

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER
Gather ~ Inspire ~ Transform

695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222
Phone: 716-885-2136
Website: www.buffalouu.org



Faith Matters: What does it mean to be people of Wholeness?

Rev. Joan Montagnes

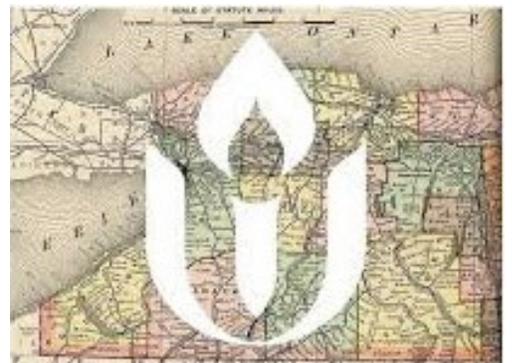


To begin with, being whole means including your entire self – warts and all, no part left outside the door, or in the car, or trembling fearfully under the blankets. Being whole means understanding that every nook and cranny of your being is touched by Love. Exactly as you were, are now and who you will become.

Being whole in community gets a little more complicated. It means loving one another even when we don't feel very loving. In fact, being in a community is about growing our souls toward a wholeness that includes people who rub us the wrong way and people we don't understand. It's easy to love our friends, but our task as people of wholeness is to also reach out to the stranger and welcome them into our hearts. Our task is to know that a whole community is a community pulsing with the Spirit of Love; a Love that built our church, that is our congregation today, and that will guide us as we create our future.

And beyond our congregation, being whole means much, much more. It means developing meaningful and real relationships to other congregations, cities, regions, this nation, other countries and the planet. It means loving our wider community and everyone in it – warts and all. We love, because we believe in love's living transformative power to heal this broken and imperfect world.

On Saturday, April 6 from 9am-1pm, our whole congregation will have an opportunity to love the world into becoming. We will have an opportunity to create our future. Bring your whole self, with all your passions and dreams for our



church today and beyond.

This morning workshop is the beginning our Capital Fund Drive Campaign. Before we even begin to mention money, we need the whole congregation to join in shaping our shared mission and vision. We need to dream big dreams of who we as a congregation could become. What are our values today? How can we put those values into practice so we can blossom into the church we wish to be tomorrow?



I invite you to this opportunity for growth and dreaming, a time to remember the best of who we have been, celebrate our strengths today, and create our future together. Saturday, April 6, 9am-1pm. Lunch is included. Childcare is provided.



Joys and Sorrows

We are happy to report that Tracey Kassman is at home healing after surgery. All is very well, and she is grateful for all the loving gifts of care from all her friends and relations.

Pulpit Flower Ministry

The next available flower dates are June 23 and June 30, and other dates are available for future Sundays in the fall.

Please see us at the flower table after most Sunday services, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call us at the office at (716) 885-2136X4 if you are interested in sponsoring lovely flowers for one of our Sunday services. The donation is only \$35.00 and you will have the opportunity to have your desired text dedication printed in our weekly newsletter as well as in our OSS. On the Sunday that you choose, your flowers will be available after the morning service for you to take with you or to donate.



Widows and Widowers Circle

A monthly gathering of Women and Men who have lost their partners



The next meeting of the Widow and Widower's Circle is on Sunday April 7 after the Sunday service at noon in the Gardner Room. All Widows and Widowers are welcome. Our theme for this meeting is "Rituals that honor our loved ones." Bring ideas from your own experience and/or come to listen to the ideas of others. Bring a friend and a lunch if you wish. For more information contact Bonnie Collins at 867-9628 or collinsb@buffalo.edu.

Pulpit Previews

April 7: Wholey Water - Rev. Joan Montagnes

Most Unitarian Universalists find the Holy in Nature. Imagine sitting by a wooded stream or listening to waves crashing against the shore. Water, with its restorative properties, connects us to a Divine ongoing creation.

April 14: Lessons Unforgotten - Sophia Veffler

After it happened in Nazi Germany, we swore, "Never again!" Yet, hatred and evil continue to re-surface. How can we stop the horror? Sophia Veffler shares her personal experience of the Holocaust and her views on the genocides that continue.

THURSDAY, April 18: Maundy Thursday - Joan Montagnes

A contemplative service of music and words. Where there is love and rebirth there is also pain.

April 21: Holy! Holy! Holy! - Rev. Joan Montagnes

Easter is here! The year has turned from frozen death to life, greenly and flowered. Rejoice! The stone is rolled away and out of the tomb rises Love.

April 28: Music Sunday - Daniel Bassin, Choir, Guest Musicians

We will feature the Mass No. 4 in C-Major, by Franz Schubert (1797-1828). The final of Schubert's youthful settings of the Latin Mass, this sunny yet powerful work gives brief glimpses of the stormy, romantic music of Schubert's maturity. Scored for strings, organ, vocal quartet, and choir, the service will also feature music UU composer, Elizabeth Norton, alongside works from Clara Schumann and Fanny (Mendelssohn) Hensel.



Summer Worship Services

If you are interested in offering a Summer Worship Service, please send a proposal to Rev. Joan Montagnes at minister@buffalouu.org by April 15. **Please include the following information:**

- Your name and contact information
- The Sunday dates you are available to speak between June 23 and Sept 1 inclusive
- Sermon title
- Intriguing sermon description of about 30 words or less
- Sermon summary of at least 200 words or the entire sermon.

**To guide you in crafting your services, the summer themes will be:
June – Blessing; July – Simplicity; August – Resistance; September – TBA**



March Religious Education News

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

As April is upon us, our Religious Education team is busy planning next year's programming. We have a few of the pieces in place, but due to the changing class sizes (some of our classes have only a few students, while others are far too big to fit in a single classroom) and needs of our children and youth, we want to hear what YOU want from our program next year! To this end, everyone who has a stake in the religious education program at UUCB is invited to our RE Visioning Potluck on Friday, April 19, from 6-8 pm in the Parish Hall.

We will share a meal (please bring a dish to pass), talk about our vision for a comprehensive religious education program, our family ministry needs, and how to balance the need for volunteers with our rising class sizes! We are already working on a few ideas for next year, including a Dungeons and Dragons-based curriculum for 4th through 8th graders and more possibilities for whole-family engagement. Please join us on the 19th and help us create a program that meets the needs of all our members.

Adult Faith Development

Memoir Writing Group

There are two openings in the Tuesday night memoir writing group for new members. The group meets on Tuesday evenings in a basement classroom from 7 - 8:30. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, please contact Sarah Martin at lifespan@buffalouu.org

UUA Common Read - Justice on Earth

The UUA's 2018-2019 common read is Justice on Earth by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom. This collection of essays on the intersections of race, class, and the environment sets the stage for a holistic approach to combatting oppression that speaks to our values as Unitarian Universalists. Please join us for one of the two discussion sessions planned in April. The book can be purchased from Sarah Martin for \$15 per copy. Please inquire at the Religious Education table on Sunday mornings or email lifespan@buffalouu.org.

Book discussions will take place on April 14 and April 24. Please register for ONE session here: <https://goo.gl/forms/9LKxLFNHAD8f5L4d2>

New Member Class

Are you considering membership at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo? Are you new here and want to discover what we're all about? Having you been coming for years, yet you still have questions about Unitarian Universalism, our history, and our mission? Then this is the class for you!

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 10 am - 2 pm, Place: Alliance Room, Cost: Free of charge, lunch provided

Facilitators: Rev. Joan Montagnes, Shaun Doyle, and Julie Taylor

Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/dr3BeM2MlssN4lml2>

THE MUSICAL THEATRE OF KURT WEILL

Michael Harris, instructor

\$10 per session, For more information, call Church Office at 885-2136.

Session Thirteen (April 3): Opera on Broadway – The Firebrand of Florence, Street Scene

Session Fourteen (April 10): 'The days grow short' – Last Broadway Shows [Love Life and Lost in the Stars]

Music Notes – April 2019

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



Our two annual Music Sunday services can be viewed as either the crown jewels of our Music Program, or a set of architectural pillars – the cornerstones of our Choir Season, if you will. The placement and meaning of our beloved Spring Music Sunday celebrations immediately come to mind when I reflect on the question, *What does it mean to be a People of Wholeness?* For those of you interested in further exploring this topic, we encourage you to attend our Music Program-hosted Thematic Exploration Discussion following this month’s concluding Music Sunday service.

Each spring your UUCB Choir pour their time and talents into a Music Sunday service – and our entire community generously share their treasure to support these efforts – which can feel alternately like a polished choral performance, an escape from the noise of the rest of the world into the deep meditation of attentive listening music invites, or one of the most super-charged, synergetic church services of the entire year. The truly impressive thing is how these services fit into the *whole* of our church’s music ministry!

The final Sunday of this month, April 28th will feature the Mass No. 4 in C-Major, by Franz Schubert (1797-1828). The final of Schubert’s youthful settings of the Latin Mass, this sunny yet powerful work gives brief glimpses of the stormy, romantic music of Schubert’s maturity (though one should always keep in mind he lived only 31 years), while also showing the influence of his studies with Antonio Salieri (1750-1825), a historically maligned genius who truly deserves more credit for nurturing Schubert’s genius than anything we may have learned from the play, *Amadeus*. Scored for strings, organ, vocal quartet, and choir, the service will also feature music UU composer, Elizabeth Norton, alongside works Clara Schumann and Fanny (Mendelssohn) Hensel.

Our musical month of April is capped-off by that service, but of course the previous week is Easter, and that service will include a selection of choral alleluias and a ‘Choir favorite’ by Leon Dubinsky, *We Rise Again*. Mark your calendars for our Maundy Thursday evening service on April 18th, featuring meditative and haunting musical selections from UUCB Choir soloists, Robert Graziano, and yours truly.

Finally, looking back to the beginning of the month, our April 7th service, *Wholey Water* will include some choral gems typically heard during September water communion services, alongside a few surprises. UUCB Choir member – and so much more! – Michele Costa, will act as worship associate for Sophia Veffer’s not-to-be-missed service on April 14th, *Lessons Unforgotten*. We look forward to sharing the whole of this month with each of you.





Fun and Fellowship Auction News!!

The 2019 Fun and Fellowship Auction was, indeed, a “wee bit o’ magic” and a great success, with over sixty-six items donated to support the work of this church community! Congratulations again to the winning bidders who will have the opportunity to be together in fun and fellowship throughout the year!

The good news: *You still have an opportunity to bid!* A few items have not yet sold out. There are also four all-church future events planned with all proceeds going to the Auction: the *Welcome Back BBQ on 9/15*, *“Chillin’ With Chili” Dinner For All on 9/28*, and *An Evening of Wine, Desserts and Poetry on 11/15!* Look for announcements closer to the time of these events!

Stop by the Auction table after worship services to bid on any remaining items, or to pay for your winning bids. You may also send your payments to the church office, noting “Auction” on the memo line. Ideas or questions? Contact Juli Van Woert at JVW61@aol.com or Maria Testa at marialtesta@gmail.com.

Thank you to all who participated as donors and bidders. We couldn’t have done it without you!



UAIM NEWS

Some Thoughts on Ableism ...

On March 16, Andrew Marcum, Ph.D led a discussion group on Ableism. If you didn’t attend the workshop, here are some quotes explaining Ableism:

“Sometimes disabled people overcome specific moments of ableism, we exceed low expectations, problem-solve lack of access, avoid nursing homes or long-term psych facilities, narrowly escape police brutality and prison. However, I’m not sure that overcoming disability itself is an actual possibility for most of us. Yet in a world that places extraordinary value in cure, the belief that we can defeat or transcend body-mind conditions through individual hard work is convenient. Overcoming is cure’s backup plan.”

— **Eli Clare, *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure*; UAIM speaker at UUCB service.**

“ABLEISM is ugly and hurts, sometimes deeply. ACCEPTANCE helps with healing the wounds.”

— **Amy Sequenzia**

“The problem with having a disability is not the disability. The problem is other people. Other people’s biases, prejudices and ugliness gets in the way of seeing people as people. I wish people would understand that disability is just a variation of the human experience.”

— **Johanna Hirons Radziwon**

“That quote, ‘the only disability in life is a bad attitude’, the reason that’s bullshit is...No amount of smiling at a flight of stairs has ever made it turn into a ramp. No amount of standing on the middle of a bookshelf and radiating a positive attitude is going to turn all those books into braille.”

— **Shella Young**

April Share-the-Plate: Buffalo-Niagara Waterkeeper



For the past 30 years, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has been the guardian of Western New York's fresh water. Our mission is four-fold: we PROTECT the water, we RESTORE both the waterways and the surrounding ecosystems, we CONNECT people to their waterways, and we INSPIRE both economic activity along the waterways and community engagement.



In the late 60s, the Buffalo River was officially declared dead. Fast forward to 1989, with not a lot of improvement, and Friends of the Buffalo River is formed. Our organization worked tirelessly for the last three decades, and with many partners, to bring the Buffalo River back to life. It's a tremendous, largely untold success story that played a large part in the city's resurgence and renaissance in recent years. The story of the Buffalo River is a tale of caution, determination, hope and resurgence, and our mission going forward is to work to achieve the same successes on our other waterways, as well, in addition to protecting our headwaters throughout the watershed.



Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's success can be credited to our collaborative, partnership approach to the environmental problems our region faces. The people of WNY love their communities, and we've found that partnering to find sustainable solutions and restore the health of our waterways and ecosystems yields better results here than trying to force people's hand.

Share the Plate Seeks Suggestions for 2019-2020 Recipients

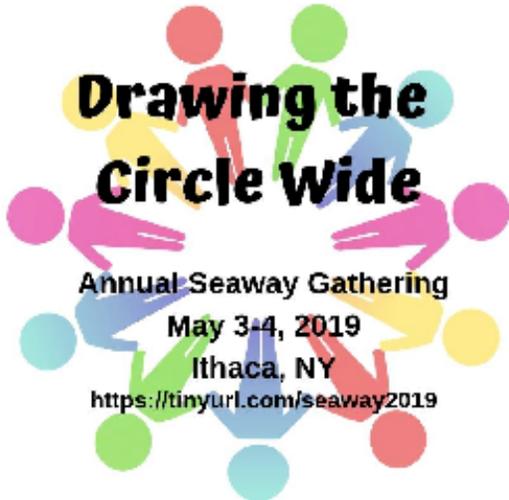
Each month we share our weekly Sunday offering with a social justice agency or organization outside our walls. The Social Action Sunday Events team is looking for ideas for new recipients for the 2019-2020 church year. Do you know of organizations that should be considered for Share the Plate? Please send them to Eve Holberg via email at evvec@waynorth.com. Please provide as much information as possible: Agency name, contact person and information including phone or email if you have it, and let how best to contact you if we have questions. If you like, please describe what makes this organization special or particularly deserving. **Please note that Share the Plate recipients must be 501(c)3 non-profit non-partisan organizations.** For inspiration, a list of all Share the Plate recipients is on the Share the Plate bulletin board next to the garden entrance doors in the Parish Hall. If you have questions, please see or email Eve Holberg.

Family Promise News

Yes, WE ARE still a Family Promise church, providing hope, friendship, great meals and love to families who are seeking permanent homes. You can make a difference in a family's life by providing a simple supper for up to three families for one night, Monday April 8-Friday April 12 at the Family Promise Center on the St. Columba Brigid RC campus at Hickory and Clinton. The families will set the table, serve the food, clear the dishes and wash up and say THANK YOU. You bask in knowing you have helped; you'll receive far more than you give. We no longer need to provide overnight hosting in our church, unless and until we have the State-mandated shower, required for shelters. Contact Nancy Wilkins at 432-6983 or nlaurienwilkins@yahoo.com, or see her at the FP table during coffee hour.



Come join UUs from across New York State for a day of worshipping, learning and connecting!



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Friday, May 3
7:00 Gould Discourse with Rev. Frances Manly
8:30-10:00 Reception

Saturday, May 4
8:00 Registration
9:00 Banner Parade and Opening Worship
9:30 Keynote with CB Beal
10:30 Break
11:00 Morning Workshops
12:30 Lunch
1:45 Cohort Conversations
3:00 Break
3:15 Closing Worship and Youth Bridging
4:00 Safe Travels

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/seaway2019>

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
306 N. Aurora St.
Ithaca, NY, 14850

Friday Night Gould Discourse
Kids These Days: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Hope Again

With the Rev. Frances Manly



The students of Parkland, FL have created a effective national movement that goes far beyond just school shootings. Other young people are building an international movement to address climate change.

Not only can they give us hope for the future, but but they challenge and inspire those who are no longer so young to support them, work with them, and follow their lead to do what we so often say we want to do: build a better world.

Saturday Morning Keynote
Pre-Emptive Radical Inclusion

with CB Beal

Preemptive Radical Inclusion is a framework for liberation and justice to use when we are in positions of leadership, when we are given –or have taken– responsibility within a group or organization. Whether it is the formal and constant leadership of organizational leaders, or if the leadership is temporary for a particular event, our responsibility is to plan for, include, and involve everyone—broadly speaking—in our congregations.



More information can be found here: <https://liberationandjustice.com/preemptive-radical-inclusion/>

Beyond the Hedge: Denomination and Interfaith Connections

Sharon Walker, Denominational News



The Power of We

General Assembly will convene June 19-23, 2019
Spokane, Washington

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith. The 2019 Ware Lecturer is Richard Blanco. Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role. For more information contact generalassembly@uua.org.

Our Interfaith Connections



2019 VOICE-BUFFALO ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

APRIL 11 @ 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Buffalo Convention Center

Join us in honoring local leaders in social justice! Our 2019 Awardees:

Nehemiah Award: Betty Jean Grant; **Faith in Action Award:** Elder Kelly Galloway; **Alagbara Ayaba (Powerful Queen) Award:** Jessica Pirro, LMSW and Christella Ombeni; **Community Commitment Awards:** Jericho Road Community Health Center and Michael Rogers; **Robert Spicer Restorative Justice Award:** Pastor James Giles. Keynote speaker to be announced!

Parking is FREE in the Fernbach Ramp, just down Franklin St. from the Convention Center

A major fundraising event for VOICE; please support this worthy organization and the great work it does. We have reserved 2 tables so when you purchase your ticket through UUCB tickets are \$55 each. While they last! See Sharon Walker at uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com for more information. Deadline Friday, March 22.

SAVE THE DATE!

May 2, 2019

"Truth Commission: Impact of school suspensions on students, families, and community"
Sponsored by VOICE Buffalo, Criminal Justice Task Force, Time and Place TBD



Restorative Justice/Practice



What is it? How do I get involved?

Restorative Justice Day, April 13, 2019

Hosted by the University at Buffalo, 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Diefendorf Hall, UB So Campus

Restorative Justice Day is an annual conference aimed at bringing university, school, and community members together to learn about restorative practices.

- **Restorative practices run on a spectrum**, from community building in elementary schools, to criminal diversion in the courts. Typically conducted in the form of a circle, restorative practices help bring together classrooms and communities to build strong foundations and repair harm when it occurs.

- **Our goal in hosting Restorative Justice Day is to have a space where people from all walks of life can learn about restorative practices**, and see how they are being used - in our schools, courts, and communities. The day includes keynote speeches from experts in the national restorative justice community, workshops to introduce attendees to community, court, school, youth, and cultural circles, and performances by local cultural organizations.

The event is \$5 per person, which covers entrance to the conference, breakfast and lunch. For more information and to register: [Restorative Justice Day 2019](#)

Ongoing involvement

Ongoing Peace Conference and Peace Circle Practices

Sponsored by VOICE-Buffalo and the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition

Using Restorative Practices to create effective changes in our criminal justice system. You are invited to experience and take part in our monthly Circle and Conference practice sessions that build community and take on real issues.

Peace Circle and Conference Practice, First Thursday of each Month (April 4, 2019)

R Healin Center, 1057 Kensington Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215

Registration and refreshments at 5:00 pm

Practice; 5:30-7:30 pm

Peace Circle, Second Tuesday of each month (April 9, 2019)

UU Church of Buffalo, 1st Fl., "Marge Gardner Room", 695 Elmwood Ave.

Registration and refreshments at 6:00 pm

Peace Circle Practice; 6:30-8:30 pm

By developing the ability to come together to tackle difficult topics our Circle Practice builds community with the long-term goal of UUCB becoming a community Peace Hub. For more information on the Peace Circles taking place at UUCB email uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com.



Buffalo School Board Candidates' Forum

Sponsored by BILT (Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team) and VOICE-Buffalo

April 2, 6:00 pm, Lafayette H.S.

UUCB WOMEN'S SOCIETY'S SPEAKER-LUNCHEON SERIES for April 18:



Our own **Juli Van Woert**, who is a Honeybee Steward in addition to her many roles at our Church, will present: **"HONEYBEES: BUZZING WITH SUPERPOWERS."** Bees do so much more than pollinating and making honey. Juli will tell us all about that but also all about bees' other astounding abilities that are unique to honeybees. Don't miss it!

Refreshments at 11 am (\$3 donation); Juli's presentation at 11:30; Prepaid luncheon at 12:30.

Cost: Women's Society members - lunch - \$15 - no cost for speaker only.

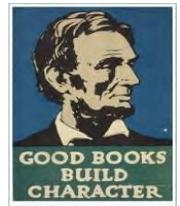
Non-members - lunch - \$20 - includes speaker

Non-members - speaker only - \$5 at the door.

Paid reservations accepted April 7 and 14 after the service at the Women's Society table in the Parish Hall, or, if by mail, we must receive your check in in the Church Office by noon on Friday, April 12. Make check payable to UUCB and write WS luncheon in the memo line. Mail to Church Office, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222

ANNUAL WOMEN'S SOCIETY USED BOOK SALE

The annual book sale will be held **Saturday, April 27 and Sunday April 28 and Saturday May 5 and Sunday May 6**, at the UU church Parish Hall from 10am to 3 pm all 4 days. **We are still collecting** books, soft cover and hard bound, fiction and non-fiction, artbooks, cookbooks, psychology, politics, history, etc and children's books, puzzles and games. **Please no encyclopedias, textbooks or magazines.** Books can be dropped off at the UU church in bags or boxes and placed at the Elmwood Entrance steps. If you have questions, contact Joyce Bol at joukjebo@gmail.com



EYEGASSES/HEARING AIDES IN GOOD CONDITION AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD PANTRY ITEMS are gratefully



accepted year round. **Food Pantry donations of cereal are appreciated during April.** The donation box will be available in the Parish Hall during the luncheon for

your convenience. At all other times, it's in the Garden Entrance foyer.



TICKET RESERVATIONS FOR BRIGADOON ON FRIDAY, JUNE 14 AT THE SHAW FESTIVAL are on sale after the Sunday service on April 7 and 14 and before the luncheon on April 18 (or until they are sold out). Gold seats are \$52; Blue seats are \$45. The ticket price includes the matinee performance and a pre-performance talk. Don't be left out! (Now is the time to assure smooth passage at the Canadian and U.S. borders - make sure your passport or enhanced driver's license is current.)



UUCB BOOK GROUP MEETING - April 29 at 7 pm.

We will be discussing **SING YOU HOME**, a novel by Jodi Picoult that explores what it means to be gay in today's world and how reproductive science has outstripped the legal system. Newcomers who have read the book are welcome to join us. Everyone who plans to come needs to tell our host-of-the-month, Don (donbehr@aol.com or 432-2732) so that he may plan for seating and refreshments.

Looking ahead: May 20 - 7 pm **CITIZENS OF LONDON** by Lynne Olsen; June 24 at 5 pm **NEVER CAUGHT** by Erica Armstrong.



Earth Day April 22

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

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<p>Minister: Rev. Joan Montagnes minister@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Bridge Rauch office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Director of Religious Education: Sarah Martin lifespan@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Music Director: Daniel Bassin music@buffalouu.org</p>
<p>Care Network: Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 wixsonsg@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gatekeeper: Sara Kirkland office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Wedding Coordinator: Paulette Notaro weddings@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Organist/ Accompanist: Robert Graziano</p>
<p>Administrator for-Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Nursery Care Coordinator: Morgan Silver</p>	<p>Newsletter: newsletter@buffalouu.org Weekly Announcements: announcements@buffalouu.org</p>	



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

