Winds and Brass**, of 1866. A devout Catholic, it could easily be remarked that *all* of Bruckner's compositions are devotional offerings – in fact, his Ninth Symphony, incomplete at the time of his death in 1896, bore the dedication *dem lieben Gott* (“to beloved God”). While his larger F-minor mass, and even the mass he chose to number as his first (during his many years as a church music director, Bruckner wrote many liturgical works, including a number of smaller masses) were criticized in his time as being overly symphonic, the Second was specifically composed for a worship setting, and is the only of these compositions to eschew orchestral strings in its accompaniment of the choir. His choral presentation in this work also more clearly harkens back to models of Palestrina and “old church” composers. In fact, much like JS Bach's great B-minor Mass, the liturgical presentation of this work can even be found in the musical text: the *Gloria* and *Credo* sections begin with the second line of musical text, since it was Catholic practice for the Priest or Cantor to intone these sections of the mass with the appropriate Gregorian Mode.

Although we will join together to share in this masterful work of art “which happens to be” a setting of the Catholic Mass, I feel at pains to draw a very clear line, both as a *practicing musician* and also as your Church Music Director: while our traditions of weekly worship never include the reciting of a credo, and while we begin our services by lighting a chalice rather than reciting a Greek incantation for mercy (*Kyrie eleison*), the experience we'll have together on **April 12<sup>th</sup>** might well be *religious* for some or all of us involved. We have come to expect something of a *spiritual* or at least *emotional* connection during these special days in our unique Church Calendar – *our* Music Sundays – and I believe that this rare masterwork, a heartfelt, devotional religious expression by a deeply sensitive and truly masterful musician will bring us just that. What we gain from our special place of *community* with one another at UUCB is from time-to-time adorned by the presence of the unique voices of great musicians of our past and present. I am deeply grateful to my friends and colleagues in the UUCB Choir for their hard work in bringing the depths of human expression and heights of musical sophistication present in this music to each of you.

In closing, a few words on this community which brings us together for an enriching and deeply *musical* April:

-While researching this and a lecture concert on Bruckner I recently presented, I came across one of the most beautifully-direct statements about Bruckner, which said simply, “Anton Bruckner was the most important composer since JS Bach to have spent his entire career as a church musician.”

-When ordering the music for our instrumentalists, I had a lovely conversation with a colleague at Educational Music Service, who inquired about both our Church and also of my predecessor, your retired Minister of Music, Barbara Wagner. After remarking about both her rich career and also the tenacity and strength of character to be a church leader for half a century, we both remarked on the “three **B**'s: **B**ach, **B**ruckner, and **B**arbara Wagner!” I had the opportunity to visit with her last summer, along with several members of our Choir, and presented her a copy of this Bruckner score. On a return visit, I was overwhelmed and delighted to have found that she had marked a few pages of the score – it is with her, each of you, and also with the memories of our friends who are no longer with us that I offer these words to begin our April together:

“Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere; its temple, all space; its shrine, the good heart; its creed, all truth; its ritual, works of love; *its profession of faith, divine living.*” – Theodore Parker

# From Guest to Host

Christine Derby-Cuadrado, Membership Coordinator

As we welcome and celebrate our newest members this April, I invite you to reflect on your personal journey here at the UUCB. You may be a member, a friend of the church, here for your first visit or something in between. In your journey it is most likely that your relationship with the UU Faith has progressed from one of a lesser commitment to a greater one.



In the last session of the New UU Membership Journey I asked the participants to read two hand-outs on what it means to be a member. I want to share with you one of the handouts.

## Putting on the Membership Apron by Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

“What does it mean to be a member in a congregation? How much can we ask of members? I believe that membership should signify a commitment to the congregation and it’s mission as expressed by the [Rev. Michael Piazza](#).

“Becoming a member of a church means you take off your bib and put on an apron,” he declared to a group of UU ministers at the recent [UUMA Institute](#).

I remember the moment when I really felt I had become a “real” member of my own congregation.

It wasn’t when I started dropping a weekly check into the offering basket.

It wasn’t when I took my first religious education class.

It wasn’t when I signed the membership book.

It wasn’t even when I became moderator (a Universalist church position similar to president) of the congregation.

I felt I became a “real” member when I spent a full Saturday as part of a work party doing a deep cleaning of the church building before ingathering Sunday.

I’m not saying that membership only comes with a scrub brush and mop. But I do believe that when we become a member of a congregation, we should be asked to change our posture from guest to host, from visitor to steward.

As hosts, we make sure the guests find a welcoming and nurturing spiritual community. As lifelong seekers, we grow our own souls through our own continuous faith development. As stewards, we offer our time and money to help sustain and grow that community. As members we agree to serve in these roles and more, in covenant with one another and with our highest ideals.”

# State Register of Historic Places

Tom Yots

*On March 25th, the State Historic Preservation Review Board unanimously approved our church for inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places. The nomination will be signed by State Commissioner Rose Harvey within a few days and then forwarded to the National Park Service for final approval and placement on the National Register of Historic Places. That designation should occur within a couple of months.*

*The nomination was completed by a committee headed by Tom Yots and including Bill Parke, our church historian, Giorgio Giovinazzo, architect and member of the congregation and former interim minister Margret O'Neill. If there are any questions regarding the process feel free to contact Tom Yots at [tomyotspreservation@gmail.com](mailto:tomyotspreservation@gmail.com).*



## Remarks at the NYS Board for Historic Preservation, March 25, 2015

Hello, my name is Bill Parke, from Buffalo.

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words.

First, I would like to thank Jennifer (Walkowski of the State Historic Preservation Office) for her invaluable assistance to this nomination, and to you and the SHPO Office for providing this program by which we can recognize beautiful, historic places in our communities.

I am here to also represent the other team members who are not able to be here: Giorgio Giovinazzo, Rev. Margret O'Neill, and Tom Yots who led the effort, as well as the church itself.

I serve as church historian of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; the church has evolved from the First Unitarian Church of Buffalo which is under consideration today.

There are two quotes which I would like to briefly share that complement the nomination today:

The first one captures the stature of the architecture and architects of the building, at least in the mind of the congregation. When Edward Austin Kent, the architect, went down with the Titanic in 1912, my great-grandfather, The Rev. Richard W. Boynton, was minister of the church. He gave one of many eulogies upon Mr. Kent's death. He said,

"Edward Austin Kent, with his brother William Winthrop Kent, of New York, gave us one of his best in designing and erecting this building. It is fair that we all believe to judge a man by works. So judged, we must accord Mr. Kent true distinction and refinement of soul."

The next quote represents the respect given to the liberal social action throughout the life of the congregation. In referring to the First Unitarian Church of Buffalo in 1954, The Rev. Howard Gilman, New York State superintendent of the Universalist Churches, said the local church was "one of the bright spots in the liberal movement in this country."

Today, in 2015, the congregation takes the characteristics represented by these quotes seriously, and continually honors both. And we are extremely grateful to you and very excited that, in supporting this Nomination, you feel that this beautiful place is also worth honoring.

## Sharing the April Plate with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper



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. In recognition of Earth Day the April share-the-plate recipient is Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper.

Riverkeeper is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the quality and quantity of water, while connecting people to water. They do this by cleaning up pollution from our waterways, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing public access through greenways that expand parks and open space. Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is a member of the global Waterkeeper Alliance.

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is currently working on ten projects in our region one of which is the “Blue Economy Initiative”. The guiding principles behind this initiative are 1) that restoration and protection of our water systems is a driver of regional economic revitalization through the establishment of a sustainable jobs market; 2) Increased public accessibility to the water and preservation of open space is a design priority for waterfront revitalization; 3) Green infrastructure solutions are a major component in the restoration of our sewer systems, watershed habitats and greenways; 4) Implementation of the Niagara River Greenway will be a catalyst for economic development and community vitality; 5) Public, private and non-profit partnerships and collaborations will leverage diverse resources and community engagement. Riverkeeper also works with Jericho Road Ministries to produce booklets in an array of languages for outreach to at-risk communities who depend on local fish as a food source. These booklets serve to educate people on the risks of eating fish from local waterways that are polluted with harmful chemicals. In partnership with Buffalo Public Schools, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper launched a pilot educational program for eighteen students residing in underserved communities. The Young Environmental Leaders Program (YELP) will provide a unique opportunity for these students to learn about local environmental issues that disproportionately affect their communities. This is just a small sampling of the activities by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper that benefit our community.

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.

Ongoing 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. Donations can be left in the baskets at both entrances to the sanctuary. The next meeting of the Social Justice Task Force will be April 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 PM.

# THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY WELCOMES DR. ANTHONY BANNON

**Josette Cunningham**

Dr. Anthony Bannon, executive director of the Burchfield Penney Art Center will speak at the Women's Society program on Thursday April 16. His subject will be " Art: Why Bother?". He will speak of interpretation of art and its role in civic culture using images and events from the Art Center.

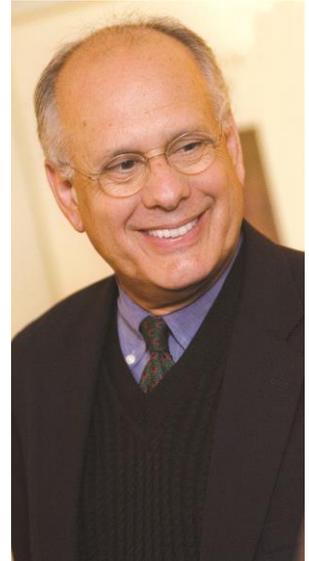
Previous to his pivotal role at the Burchfield, Dr. Bannon was the director of Cultural Affairs at the State University of N.Y. College at Buffalo. He was also the director of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film in Rochester, N.Y.

He began his career as a filmmaker and a journalist, serving as the arts director and critic for the Buffalo News. His film work was selected by legendary filmmaker and photographer Willard Van Dyke for showing at the Flaherty Film Festival, seen in museums and art centers around the world.

In 2012 he was awarded the St. Bonaventure University Gaudete Medal, the university's highest honor. He also received many other awards too numerous to enumerate here.

The fee for the catered lunch is \$15. You can make a reservation at Josettepc50 @gmail.com or in the parish hall on Sunday April 5 and 12. 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 would be by April 10. Make your check payable to the UUCB and in the memo line write, Women's Society. On the envelope write, ATTENTION: Josh Layton. If you make a reservation on the final Sunday prior to the program, payment will be due in person. Once the catering order is called in on Monday morning, no further reservations or 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 event, the fee will then be \$17.

Do make your reservation as you will not want to miss this exciting and enlightening program!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 UUCB VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!

From a list of stellar candidates, the Congregation selected multiple winners: a tie between **Phil Nicolai**, and a trio of stellar handymen/fixer uppers, **Paul Zanolli, Paul Ziebarth, and Dan Schell**. They will be honored at the Network of Religious Communities' annual Appreciation Dinner, to be held Tuesday, May 12, at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. If you would like to support them with your attendance at the dinner, tickets are available. Please see Josh in the church office. Further information will be available in upcoming communications. **Many, many thanks to these and all our wonderful UUCB volunteers, whose fires of commitment make our world a better place.** ~  
The Celebrations Team

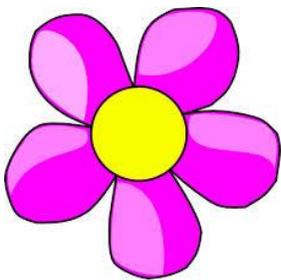
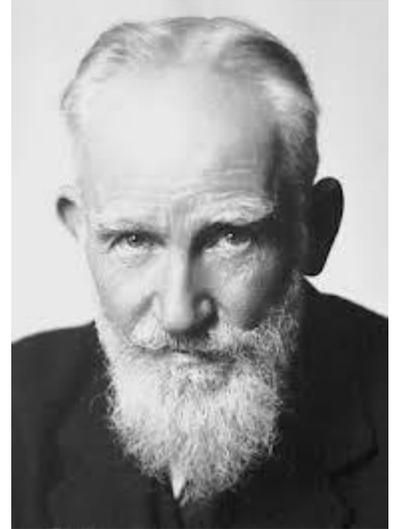


Great for the Savvy Niagara-on-the-Lake Playgoer!  
**DIVINE DIVAS & THEATRICAL DREAMS:  
A PREVIEW OF THE 2015 SHAW FESTIVAL**

**Michael Harris, instructor**

11 Sessions, Starting May 6, 2015  
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 p.m.

There's a stellar list of 'fair ladies' in this year's Shaw Festival line-up: Eliza Dolittle in Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, Ellida Wangel in Henrik Ibsen's The Lady from the Sea, Charity Hope Valentine in the hit musical Sweet Charity, as well as the ultimate diva – Sarah Bernhardt in the world première of Michel Marc Bouchard's The Divine. They're joined by Caryl Churchill's Top Girls, in which great women of history converse with the aspiring females of today. The season is supplemented by Moss Hart's witty valentine to the theatre Light up the Sky, the acclaimed prequel to Peter Pan – Peter and the Starcatcher, and Tony Kushner's epic Shavian 'play of ideas' The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Guide to the Scriptures (whew!). Each week, we'll analyze one of these theatrical dreams and discover that they turn out to be good guides to our own waking reality. See you at the Shaw – and pleasant dreams!  
Registration: \$70 for full course, or \$10 per session



## **Pulpit Flower Ministry**

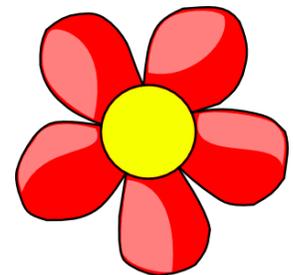
### **April Schedule:**

April 5th: Easter Sunday

April 12th: Music Sunday

April 19th: Linda Lover & Olga Ruiz

April 26th: Georgia Pooley



A few dates are still available for Pulpit Flowers in May, June and July. Please consider reserving a Flower Sunday for Spring or Summer. The cost is just \$35.00 which includes your text dedication in the OSS, and you may keep or donate the flowers after the service. For more information or to reserve a day, please stop by the flower table, email us at [pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org](mailto:pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org), or call us at 716-885-2136 ext.4.

**The UU Church of Buffalo Staff**  
**695 Elmwood Ave**  
**Buffalo, NY 14222**  
**716-885-2136**  
**www.buffalouu.org**

**Interim Minister:**

Rev Mary Hnottavange-Telleen  
minister@buffalouu.org

**Director of Lifespan Faith Development:**

Sonja Jensen  
lifespan@buffalouu.org

**Music Director:**

Daniel Bassin  
music@buffalouu.org

**Organist/Accompanist:**

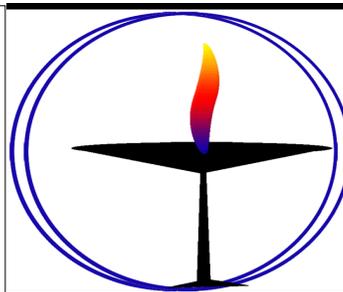
Su Lee  
organist@buffalouu.org

**Membership Coordinator:**

Christine Derby-Cuadrado  
membership@buffalouu.org

**Nursery Care Coordinator:**

Barbara Bartz



**Church Administrator:**

Joshua Layton  
office@buffalouu.org

**Bookkeeper:**

Donna Sentz  
bookkeeper@buffalouu.org

**Gatekeeper:**

Sara Kirkland  
office@buffalouu.org

**Wedding Coordinator:**

Paulette Notaro  
weddings@buffalouu.org

**Care Network:**

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

## Happening at the UUCB

### Spring has sprung, hopefully, and the Yarnbusters stitch on.

This "Not for Knitters Only" group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. In April we will meet on the 14th and 28th from 6:30ish to 8ish tentatively in The Women's Lounge. Can't make it at 6:30? No problem. This is not a meeting, drop in when you can. So whether you knit, crochet or cross stitch give us a try. This is an open group, church membership not required, so please forward to any friends or family that may be interested. For more information email me, Sharon Walker, at sharonw447@gmail.com.



### Grief and Renewal

#### April 19 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](mailto:info@nicoleurdang.com)