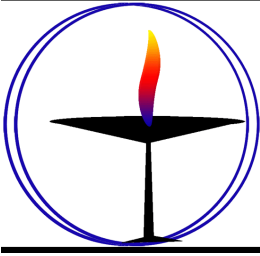


The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather – Inspire – Transform

June/July 2015 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave ∪ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 - www.BuffaloUU.org



The Interim Compass

It's 5am. It looks like it is going to be a beautiful day. This has been my favorite time to work while I watch the sun rise over Buffalo from my fifth floor perch. Today the sky is pink and orange and blue. The trees are dressed in green and I can even hear birds chirping! I have learned how to savor such brief moments in the city, free from screeching snow plows, clanging re-cycling trucks, or any and all the other noises of bustling urban life.

There is a gentle breeze coming from Lake Erie and I can see off to the west the gathering of clouds, as they seem to be perpetually forming out over that large body of water. I know that later today they will be advancing across the screen of the windows of my apartment. This scene leads me to consider the year's worth of weather both meteorological and metaphorical, I have observed in the early morning while drinking my single cup of coffee, and pondering each new day how best to support the evolving life of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. Within an hour this "magic moment" of savoring and appreciation will come to an end as the city wakes up, just as if some hidden director called "Action!"



This is my moment to express gratitude for this year of Interim Ministry with you in Buffalo and my own growing appreciation of what it can mean for this congregation to understand itself as a "ministering body" here in the city, itself a transforming environment. There is a wondrous magnitude of ever-changing opportunity here for you to make a real difference not only in the lives of individual human beings who happen to find themselves here in Buffalo, but through cultivating a *new resolve* to work together collaboratively rather than separately, in order to positively impact the direction of change in a much larger sense. It may seem like a leap to some, but that is what all that work around governance is really about... supporting what you will be able to do *better together*.

And into your midst in a few weeks will come a new minister.... dropped into the middle of this new and complex world, a real person *whom you have called* to inhabit a very special role, and to take on a unique set of responsibilities in your church, on your behalf. This role is distinct and can operate in collaboration with the Board of Trustees productively and vibrantly only if you recognize the importance of actively supporting it. Supporting means your involvement seriously and that you recognize that your contribution is *needed* not merely desired or hoped for. The congregation's initial invitation embodied in offering a "call" is the foundation of the new covenant that will carry UUCB forward as an institution over the next several years, and on this we cast our blessings over and over. In real time you will find that it is necessary to periodically refine, renew, and extend that invitation. This is one way I continue to believe we might understand congregational polity itself as a worthy spiritual practice precious to Unitarian Universalist faith and tradition.

Now I prepare to depart for UUA General Assembly, excited to greet my colleagues and many lay leaders as well. I am eager to learn new things and expand my own vision
With many thanks to Barbara Kloberdanz and all members of the Board of Trustees 2014-15, to the tireless

and inspiring Governance, Oversight, and Finance Committees, to the fabulously creative and generous Women's Society, to Fixed Assets and to all who contribute to keeping UUCB's gardens and historic building available to replenish body and soul, to the open-spirited Ministry Teams: Worship, Choir, Lifespan Faith Development, Welcoming, Caring, UUAIM, and Social Justice, all working up front and behind the scenes to help UUCB live up to its own vision, and of course to the members of the Ministerial Search Committees for their invaluable gift of time, patience, and love to the ongoing benefit and life of the church. I am very grateful to the entire UUCB Staff, Josh Layton, Donna Sentz, Sara Kirkland who keep UUCB running, to Sonja Jensen and the religious education volunteer staff, to Daniel Bassin, Su Lee, and all of those who show up to contribute to expanding our souls through music. Always there is more to say and many more people who deserve my special thanks.

My appreciation is boundless for all of you who together represent the presence of the Liberal Spirit of our faith in Buffalo!

Go Well and Stay in the Light!

Rev. Mary Anottavange-Telleen

Summer Services



June 21, 2015

Who is My Enemy? - John Marohn

John will give a brief personal and historical overview of all his country's "enemies" he was either taught or came to believe were actual in his lifetime. He will also juxtapose that brief overview to the many principles and moral values he learned about how "enemies" should be treated.

June 28, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Theologies - Rev. John Rex

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, Rev John Rex had the honor and the responsibility to represent the UUA as one of six speakers on the topic "Theology or Culture: What Shapes Our Unitarian Faiths In the 21st Century?" at a theological symposium to be held in Shiillong, India, before a large gathering including leaders of the Hungarian and Indian Unitarian churches. On June 28, John brings home a reflection on that occasion.

July 5, 2015

All or None! -- Woody Guthrie and Religion

Michael Harris, presenter and Michael Sulzbach, singer/guitarist

On this Independence Day weekend, we look at a quintessential American: Woody Guthrie. Author of the classic "This Land Is Your Land," Guthrie was not only a great folk balladeer, but also a compelling writer on religious issues, with a palpably universalist point of view. As we sing his songs and speak his eloquent words, we'll catch a glimpse of Guthrie's idiosyncratic and increasingly ecumenical theology.

July 12, 2015

The Big Picture – Sonja Jensen, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

UUCB is one of over 1000 Unitarian Universalist Congregations. Because we are a small denomination though, few of us ever get to experience another congregations worship and social life. Congregational members who are attending General Assembly, the week-long national annual business meeting and conference of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will share their reflections on the experience gained of being in community with UUs from all over the US and Canada.

July 19, 2015

Sounds of Silence - Rev. Frances Manly and Doug Yeomans

In a world of noise and confusion, we may seek silence to center ourselves and find deep peace, but silence can also be awkward and even oppressive. Music can be an escape from silence, but it can also lead us toward silence. With special music by singer, songwriter, and guitarist Doug Yeomans, along with music of Paul Simon and maybe even John Cage, this experiential service will explore some of the intricate relationships between words, music, and silence.

July 26, 2015

We Built The Buffalo Public Schools – Susan Frawley

Rev. George Hosmer and a committed group of Unitarians crafted the original buffalo public schools. Could uu principles save them today?

We've come a long way on our journey

Barbara Kloberdanz

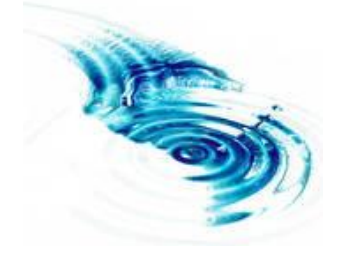
During the past four years I think we have spent a lot of time like children on a trip who keep asking, "Are we there yet?" The question asked while not knowing where the stop was that was designated for our arrival.

Now we know that soon a settled minister will be with us. Therefore it might not be too scary to think about the road we have traveled. We learned about Appreciative Inquiry and the importance of listening carefully to each other. We worked together to create a Mission Statement that reflects our vision of our congregation. And with the truly major guidance of our Governance Task Force we created a system of governance to guide us as we work to fulfill the Mission. Creating policies and procedures is an ongoing process as we learn what works for us and what needs tweaking. If there is one thing that seems constant it is change.

Our Board is learning to work as a Policy Based Board. We are doing our best to avoid our old ways of micromanaging and details are delegated to our committees who then report to the Board. Our Board Policy Book is available to everyone on our web page. Please feel free to check it out. Most of all communication is key.

We are trying to eliminate silos and create better connections within our congregation. Much activity is going on in our church community and it is important that we are all aware of all the pieces that make up this wonderful whole.

I am humbled to serve as your Board President.



UUCB Summer Music Notes



Though we'll begin our summer season at UUCB with Music Director, Daniel Bassin, away at General Assembly, our soloists, Su Lee, and other musical friends of our church and program will ensure that each service is as filled with compelling musical complements as is the case during our Choir Season.

July begins with UUCB Bass Soloist, Michael Harris's service on Woody Guthrie, the father of modern American folk music and political song. On July 12th, Dan will be back in town, and we plan on hearing GA reflections from him and other members of our church who made the trip to the Pacific Northwest. July 19th is slated to be a very musical service, as UUCB Choir member and retired UU Minister, Rev. Fran Manley again welcomes guitar virtuoso, Doug Yeomans to our church. We'll end the month with a sermon by Sue Frawley on nineteenth-century Buffalo Unitarian minister Rev. Dr. George Washington Hosmer and the Buffalo Schools. At this service, as well as at Francis Montgomery's "To Fly Like an Eagle" service on August 2nd, we'll welcome a guest keyboardist to our church, as Su Lee returns to Germany to complete work on her Master's Thesis – we wish her well, and look forward to welcoming her back for Julie Taylor's August 9th "Words Matter" service!

A musical highlight of our summer services will come in mid-August as Rev. Manley returns to the pulpit alongside members of our Choir and other musical UUCBers in a service centered around congregational singing and our wonderful Hymnals – Don't be shy, we'll all be singers by the end of that service! We'll also have some special events sprinkled throughout the summer, so please remember to read your weekly emails and check your order of service inserts. Additionally, we'll schedule our first meetings of our church's Music Team, a group distinct from our current Choir Team, whose focus will be all things UUCB Music (aside from the activities of our Choir).

We look forward to spending the summer months in musical fellowship with you, our community, family, and friends.

Summer Fun at UUCB

Sonja Jensen, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

After Memorial Day, we shift to our Summer Schedule. While our families get busy, there are still always things to do at UUCB. In the Summer months, our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Sonja Jensen, likes to take time with as many of our families as possible to talk face to face about what you're enjoying or what you need from the Faith Development Program.

Do you love middle school aged kids? Do you enjoy thinking about how our UU values relate to our everyday values and behaviors? Would you enjoy helping young people think about how they would want to question and internalize these values and make them their own? Many of our volunteers from last year are returning teachers, but we especially need teachers for our 4th, 5/6 and 7/8 grade classes.



June 21: Summer Solstice and Labyrinth Lesson. Our children are invited to learn about and walk the labyrinth. Marilyn Bell Schwede and Kristina Church are planning this joyful turning of the wheel of the year.

June 28- August 16: We will offer Spirit Play Classes

August 23: Mark your calendar and join church historian Bill Parke for a quick history lesson about our church and a tour through its interesting nooks and crannies. We'll get the answers to "Mr. Parke's Top 10 Mysteries about Our Church":

1. How did the architect of our church become a hero?
2. The design of our church could have been much different. What might it have looked like?
3. Where can you find churches that look like ours on the outside, but are nearly a thousand years older?
4. Our tower is more than a decoration: What is it used for? What was it used for in the past?
5. Where was the kitchen before it was located where it is today?
6. Most of our stained glass is lit with sunlight. We'll find one lit with lightbulbs!
7. Hogwarts isn't the only place with secret doors and narrow passages. We'll find some of our own, and go through them!
8. Did you know that in the old days you had to rent a pew? We'll look at how that worked, and why, thanks to one man's desire to honor his mother, that is no longer the case.
9. Who owned the land on which our church is built before us? What was it used for?
10. Where were our churches in Buffalo before the current one? What did they look like? Do their buildings still exist?

Email Sonja at Lifespan@buffalouu.org to set up a meeting.

Sharing the June Plate with Jericho Road

In keeping with our mission to create a more just and compassionate world, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo shares our weekly collection plate with a local agency, living out our generosity in the Buffalo community. The June Share the Plate recipient will be Jericho Road Community Health Center.

Vive la Casa has recently joined with Jericho Road in providing refugee services. Jericho Road's Hope Refugee Drop In Center provides the necessary tools for self-empowerment as people intentionally choose Buffalo as their place to Call home. Hope utilizes a participatory development model where clients identify their own needs and the center helps provide a path to meet those needs. Hope has been an active voice in the community by strengthening relationships among those that are equally dedicated to service. Some of these partnerships include: referrals to job clubs, community health worker training, participation in domestic violence awareness, attending good tenant trainings, securing partnerships with ethical landlords, and providing access to resources for parents of school-aged children.



Jericho Road also has an ESL (English as a Second Language) initiative to address one of the most often self-identified needs of post-resettlement refugees in Buffalo. Jericho Road offers practical, conversational English language instruction at accessible times and locations for refugees.

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 and printer cartridges. Donations can be left in the baskets at both entrances to the sanctuary.

Volunteer Tour Opportunity

Bill Parke, Church Historian

Tom Yots, chair of the Historic Preservation Committee

Do you like architecture? Are you a history buff? Do you have passion for our church and want to share it with others? Have you been looking for an easy way to help out UUCB?

If so, please consider lending a hand by giving tours of our Sanctuary during the summer and fall, including during the Elmwood Festival of the Arts and the UUCB Arts & Crafts Show being held in August. Whether you are a long-time UUCB member or recent arrival, this might be the perfect volunteer opportunity for you!



When you volunteer to be a tour guide, you'll have the benefit of a tour text, a training session under your belt and being paired up with a tour guide buddy. You'll greet guests and take them through the gardens and while outside explain to them the design of the church. Inside you will show the magnificent sanctuary space and the some of the auxiliary spaces and acquaint the participants with the rich history of our congregation.

In addition to tour docents, we will need chaperones who will assist during the tour so you may wish to work in this capacity rather than giving the tour itself.

Training of the docents and chaperones will take place prior to the start of the program. At that time you will learn general tour principles along with being trained with the text for the tour.

The tours will run about 2 hours or less and by the time you've completed your shift, you will have marketed our church in one of the most effective, cost-efficient ways available to us -- in person during a tour -- and helped expand our church community while also providing a service to visitors. And you'll have a lot of fun in the process!

Sign up for the program by contacting Tom Yots at: tomyots@gmail.com or by calling Tom at 716.930.1831. The training will occur during the week of June 22nd. The specific dates and times when you may choose to come to the training will be announced once we know how many volunteers will be participating.

The tours will take place weekends during the summer and fall, starting in July.

We look forward to working with you on this worthwhile program.

NOTES FROM THE GARDENER

Because of all the rain, the garden looks beautiful (if I do say so myself). Everything is growing (including the weeds), and the red dahlias are getting buds on them.

Thanks to Charlie Kaars & Phil Nicolai for digging them up last fall and planting them this spring. The church is famous for the red dahlias. Your gardener started several pots of dahlias for the church garden, and since there were extras, we donated them to the Master Gardener plant sale. Several were sold long before the sale, and when a trunk full of them arrived at the MG plant sale, several people from the church neighborhood were at the sale. Most of the dahlias were sold from the trunk of my car before I could even take them to the plant sale!

Charlie Kaars has been doing many hours of work in the garden. He has completely taken over the "water garden" at the bottom of the driveway. He does most of the heavy work in the yard. Sara Kirkland also helps with a lot of the heavy work. She was the one who suggested that purple tulips be planted near the garden entrance. All spring people took pictures of those beautiful tulips.

Thanks to Tony Keller for keeping the hedge trimmed. He said he had spent 5 ½ hours last week trimming the hedge, and at that time, he wasn't even finished.

Also thanks to Will Botsford for installing the rain barrels. Riverkeepers donated the rain barrels to the church. Last year we had so much rain that the barrels weren't installed, but this year since May was so dry, Will installed them. Now we will see how they work!



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:

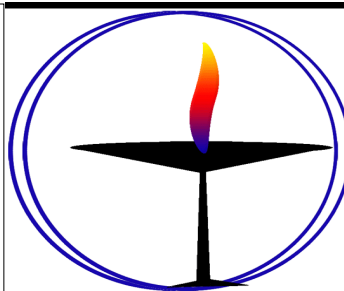
Daniel Bassin
music@buffalouu.org

Organist/Accompanist:

Su Lee
organist@buffalouu.org

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
716-768-1077
wixsonsg@gmail.com

Happening at the UUCB

UUCB Yarnbusters

This “Not for Knitters Only” group will continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays during July and August; from 6:30ish to 8ish 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 Sharon Walker at sharonw447@gmail.com. NOTE: The group has been cancelled for the night of June 23rd.



Lap Robes/Blanket for Veterans: Many have asked me about charity “knitting.” For a first project, I am asking for knitted, crocheted, or stitched donations of lab “robes” to be donated to patients at the VA Hospital by Veteran’s Day. The project deadline is November 8. Karma Knitting & Clothing is contributing also. A special discount is being offered on regularly priced yarn used for

this project. See Sharon Walker for details.

Pulpit Flower Ministry Summer Schedule:

June 21st Andrew Hvisdak
June 28th Open

July 5th Open
July 12th Nancy Wilkins
July 19th Martha Malkiewicz
July 26th Josh Layton

August 2nd Paulette Notaro
August 9th John Segmen
August 16th Don Shedd
August 23rd Don Shedd
August 30th Lyn Corder

There are only 2 summer Sundays available. Please consider the possibility of reserving one of them, especially if you attend and enjoy our wonderful summer services, or if you are participating in one of these services. We are also accepting reservations at this time for the 2015-16 calendar year which begins on September 6th, and many Sundays are available. If you have reserved a Sunday, please remember to send your text dedication as well as your payment of \$35.00 to the church office at your earliest convenience. For more information or to reserve a day for flowers, please visit us at the flower table, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call us at 716-885-2136 ext. 4.

It's a Book Sale

This year thanks to our exceptional winter our Book Sale is taking place in August. The set-up date is Saturday August 1 and the regular sale dates are Sunday August 2 and the following weekend Saturday August 8 and Sunday August 9 in the afternoons and beginning after church on Sundays.. We always need volunteers. Set-up is fun and many hands make light work. We begin at 9:30AM and there are refreshments to encourage us. It should be easy to stroll on Elmwood Avenue, come to UUCB, browse and buy books, records, and games too. There will be lots of flyers around town so be sure to invite your friends. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at bklober@aol.com.



Beyond the Hedge Denomination and Interfaith Connections

Please save the dates on your calendars!

Fall Leadership Day: Saturday, October 3, 2015, 10am – 4pm; First UU Society of Syracuse, NY

Draw the Circle Wide

In the spirit of 1965's Selma march and hundreds of UUs who answered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's call to walk along with him, our Fall Leadership Day will focus on how to help our congregations faithfully engage with today's civil rights conversations and the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

2015 New York State Convention of Universalists Annual Meeting: October 23–24 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, NY Keynote speaker will be Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed. More information to follow

Social Justice Task Force

Young scholars from Buffalo need you! Be the person that aspiring college graduates look up to and the reason they never give up. The Say Yes Scholar Mentoring program, in partnership with Compeer of Greater Buffalo, matches high school seniors and current Say Yes scholars with volunteer mentors to provide guidance and support while students are transitioning to and through post secondary education. Participants commit to having contact four times a month for at least 18 months. Matches are made based on similar interests career aspirations in the preferences of both participants. For more information about this social justice opportunity and to become a mentor you can contact Karen Bartkowiak at Compeer, karen@compeerbuffalo.org or 716.883.3331x 311 You can also speak with Chanda O'Donnell de Ramirez and Jean Ott of our congregation for more details.

