

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo



MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Gather ~ Inspire ~ Transform

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



Minister's Column: What does it mean to be people of Curiosity?

Rev. Joan Montagnes



Curiosity didn't kill the cat, that's just something they told us so we would stop asking all those pesky questions. Curiosity, in its deepest form, binds us together as a community so we can survive in body and spirit.

Our sense of wonder leads to experiments. Experiments lead to technology. Eventually we invent everything from the wheel to the Mars rover. We discover penicillin's antibiotic properties and treatments for cancer. No matter how we test it, there seems to be no limit to our imagination. We are an exploring animal, and we find answers that lead to more questions.

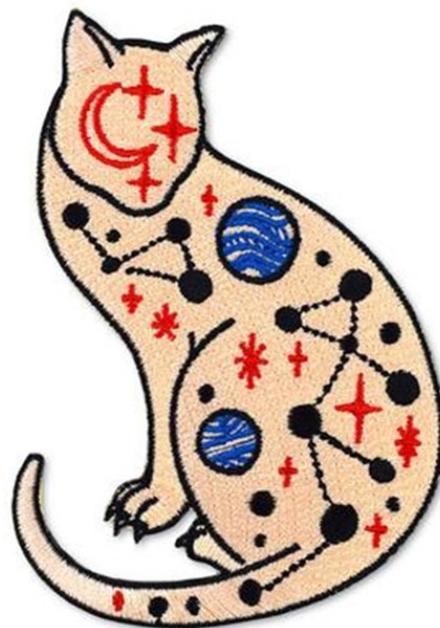
But our contemplations are not limited to scientific exploration. A sacred curiosity exists when we listen to another person with all our heart. There is a Holy Curiosity in asking someone how they are doing, and actually caring about the answer. Take the time. Be present.

And when someone says something utterly disagreeable, prickly, or raises an unpleasant topic, do not close your heart or mind. Breathe into the situation and get even more curious. Seriously, how *could* they believe that to be true? Have enough respect for your neighbor to believe they have a reason to say what they say. Make no assumptions. People are complex and contain multitudes. You may be surprised.

When someone near you says something that challenges you down to your socks, just for this month, try being curious. See if it takes you somewhere new – a deeper understanding, a closer relationship, a wider compassion.

Curiosity didn't kill the cat. Curiosity is a spiritual discipline.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes





Pulpit Previews

May 5: Encouraging Wonder - Rev. Joan Montagnes

For centuries, our faith has encouraged us to be thoughtful, rational and curious. We affirm the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. However, as faithful citizens we may not have ensured that all our neighbors have the resources they need to feed their natural curiosity.

May 12: What It Means to Be a UU - Youth Group Service

Readings and reflections from the UUCB Youth on the meaning of Unitarian Universalism. As they evolve from children to adults, the youth group examines how they are evolving as UUs, too.

May 19: Who Are You? - Rev. Joan Montagnes

The Worship Associates and Rev. Joan will explore aspects of identity. Get curious. Who is our neighbor? Who are you?

May 26: Our Ancestor's Breath - Rev. Joan Montagnes

A reflective service of music and candles to remember our beloved dead.

Joys and Sorrows



We send healing thoughts to Chuck Battaglia who is recovering at home with a broken foot.

We also send healing thoughts to Ed Harris, who is recovering and mending after a serious car accident. We also hold his wife, Robin, and their new baby, Harper in our hearts.

Our deepest sympathies are with the friends and family of Marlene Badger. Marlene sang with our choir for many years. We are grateful for all her gifts of music and friendship.

Our condolences also go to the friends and family of Bruce Beyer. Bruce was a young adult in this congregation and led a symbolic sanctuary movement for draftees out of our church during the Viet Nam war. He was a man who devoted his life to peacemaking.

Welcome and Connections Team



It is so important for new folks to experience a warm and friendly greeting when they honor UUCB by visiting. It is often their very first experience at a UU Church.

Please consider volunteering occasionally to show your smiling face at our Welcome Table, which functions 52 weeks each year! We will support first-time volunteers with an experienced partner, to show you how easy and pleasant the experience can be. We generally show up by 9:45 to "dress up" our table, greet people as they arrive, and return after the service to encourage visitors to complete an interest form, and if possible, introduce them to other friendly folks during social hour. We then return our paraphernalia and tablecloth to the storage box by around 12:15-12:30.

Either sign up for a date at the Welcome Table on Sunday, or email Beryl Smith at beryljeanne@hotmail.com. Thank you so much!



May Religious Education News

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

As we wrap up our Religious Education year, we have a few important and exciting dates coming up!

Sunday, May 12 – Please join us for our annual youth-led service, “What Does It Mean to Be a UU?” Our senior high youth group has been working hard to put this service together, and they are looking forward to sharing it with the congregation. There will be no regular Religious Education classes that day, and children are encouraged to attend the service with their families. The nursery will be open as usual, but we are looking for volunteers to help staff it that day.

Sunday, June 2 – Pride! This year, instead of holding regular RE classes on Pride, we are encouraging all our RE families, and any other congregants who wish to join us, to meet us at Buffalo State College and join the UU Church of Buffalo as we march in the Pride Parade.

Sunday, June 9 – RE Sunday! Join us for a celebration of our religious education program, the amazing volunteers who help it happen, and the children and youth who have so much to share with you! This will be a multigenerational service, and participation by children, youth, and our volunteer teachers is especially important!

May is our month of Curiosity at UUCB and in April we held a potluck for RE families, to help create a vision of what our children, youth, and families want from our program in the coming year. Here are the questions we asked! If you have answers, we’d love to hear them. Please email any responses to Sarah Martin at lifespan@buffalouu.org.

What words remind you of church?

What is your favorite thing to do at church?

What kind of things would you like to do more often at church?

What are some things that help your family stay connected to church during the week?

If you could imagine the best possible day at church, what would it look like?

Please email any responses to Sarah Martin at lifespan@buffalouu.org.

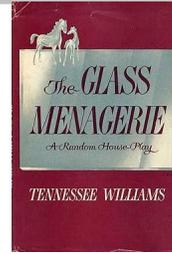
Adult Faith Development

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.



Wednesday Mornings with Michael

Michael Harris, instructor

Sex & Violence (and George Bernard Shaw) – A Preview of the 2019 Shaw Festival

Learn about all the plays this season --

great preparation for your theatre trip !!

If it's true that sex and violence are the basic subjects of drama, then the 2019 Shaw Festival falls squarely in line. Mae West's lurid melodrama Sex got her arrested and got her nationwide attention. On the violent side is the thriller Rope which opens with a corpse onstage, while the black farce The Ladykillers concludes with five nasty characters meeting their mortal doom. George Bernard Shaw is represented by his very adult views on divorce in Getting Married, and his revolutionary take on male-female relations in the epic Man and Superman. Balanced with more 'G-rated' fare like the Narnia adventure The Horse and His Boy, the romantic musical Brigadoon, Tennessee Williams' memory play The Glass Menagerie, and the swashbuckling classic Cyrano de Bergerac, this year's Shaw Fest has other theatres beat by a nose – a long nose! We offer playgoers well-informed (and parental) guidance!

12 sessions in the UUCB Alliance Room; Wednesdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, from May 8 to July 31 (No class session on June 26). Registration: \$70 for course, or \$10 per session; make check payable to UUCB. To register or for more information, call Church Office at 885-2136.

Week-by-Week Syllabus

Session One (May 8):	The Alternative Worlds of C.S. Lewis – <u>The Horse and His Boy</u>
Session Two (May 15):	The Perfect Crime and Its Discontents – <u>Rope</u> by Patrick Hamilton
Session Three (May 22):	Love Songs in the Scottish Highlands – <u>Brigadoon</u> by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe
Session Four (May 29):	Family Memories Transmuted to Art – <u>The Glass Menagerie</u> by Tennessee Williams
Session Six (June 12):	Shaw's Creative Evolution about Marriage – <u>Getting Married</u> by Bernard Shaw
Session Seven (June 19):	The Gang that Couldn't Shoot Straight – <u>The Ladykillers</u> , by Graham Linehan
No Class on June 26!	
Session Eight (July 3):	New Ways to Say 'I Love You' – <u>The Russian Play</u> by Hannah Moscovitch
Session Nine (July 10):	Goodness Had Nothing to Do with It – <u>Sex</u> by Mae West
Session Ten (July 17):	Shaw Workshop and Shaw Winter – <u>Mahabharata: Origins, A Christmas Carol and Holiday Inn</u>
Session Eleven (July 24):	Revising Rostand's Romanticism – <u>Cyrano de Bergerac</u> , by Edmond Rostand.
Session Twelve (July 31):	The Messy Side of the English Restoration – <u>Victory</u> by Howard Barker

Music Notes – May 2019

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



We most certainly are a *People of Curiosity*! And, speaking on behalf of your UUCB Choir and our music program staff, we are excited to explore this theme, this coming month.

We begin on May 5th with Rev. Joan Montagnes's service, *Encouraging Wonder*, which will feature alto soloist, Helen Lowry in American composer and diarist, Ned Rorem's moving art song, *A Journey*. Service music will also include a 'choir favorite' – the Quaker song, *How Can I Keep from Singing?* – and a Cornette-and-Piano rendition of Leslie Bricusse's classic tune from *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, "Pure Imagination."

The Choir and Soloists will take a well-earned bye week on May 12th, but our Youth Group's service, *What It Means to Be a UU* will be filled with wonderful music and is not-to-be missed!

The service on May 19th, *Who Are You?* will feature a new anthem by a familiar composer to our Choir, Brian Tate. Maestro Tate was the guest clinician at the 2017 Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network conference, where he introduced his a cappella work, *Connected*, to the assembly. A snappy (literally) and innovative tune about community...and particle physics! Frank Ticheli's moving, *Earth Song*, will also feature on this service.

Finally, we conclude the month with a reflective service commemorating Memorial Day, *Our Ancestor's Breath*. Stephen Chatman's setting of Christina Rossetti's *Remember* will be offered up by the Choir alongside Franz Schubert's *Die Nacht*. Benny Golson's tribute to a great trumpet legend, *I Remember Clifford* will start the service, and we'll conclude with contemporary Hungarian composer, György Kurtág's piano four-hands arrangement of the sinfonia to Bach's funeral cantata, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, which our Choir performed for Music Sunday a few years back.

We look forward to sharing this music with each of you!



SASE News



SASE stands for **Social Action Sunday Events** with the emphasis on social action. The month of May gives the congregation a number of opportunities to engage in social action.

On Thursday, May 2 from 6 PM to 8 PM there will be a Truth Commission hosted by VOICE, it will happen at East High School. The commission will discuss restorative justice, including data, trends, best practices and stories of those directly impacted from the community. Witness to these stories and discussion of the issues is empowering to the entire community.

In preparation for the May 7 Buffalo Board of Education election there will be a opportunity to volunteer at a VOICE sponsored phone bank to call Buffalo residents and encourage them to vote. We will provide details as they become available. The May 7 election is extremely important in determining the direction of the Buffalo school system. The percent of voter participation in past Board of Education elections has been very small. We are encouraging all city residents to make their voices heard by voting.

Our April Share the Plate recipient was Buffalo Niagara Water Keepers. 20 people signed up to participate in the May 11 shoreline cleanup. Please keep that commitment while enjoying each other's company. More opportunities may be available to participate in the May 11 cleanup. You can check the Buffalo Niagara Water Keepers website to get further information.



ACCESSIBILITY AND
INCLUSION MINISTRY
AIM PROGRAM

Committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities

UAIM NEWS

The Ministry Team of Universal Access & Inclusion would like to thank everyone who attended the Ableism Workshop in March facilitated by Andrew Marcum.

I have a few musings to ponder this month of May. Recently, Steve & I went on a trip. We always call ahead to reserve an accessible room. When we entered the room, we saw that there was not a shower chair in the shower. Steve called down to the front desk to request a shower chair. A few minutes later there was a knock on our door and the employee had a shower CAP. NO, we need a shower CHAIR. A few minutes later, the same person returned and had a luggage rack holder. NO, NO, A SHOWER CHAIR TO USE IN THE SHOWER. The Third attempt he got it correct, we got our shower chair. I am sure that many people who need accommodations have similar stories. Although this interchange was frustrating, it was very laughable. I often wonder who designs accessible bathrooms in hotels. They certainly do not ask people with disabilities!! I could use this shower, but it was tricky with only one grab bar on the inside wall. Someone using a wheelchair could not have used the shower or toilet because the bathroom was too small for the wheelchair to maneuver.

Currently we were planning to go to Myrtle Beach. Steve called ahead to ask for an accessible bathroom. The response was 'we don't do that'. When Steve sighted the ADA, the response was our units were built before the ADA so we don't have to comply. This was not laughable, it was OUTRAGEOUS!! Needless to say, we had to change our vacation plans.

Experiences like these are frustrating and can be demeaning. Steve and I think these are pretty basic requests to meet our needs but people often are clueless and discriminatory. These are a couple examples of ableism.

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

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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



Restorative Justice/Practice

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 (May 2, 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 (May 14, 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.



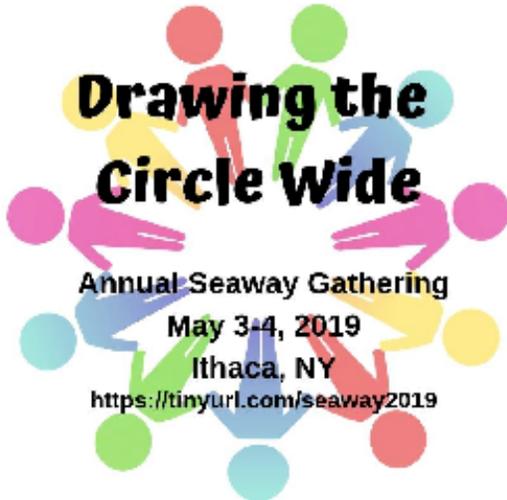
"Truth Commission: Impact of school suspensions on students, families, and community"

Sponsored by VOICE Buffalo, Criminal Justice Task Force

May 2, 2019

6-8pm, East High School.

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



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

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

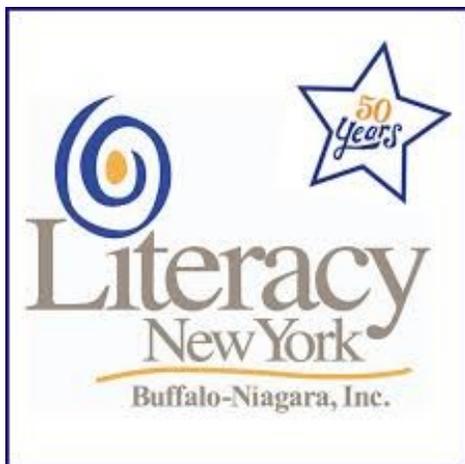
Preemptive Radical Inclusion is a framework for liberation and justice to use when we are in positions of leadership, when we are given –or have taken– responsibility within



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/>

May Share-the-Plate: [Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara, Inc.](#)



Did you know 1 in 5 residents of Erie County is functionally illiterate? Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara, formerly known as Literacy Volunteers, serves adults looking to improve their reading or learn to speak English. Our volunteer tutors provide free one-on-one and drop-in center tutoring in Erie and Niagara counties. Tutor trainings occur in the spring and the fall. We actively seek tutors and students year round. Anyone interested in getting involved or referring a potential student should go to www.literacybuffalo.org or call us at (716) 876-8991.

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.

Pulpit Flower Ministry

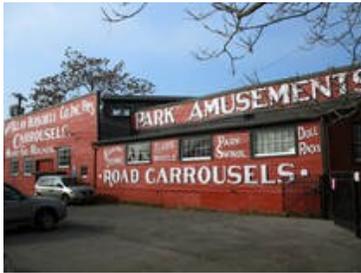
Please see us at the flower table after most Sunday services, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call us at the office at (716) 885-2136X4 if you are interested in sponsoring lovely flowers for one of our Sunday services. The donation is only \$35.00 and you will have the opportunity to have 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 May 5th after the Sunday service at noon in the Gardner Room. All Widows and Widowers are welcome. Since it is spring we will explore the idea of "rebirth" as it applies to widows and widowers. 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.



WOMEN’S SOCIETY TRIP TO THE HERSCHELL CARROUSEL FACTORY MUSEUM

Thursday, May 16, 11 a.m. in North Tonawanda.

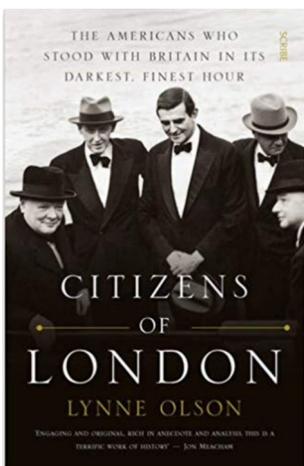
The docent-led tour will include an explanation of the history of carousel and band organ production and the operation of this factory. Wall photo-murals will illustrate the factory complex as it was in 1919. We’ll see the wood carving shop, the music roll production shop, and the Lockman Exhibit (a private collection of beautifully hand-carved wooden carousel animals). Our visit will close with a ride on the 1916 #1 Special adult carousel which is on both the National Register of Historic Places and the N.Y. State Register of Historic Places. (Maybe they’ll even explain why Carrousel is spelled with two “r’s” in the Museum’s name). Museum amenities include a gift shop, outdoor picnic tables, and handicapped-accessible restrooms. Transportation to the Museum is on your own. Location: 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda, NY 14120. Register for the tour at the Women’s Society table after the service on Sunday, May 5 and 12. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

EYEGASSES/HEARING AIDES IN GOOD CONDITION AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD PANTRY ITEMS are gratefully accepted year round. **Food Pantry donations of canned soups are appreciated during May.** 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 on May 20 at 7 p.m.



We’ll be discussing **CITIZENS OF LONDON** by historian, Lynn Olsen. This book recounts how three prominent Americans (CBS News Chief Edward R. Murrow, millionaire and diplomatic troubleshooter Averell Harriman, and newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Britain John Gilbert Winant) succeeded in convincing FDR to throw U.S. support to Churchill and enter World War II. Newcomers who have read the book are always welcome to join our discussion. Everyone who plans to come needs to tell our host-of-the-month, Sandy (sandyvanevery@yahoo.com or 628-5945) so that she may plan for seating and refreshments. **LOOKING AHEAD:** Our last meeting before summer vacation will be on Monday, June 24 at 5 p.m. We will vote on next season’s reading choices and discuss **NEVER CAUGHT** by Erica Armstrong.



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

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

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<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

