

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo



SEPTEMBER 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 Expectation?



The new church year is anxiously perching on the cusp of today, ready to spread its wings, itching to soar into becoming and becoming. It is full to bursting with expectation – faith, trust, possibility, hope, and all that lies beyond this moment's puny definitions of reality, knowledge, truth and fact.



One of the central touch stones of Unitarian Universalism tells us that “Revelation is not sealed.” In other words, all that we know now – understand from science, intuition, or inspiration – is probably not all there is to know. Being people of Expectation means being open to all that lies between now and history's horizon.

It won't always be easy. This spring, while I thought I was prophetically denouncing oppression, I had a massive smack in the face that told me how much I didn't know. I hurt the people I was trying to support with my clumsiness. It was another one of those growth experiences which keeps on giving and giving. It was so painful at first that I had trouble just getting out of bed. And then, once out of bed, I was so ashamed that I couldn't look people in the eye. And once I had the courage to own up to my failing and pursue healing, I found myself asking the people I hurt to help me through my pain. Ridiculous.

Since then, I have learned more about the harm I caused, I have learned to seek healing in much more appropriate ways, and I am moving, with my community, slowly, but steadily forward.

As faithful, justice seeking people, we need to expect to have our world shaken. Frequently. Be ready for the reality, knowledge, truths and facts we hold to be not only challenged, but also to be radically changed. If we answer the calls to dismantle white supremacy, truly honor people of all abilities, breakdown patriarchy, and create equity for our trans and non-binary siblings, everything is going to change. If we wish to begin combating climate change, everything we know and do will have to change. If we wish to create the world of which we dream, everything will have to change.

We can only perceive rare glimpses of our possible future. Nobody has ever created the beloved community before. Nobody knows how to do it. We are all... learning on the fly. I am so glad I am with you as we expectantly leap out of the nest together.

So here we are, as we leap, back at faith. Personally, I have faith that societal transformation is possible if we join in making change. I have faith that as we progress toward a better world, we will make mistakes – some of them colossal goof-ups. I also have faith in healing, courage and strength that will help us all recover from our mistakes, with more humility, compassion, and wisdom, to join in the great struggle again.

Continued ...

We are People of Expectation – people of faith, trust, possibility, hope, and all that lies beyond this moment’s puny definitions of reality, knowledge, truth and fact. Let’s spread our wings and take off on a new year together, seeking justice, learning, worshipping and building joyful community. So much lies ahead. So much waits to become. I can hardly wait!

Yours in faith and affection, *Rev. Joan Montagnes*

Pulpit Previews September



Sept 1: We Shall Overcome

Rev. John Rex

The powerful words of the song inspire us, but we need better communication to attain that end. We Americans live in a culture of white supremacy, and sometimes we lack even a common vocabulary to talk about it or to tell our stories. Let’s work on that together.

Sept 8: Shall We gather at the River

Sarah Martin and Rev. Joan Montagnes

Our annual, joyful, multigenerational Ingathering and Water Communion Ceremony. Bring a little water from your summer adventures and a memory to share. Don’t worry, we don’t drink the water!

Sept 15: When you Least Expect It

Rev. Joan Montagnes

Although beauty can break through in your life when you least expect it, so can violence and loss. Domestic violence, ruined sanctuaries, the outbreak of war all surprise us and leave us wounded. Whole or wounded, let us heal the brokenness of the world.

Sept 22: A Knock at the Door

Rev. Joan Montagnes

A reflective service of poetry and music welcoming the guest into our hearts. Let’s not be forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Sept 29: Human Expectation

Rev. Gerard Williams

As people of faith we may struggle to honor the “promises” of God because of our human expectations. It is in those moments that the lessons of temperance, longsuffering AND patience contribute to our spiritual integrity.

Joys and Sorrows



Our thoughts are with Chanda O’Donnell Ramirez and her family. Chanda’s father is fighting an aggressive brain tumor. We pray for this to be a time of healing.

We also send healing thoughts to Lucy Sloan’s brother Donald. Donald was the victim of a hit and run accident and is in serious condition in a Philadelphia hospital.

Our hearts are with Ed Harris and his family as Ed struggles with major legal issues. Let’s pray that all concerned eventually come through from this traumatic time in peace and restoration.



September Religious Education News

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

It is September, and we are on the cusp of a brand new year of Religious Education adventures! I am so looking forward to seeing all our families return this year. RE classes resume their regular schedules on September 15. If you are brand new to our program or if you've been attending for years, you may find that things are a little bit different this year. Keep reading to find out exactly what happens.

When You Arrive on Sunday Morning

Beginning September 15, you will find sign in sheets at the Religious Education table. Please sign your child in to the class they have chosen for that day. Because we offer choice at several age levels, we have some flexibility in allowing children to switch classrooms throughout the year. (The exception to this is the Dungeons and Dragons classroom, because teachers need to prepare for class size and students will participate in ongoing campaigns with characters they create. We would like to have our D&D class settled by the first Sunday in October.)

Once you have signed your child in, proceed to the Sanctuary as a family. We all gather in the service until the Time for All Ages is finished. High School Youth do not need to sign in at the RE table and may proceed to their classroom upon arrival.

After the Time for All Ages, on September 15 ONLY, children will be dismissed to the Parish Hall, where they should look for their class teachers (who will be holding signs indicating the class). Once we've all gathered in the Parish Hall, teachers will lead students to their classrooms. Parents and caregivers are welcome to help their little ones get to the classroom. All Sundays after that, students will be dismissed from the service to go directly to their rooms. Again, parents are welcome to accompany them on the trip, especially our PreK, Workshop, and Spirit Play children.

What Are My Child's Class Choices?

Our nursery is open on Sunday mornings for children ages 0-3.

Children ages 3-5 are welcome in our PreK class. This class is a perennial favorite for both children and parents, and our students will learn about our UU values, kindness, holidays, and stories from around the world. Please notify the teachers of any food allergies/restrictions on your first day.

Our Spirit Play class is for children in Kindergarten through grade 2. Spirit Play is a Montessori-inspired program where children learn about our Unitarian Universalist principles, sources, and values. Our wonderful, experienced Spirit Play teaching team guide children through a structured program of story, work time, and end each class with a snack "feast".

The Workshop class is open to grades Kindergarten through 4th. This class engages with our monthly ministry themes through a series of workshops (art, music, science, and social action). Facilitators bring their special skills to a classroom especially designed for children who might need to get up and move, chill out in a quiet corner, or keep their hands busy with fidgets during the lesson.

Students in grades 3 – 8 might wish to choose our new Experiential Learning classroom. This class will engage students with hands-on learning through art, STEM projects, restorative practices, and connections with organizations in our community doing work for social justice. All the while students will have the opportunity to examine their UU values and explore the ways in which they engage those values in the world around them.

Our Dungeons and Dragons classroom will be open to students in grades 4 – 8. Does your child play D&D, or have an interest in dragons, magic, and adventure? Our D&D teaching team has been hard at work creating campaigns that

will foster UU values, build the spirit of community, and encourage values-based decision making.

9th through 12th grade high school students are all welcome in our youth group. We have a dynamic team of advisors ready to help our youth discover what it means to be a young Unitarian Universalist in today's world. They will have the opportunity to attend youth cons, participate in social justice projects, and plan our annual youth service.

This year we will also be offering the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program for 7th and 8th graders. We are opening this class up to the community, and it will take place on Sunday evenings from 5-8 pm, October 13 – March 1, with a long break from mid-December to mid-January. More details will be available at the RE table in September.

If you have any questions about any of our Religious Education programming, or you'd like to join our RE mailing list to make sure you don't miss any of our upcoming events, email Sarah Martin at lifespan@buffalouu.org.

Adult Faith Development

You can register for any of our Adult Faith Development offerings by emailing lifespan@buffalouu.org or at the Religious Education Table on Sunday mornings.

Opioid Overdose Recognition and Narcan Use Class

Wednesday, September 11, 7-9 pm, Parish Hall

Hosted by the Erie County Department of Health, this class will train you on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. This training includes how to use the aerosol version of naloxone (Narcan) to reverse the overdose.

There is no cost to attend this class. Participants must be at least 16 years of age.

Online registration here: <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=free-community-trainings-opioid-overdose-recognition-use-naloxone-reversal>

UU and You

Saturday, September 21, 9 am – 11 pm, Priestly Room

Join us for an exploration of your personal UU journey, a trip through our collective history as Unitarian Universalists, and an exciting exploration of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. This class welcomes potential new members as well as folks who have been around for a long time. Light breakfast snacks and coffee/tea will be provided. This class is required for membership. Free of charge

To register, email lifespan@buffalouu.org

Pathways to Membership

Saturday, October 26, from 10am-12pm in the Alliance Room.

Thinking about becoming a member at the UU Church of Buffalo? The Pathways to Membership class will now be on Saturday, October 26, from 10am-12pm in the Alliance Room. The Pathways to Membership class will now be on Saturday, October 26, from 10am-12pm in the Alliance Room. Come explore just what that means! You'll learn about our governance structure, the different and exciting ministry teams and committees of our congregation, and the many, many ways you can participate in congregational life here. This class is required for membership.

Free of charge

To register, email lifespan@buffalouu.org

Building an Emotional Toolbox

Saturday, October 19, 2:30 – 4 pm, Alliance Room

Holistic Psychotherapist Nicole S. Urdang will share an array of supportive and practical ways to help you build an emotional toolbox. We will explore a wide variety of mind-body techniques including: breath work, yoga, qigong, Bach Flower Remedies, self-compassion practices, EFT/Tapping, meditation, journaling, diet, Yoga Nidra, and Sanskrit mantras. Please bring paper and a pen if you want to take notes. Class is limited to 8 people. To register,

email lifespan@buffalouu.org

Culinary Properties of Medicinal Herbs

Saturday, October 26, 1:30 – 3 pm, Alliance Room

Though the American cook may use culinary herbs for flavor alone, every culinary herb and spice possesses medicinal properties. In this class, herbalist Sarah Sorci will share research-based information about how the plants in our spice cabinet or herb garden can support our health. Stories, traditions, and samples will also be shared.

Donation of \$10 suggested. To register, call 716-882-0848.

About the facilitator: Holistic herbalist Sarah Sorci is the owner of Sweet Flag Herbs in Hamburg. She offers wellness and property consultations, educational workshops, therapeutic horticulture sessions, and writing. Sarah is co-coordinator of the WNY chapter of Herbalists Without Borders. www.sweetflagherbs.com



Michael Lays Down the Law!! HOT DOCS! WRITINGS THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY

Michael Harris, Instructor



We've all heard of the renowned documents that have shaped our civilization such as the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; how many of us, however, have actually read them and understand their meaning? What do we really know about the Code of Hammurabi, the Hippocratic Oath, Martin Luther's 95 Theses and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation? This course will examine some of these key formative documents that, for better or worse, have changed our country and the world at large.

14 Wednesdays: September 11 to December 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; Alliance Room on 2nd Floor

695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222. Cost: \$75 for course, or \$10 per session

For more information, call Church Office at 885-2136, or email office@buffalouu.org

Week-by-Week Syllabus

Session One (September 11): Docs on Rocks -- Ancient Codes, Decrees and Commandments

Session Two (September 18): Epistolary Tales -- The Lost Art of Letter-Writing

Session Three (September 25): Eyewitnesses to History -- The Art of the Autobiography

Session Four (October 2): *Ententes Cordiales* -- The Imperfect Art of the Treaty

NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 9 -- YOM KIPPUR

Session Five (October 16): Creeds, Papal Bulls, Councils and 95 Theses -- Key Documents in Christian History

Session Six (October 23): Britannia Rules -- From Absolute to Limited Monarchy

Session Seven (October 30): Enlightenment Ideals and Colonial Grievances -- Thomas Jefferson and the Road to The Declaration of Independence

Session Eight (November 6): Uniting the States -- from The Articles of Confederation to The United States Constitution

Session Nine (November 13): Selling The Constitution -- Hamilton, Madison, Jay and The Federalist Papers

Session Ten (November 20): Revolutionary Rallying Cries of 1848 -- The Communist Manifesto and The Declaration of Sentiments

Session Eleven (November 27): "With Malice toward None" -- Writings of Abraham Lincoln

Session Twelve (December 4): Civil Rights (and Wrongs) -- Key Decisions of the Supreme Court

Session Thirteen (December 11): Franklin Delano Roosevelt/Winston Churchill -- The Art of the Speech

Session Fourteen (December 18): Our Living Document -- The Bill of Rights and Other Constitutional Amendments

Music Notes – September 2019

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



This September we are called to ask the question, *What does it mean to be a people of **Expectation***? Our volunteer members, professional staff, and fans of your UUCB Music Program always look toward September's Water Communion/Ingathering service with great *expectation*, as this announces the formal start of our church year, and with that, the resumption of our 'Choir season.' With an exciting year of powerfully-moving and innovative music-making ahead, I encourage you to read to the end of this monthly column, both for some important updates regarding our beloved tradition of Music Sunday services, as well as this year's 'bonus' September Sunday, featuring a special music staff contribution the week before Ingathering.

Sunday, September 8th is the launch of our 2019-2020 formal church year, and *Choir Season*. This Ingathering service commemorates our annual Water Communion, with service music including the uplifting anthem, *Healing River*, by Fred Hellerman, setting the poetry of Fran Minkoff. Soloists and expert song leaders, Helen Lowry and Matthew Spaulding will lead your UUCB Choir in Pat Humphries' rousing contemporary folk tune, *Swimming to the Other Side*, written for her band, Emma's Revolution. UUCB Choir member, and Voice Buffalo WNY Internal Organizer, Leslie Nickerson will take up her violin in a gorgeous instrumental prelude, accompanied by Jonathan Vogtle, in contemporary Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*, and your Music Director will pick up his trumpet, joining Jonathan in a fun, albeit on-the-nose selection for postlude, Handel's *Water Music*.

Rev. Montagnes's service, *When You Least Expect It*, on September 15th will include Mark David Buckles' setting of the Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism, *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large*. In a radical change of pace, Choir soprano soloist, Jessie Downs, will offer up Creedence Clearwater Revival's 1969 protest song, *Fortunate Son*. Our service on 9/22 is entitled, *A Knock on the Door*, and is a reflective service of music and readings. Your Choir will offer up Jean Berger's setting of Emily Dickinson's whimsical, *To Make a Prairie*, alongside Morten Lauridsen's Rilke setting, *Dirait-on*. This service will also feature Matthew Spaulding in Aaron Copland's Dickinson setting, *Why Do they Shut Me Out of Heaven?* alongside instrumental selections. Our month closes out with guest preacher, Gerard Williams at our pulpit. That service will feature Choir bass soloist, Michael Harris in Irving Berlin's *Waiting at the End of the Road*, and the UUCB Choir in a setting of Duke Ellington's *Come Sunday* last heard as part of our Spring 2018 tour-de-force collaboration performance of that American master composer's *Sacred Concert*.

The month begins on a Sunday, and we welcome retired UU Minister, John Rex to our pulpit for the aforementioned 'bonus' service preceding Ingathering. Entitled, *We Shall Overcome*, the Rev. Rex challenges us to confront the legacy of white supremacy in our faith and wider world. Your Music Program's professional staff will be on display, beginning with Jonathan Vogtle on our Sanctuary organ, playing a late Mozart Adagio, originally written for Benjamin Franklin's invention, the Glass Harmonica. Our Choir solo quartet will offer up both a joyous quartet from Beethoven's opera, *Fidelio*, and Gabriel Fauré's anthem *Cantique de Jean Racine*. This service will conclude with an excerpt of an organ composition by Florence Price – the first African American woman symphonic composer to achieve widespread success – entitled, *Adoration*.

Finally, I ask each of you to mark your calendars right at the start of our church year for a change to our Music Sunday services. Our **Spring 2020 Music Sunday** will take place on **April 19th**, in its relatively normal timeslot, the Sunday following Easter. However, we're shifting things around slightly this fall, to offer a special **Thanksgiving Music Sunday service Celebrating the Music of Women Composers**. Falling just after the Feast Day of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, our **Sunday, November 24th** service will include Rev. Montagnes's tradition of a Thanksgiving communion of bread, and will feature the regional premieres of both Florence Price's *Communion Service* in F-Major and Fanny (Mendelssohn) Hensel's *For the Feast of St. Cecilia*. We look forward to sharing the music of these singular geniuses with each of you!



September Share-the-Plate: Family Justice Center

*How healthy is your relationship?
Is your partner controlling?
Are you fearful of your partner?
Does your partner blame his or her bad behavior on you?
If the answer is yes to any of these, the Family Justice Center is here to help.*



The Family Justice Center's core values are:

Safety is a basic human right ... With options, clients can take control of their lives ... The domestic violence cycle must be broken ... Offenders must be held accountable ... Eradication of domestic violence requires education

Covenant Group Ministry News

A Covenant Group May Be Just What You Are Searching For ...



The Covenant Group Ministry is preparing to welcome new members to our groups this Fall. Covenant groups are for both church members, as well as those who are considering whether UUCB may become their church home. Each group, consisting of 8 committed members, with two trained facilitators, meets monthly. Topics relate to the monthly ministry theme and encourage deep reflection and broadening awareness of personal spirituality and connection to others both within the church and in the greater community.

Each month, participation in a Covenant group offers the practice of presence, the courage of compassion, and the gift of listening. We welcome each other as we return to the safe sacred space that we have created together, where we can reflect, share and deeply listen.

“There is a quality of listening that is possible among a circle of human beings, who by their attentiveness to one another create a space in which each person is able to give voice to the truth of his or her life. There is the miracle of authentic narrative, made possible by listening that holds still long enough to let the truth be told. Where there is this kind of listening and speaking, a new kind of community is born - a community of life.”

- Rebecca Parker, Unitarian Theologian

The Covenant Group program is an established small group ministry in UU churches all over the country. If you are interested in learning more, please stop by the Welcome table where you can pick up a brochure and talk to a representative. You may also contact us at covenantgroups@buffalouu.org.



We have very exciting news. Hopefully everyone is aware of our plan to shorten and modify Sanctuary pews in order to create accessible seating locations. This plan has been in process for many years, from the initial idea in 2010, to project scope development during 2016 - 2018, until now, with project completion expected in 2019. The purpose of the project is to create comfortable, accessible seating locations for folks who use a wheelchair or other mobility devices. It has been quite a process, but the project is almost complete.

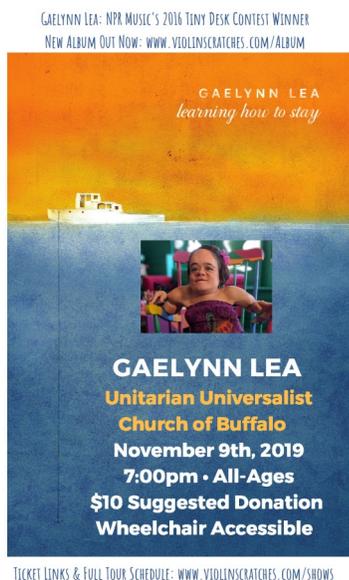
If you haven't been in the Sanctuary this summer, you may not be aware that we now have three sets of shortened pews completed with shortened armrests so that anyone using a mobility device can comfortably sit with their companion or family member.

If you check out the pews, the end pieces are slightly modified versions of the original pews, but you have to look closely to figure that out. The person we hired in late-2018 to modify the pews is Jon Trabucco, a skilled craftsman who is taking great care in completing this project. While Jon is continuing towards completion, one of the other things he is doing (beyond our UAIM modifications) is repair of several damaged pews discovered in the Sanctuary.

We want to thank Fixed Assets and Tom Muka (Project Coordinator), who worked during 2016 – 2018 to prepare detailed scopes & specifications for the project using ADA criteria, and who provided information to the congregation and Board to gain project buy-in. Tom is working with Jon to coordinate final fabrication, installation and completion of the project.

If you have any questions about this work as it winds down, please feel free to touch base with Steve Wixson or Tom Muka. We are very excited to be able to create accessible and welcoming seating for all who may come through our doors. We appreciate the continued support of the congregation.

Mark your calendars for November 9th and 10th Special concert and sermon with the beloved musician Gaelynn Lea.



Gaelynn Lea won NPR Music's [Tiny Desk Contest](#) in 2016, and she's been on the road ever since playing her unique mix of haunting original songs and traditional fiddle tunes. So far the singer-songwriter and violinist has appeared in 43 states and 7 countries – she's graced the stage of renowned venues like Nashville's Music City Roots, The Kennedy Center, House of Blues and even BBC World News. In addition to performing and recording, Gaelynn also does speaking engagements about disability rights, finding inner freedom, and accessibility in the arts. In recent years, she has used her music as a platform to advocate for people with disabilities and to promote positive social change.

The UAIM is excited to welcome her for a ticketed concert (\$10 suggested donation, \$5 for children) on Saturday November 9th at 7pm and to speak during the service on November 10th. Music lovers (Gaelynn is a classically trained violinist), disability rights advocates, youth with and without disabilities, and just about anyone will enjoy this opportunity to spend time with this delightful, spirited, and talented young woman. We highly recommend listening to her music, watching her speak, or reading her writings, which can all be found at <https://violinscratches.com/>



Sharon Walker
uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com

UUA General Assembly 2019, Spokane, WA

Like so many, I was unable to attend this year but that doesn't mean we can't experience some of its inspirational moments and workshops. If you'd like to sample some of the worship services, workshops, business sessions or special events go to: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019>. Interesting new presentations were the two listed below. I invite you to look them over. What would your answers be?

THEME PROGRAM & CONVERSATIONS I: REDEEMING THE PROMISE OF OUR FAITH

[Watch video with on-screen captions \(YouTube\).](#)

[General Assembly 2019](#) Event #404

Program Description

How does "The Power of We" deepen our faith as a source of liberation and transformation for all? Together we will build a common vocabulary, share perspectives on institutional and cultural barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion and share our stories as part of the Commission on Institutional Change's work.

Speakers: - Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Cir L'Bert, JR., Mary Byron, Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore

Questions

1. What sustains you and your faith community in efforts towards inclusion, equity, and diversity?
2. What limits you from living out our faith's promise towards liberation and transformation?

What should we expect of ourselves and one another in living out our covenantal relationships?

For more information contact web@uua.org.

THEME PROGRAM & CONVERSATIONS II: THE HEART OF OUR FAITH

[Watch video with on-screen captions \(YouTube\).](#)

[General Assembly 2019](#) Event #404

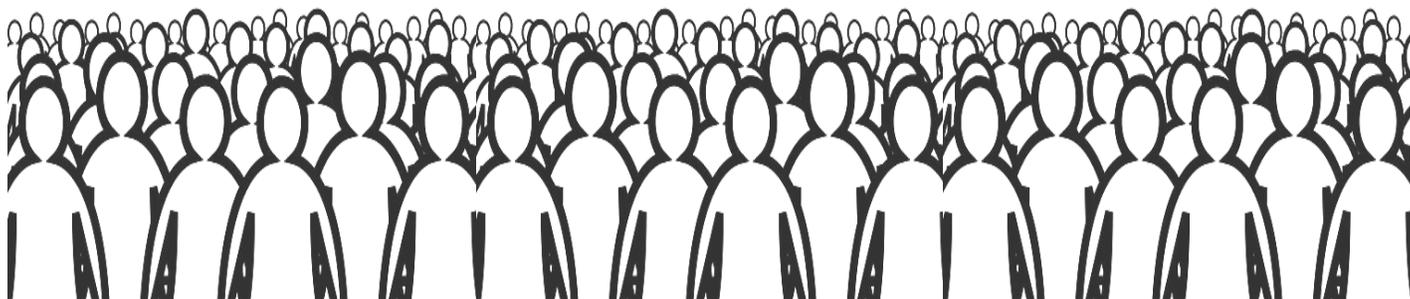
Program Description

What does it mean to embody "The Power of We?" As a gathered assembly, and then in breakout sessions, we will tell stories of experiencing our collective power, identify our theological and spiritual roots, and name the core of our faith that unites us. Connect with Unitarian Universalists across generations through heart to heart conversations about spirituality and imagination. ...

Questions

1. When is a time that you felt "the power of we" in Unitarian Universalism?
2. What is so important in Unitarian Universalism that you would be willing to sacrifice for it?
3. What will it take for Unitarian Universalism to fully embody "the power of we"?

For more information contact web@uua.org.





PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!
New York State Conference of Universalists
193rd Annual Meeting

October 25–26, 2019 First Universalist Church of Rochester. NY.

Keynote speaker: **The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray**,
 President of the Unitarian Universalist Association:
 “Universalist Theology and the Beloved Community”

See flyer for more information



New York State Convention of Universalists
193rd Annual Meeting/Conference
October 25-26, 2019

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

President of the
 Unitarian Universalist Association

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray is the ninth president of the UUA. She was elected in June 2017 to a six-year term. She served as lead minister of the UU Congregation of Phoenix since 2008. She previously served as minister of First UU Church of Youngstown, Ohio where she was a leader in congregation-based community organizing efforts. After leading the UU response to Arizona’s anti-immigrant laws in 2010, she became lead organizer for the Arizona Immigration Ministry and a key organizer of the 2012 Justice General Assembly. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Harvard Divinity School. She lives with her husband, the Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray, and their son.



“Universalist Theology and the Beloved Community”

First Universalist Church of Rochester
 150 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604

All Unitarian Universalists and friends are warmly invited to attend.
 Registration information will be posted at nyscu.org.

WNY Interfaith News



LEARN
 RESTORATIVE
 PRACTICES

**MONTHLY PEACE
 CIRCLE PRACTICE**

2nd Tues. of Each Month | 6:00-8:30PM
 UU Church of Buffalo | 695 Elmwood Ave.

Registration and Refreshments at 6:00PM - Circle 6:30-8:30PM

Our over-arching theme for the upcoming year is Restorative Practice/Justice. We in many ways already embrace this. When we talk of the beloved community, being a covenantal faith, participate in our covenant groups; this is restorative practice.

An introduction to “restorative practice/justice” is being offered for free to our congregants. I especially encourage our UUCB RE teachers/advisors, parents, committee and team members to attend.

Restorative Practice Workshop

Saturday, October 5, 2019, Parish Hall. 9:00 am – Noon. Presenter, Andrew Prinzing with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition. Please register for the workshop and any need for childcare with me, Sharon Walker, at uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com

This workshop is also an introduction to our peace circles that are taking place every 2nd Tuesday of the month, as well as what is happening in WNY schools.

Is Commissioned Lay Ministry for You?

Are you an active and committed member of this congregation?

Do you think of your involvement in the congregation as a ministry?

Would you like to ground your leadership in a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism?

Do you feel that you could be more helpful to our congregation and our ministry with more study and training?

Would you like to take your ministry and service here to a deeper level?

Do you feel drawn to a particular area of ministry where you would like to expand your understanding and improve your skills? (Typical areas of focus include worship, pastoral care, adult faith formation, membership engagement, leadership development, rites of passage, and denominational affairs.)

If your answer to some or all of these questions is “yes,” you may be feeling a call to Commissioned Lay Ministry.

Commissioned Lay Ministry (CLM) is a program offered by the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It provides an opportunity for committed Unitarian Universalist leaders to deepen their faith while serving their congregations in more significant ways. Individuals who satisfactorily complete the requirements and are approved by the Commissioned Lay Ministry Council, will be commissioned by their home congregation and be recognized as Commissioned Lay Ministers (CLMs).

Applicants must be endorsed by their minister and church board. Once accepted into the program, candidates work with a mentor (an ordained minister) to complete the flexible, independent study program. After completing the program and being interviewed by the CLM Council, a successful candidate is commissioned in a ceremony by the congregation.

You can find information about the program, including application forms and a detailed description of requirements, online at <https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/cll>. If you would like to talk with someone about the program, please contact Rev. Fran Manly (franly@mac.com), who is a member of the CLM Council.



Fixed Assets Update: Masonry Repairs and Cleaning – 2019

This summer work was done on the exterior of the Church near the Garden Entrance. This work involved repairing the mortar joints between the limestone stonework on the exterior of the church. This work was necessary and long overdue, because rainwater had already started entering through deteriorated joints, causing water damage at several locations inside the church. See <http://www.buffalouu.org/fixed-assets.html> for photos.



The Fixed Assets Committee reviewed contractors with work experience similar to the needs of our historic church building and chose R.E. Kelley Inc. on a negotiated fixed price basis. In technical terms, the work involved areas near the Garden Entrance, as described and specified in the contract scope of work, to do the following:

- Cut out and seal gable coping stone joints
- Cut out and repoint 100% of mortar joints
- Clean limestone

This was Phase 2 of planned masonry repair work. Phase 1 was completed in 2018 for exterior masonry facing Elmwood Ave. Phases 3 and 4 are yet to come and will be included as part of the 2020 Capital Campaign.

Limestone cleaning was included at a small portion of the total project cost, to enhance the beauty of our church by removing dark stains caused by years of pollution and biological growth.

If you have any questions or comments, see David Quackenbush (Project Coordinator) or others from the Fixed Assets Committee.

Are You Saved?



The first time I read the title of Bonnie Collins' 2011 Sunday service presentation, "Are You Saved?" I was puzzled. As a UU, I was not accustomed to thinking in those terms. As I listened to Bonnie's talk, I was both amused and delighted by her cleverness. Instead of using the question in the conventional context, she was asking each of us to consider how we might document our

time on this earth. How we might create a legacy – proving, in the words of author Rachael Freed, whom Bonnie quoted, "...that we were here: we lived, we mattered, and we made a difference."

Are You Saved? was a powerful question and a powerful talk. In addition to asking Bonnie for a copy of her talk, I came back for seconds. If you missed her reprise on June 23rd of this year, it's worth getting a copy or [listening to a recording of the service.](#)

It occurs to me that many of us consider ourselves so unremarkable that we may undervalue what we "bring to the table" in the lives of others, whether they are close or unknown to us or anywhere in-between. Bonnie asked us to reflect how the legacies we leave may impact future generations, and how, having made provisions for those who follow, our self-acknowledgement of our contributions can also positively impact our own lives.

I have been thinking about this a lot – not only in the context of my life, but also as a member of UUCB's Endowment Committee. We have recently celebrated the passing of longtime members who were engaged in both big and small ways throughout their association with the church and whose values and influence will continue to be felt in perpetuity through their bequests to UUCB's Endowment Fund. Their continuing commitment through their gifts is a demonstrable way of sharing their belief in the value of UUCB with people they knew and many others they will never know, but who will benefit from their vision and their generosity.

Might UUCB be included in *your* legacy plans? In what ways Will You Be Saved? - Jane Armbruster

UUCB WOMEN'S SOCIETY'S SPEAKER-LUNCHEON SERIES for September 19:



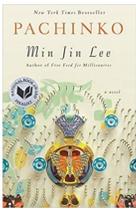
On Thursday, September 19 at 11:30, Rick Falkowski, founder of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame and the Buffalo Music Awards, will be speaking on Buffalo's storied musical past — Canal Street, the early theatres, vaudeville, burlesque, Crystal Beach, the Jazz Triangle, the Colored Musician's Club and much, much more.

Refreshments will be available from 11-11:30 a.m. (\$3 donation).

Rick Falkowski's talk begins at 11:30 and will be followed by a Q & A session.

A catered luncheon will be served at 12:30. UUCB Women's Society members - \$15. Non-members - \$20. For Rick's talk alone, the cost is \$5 at the door (no reservations necessary). Lunch reservations may be paid for after the church service on September 8 and 15, or by mailing your check to Church Office, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. Important: Make the check payable to UUCB and write Women's Society lunch on the check's memo line. The check must be received in the Church office by noon on Friday, September 13.

FOOD BANK: During September, please bring macaroni and cheese to the luncheon (and throughout the month) and deposit your Food Bank donation in the box. During the luncheon the box will be in the Parish Hall, at other times it will be in the Garden Entrance foyer.



UUCB Book Group Meeting, Monday, Sept. 30 at 7 pm. We will be discussing PACHINKO by Min Jin Lee. Everyone who has read the book is welcome to join us at Beth's home, but please let her know you are coming (882-5028 or bflobeth7@gmail.com) so that she may plan for refreshments and seating. Looking ahead: HOUSE MADE OF DAWN by N. Scott Momaday on Monday, Oct. 28 at 2 pm.

The Pulpit Flower Ministry, September, 2019

September Schedule:

September 1-	Chanda O'Donnell de Ramirez
September 8-	Women's Society
September 15-	Hope & Dick Kraus
September 22-	Elaine Zielin
September 29-	Linda Lover & Olga Ruiz



Welcome back from Pulpit Flowers! The next available flower dates are January 5th and February 9th, 2020. Please see us at the flower table after most Sunday services, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call us at 716-885-2136X4 if you are interested in sponsoring some lovely flowers for one of our future services.



Save UUCB up to \$2400: help trim the hedge! The next major trimming will take place the 4 days after Labor Day. We now have a new trimmer with two lithium batteries, or use your own trimmer.

Contact Tony Keller at 838-3716 or keller447@gmail.com.

Attend the WNY Refugee Film Festival!
A benefit for the programs of Journey's End Refugee Services.
Show your support for refugee resettlement in Buffalo and our newest neighbors!

Seven award-winning films, including a Buffalo Slow-Roll Grand Finale featuring films on the Syrian refugee crisis; a special screening at Shea's Performing Arts Center with a director-led talkback; a Global VIP Reception with international food, libations, and entertainment; food-themed door prizes; special guest speakers; a free WNYRFF T-shirt for all film pass holders; and more! Buffalo Spree Magazine calls it a "Be There" event and hope you'll be there, too! For film passes, trailers, and schedule, visit: www.wnyrff.org



Welcome Back BBQ

Sunday, September 15, 2019
1:00 – 4:00 PM
Parish Hall
\$10 per person / \$20 per Family

Celebrate good food, good friends, and the return from summer to start an exciting new church season. Enjoy barbequed pulled pork, potato salad, coleslaw, watermelon, desserts and refreshing drinks, prepared by the Auction team and the 4th Tuesday Covenant Group. Weather permitting, the Garden Entrance doors will be open so you can sit outside and savor the last days of summer.

Purchase tickets at the Auction table after services on September 1st and 8th or e-mail JVW61@aol.com to guarantee a meal for you, your family and friends!

Chili Dinner! September 28 at 5pm!



Come one and all to a chili dinner this fall. Enjoy your choice of homemade chilis – traditional, vegetarian, chicken, and maybe a few unconventional ones. Served with breads and garnishes, salad, chips, and Mexican sundaes for dessert. You won't want to miss this low-key, family friendly event. Great for newcomers. Just \$15, free for kids 12 and under. Tickets available in the Parish Hall on September 8 or contact Maria at marialtesta@gmail.com or Juli at jvw61@aol.com. Do you have a favorite chili recipe? Let us know if you'd like to help with cooking and fee is waived. If you've already signed up and paid as part of the auction you'll get a reminder email.

2019 Fun & Fellowship Auction: Auction Items Still Available!!!

Auction Items are still available for you to place your bids and join in the fun & fellowship. Contact Maria Testa (marialtesta@gmail.com) or Juli Van Woert (jvw61@aol.com) if you are interested in one or more of the Auction Items listed below. Additional information will also be available at the Auction Table after Sunday Service.

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Slots Avail.</u>
D-112	9/15/19	Welcome Back BBQ	\$10	unlimited
D-134	9/28/19	Chili Dinner For All	\$15	unlimited
E-135	11/15/19	An Evening of Wine, Dessert & Poetry	\$25	13
S-142	TBD	Evening or Overnight Childcare	TBD	1
D-153	TBD	Adult Cross-country Ski Lesson and Lunch	\$35	3



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo New York 14222

716-885-2136 www.buffalouu.org

<p>Minister: Rev. Joan Montagnes minister@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Julie Carter 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: Jonathan Vogtle</p>
<p>Administrator for Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Nursery Care Coordinator: Morgan Silver</p>	<p>Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org</p> <p>Weekly Announcements (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) announcements@buffalouu.org</p>	



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

