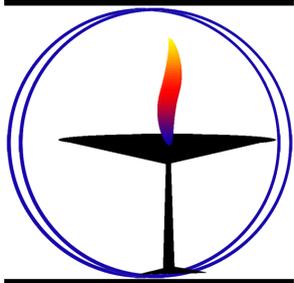


The UU Church of Buffalo



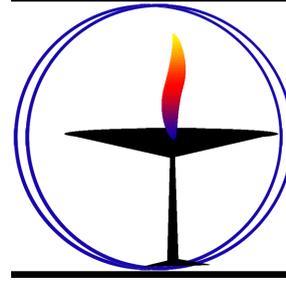
Gather – Inspire – Transform

October 2014 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave ∩ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136

www.BuffaloUU.org



October 5, 10:30am

THE COMPASS, THE GPS, and BURNING BUSH

Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

On this Sunday we will engage in a ritual of covenanting for the period ahead during which we will be together. Many Interim Ministers unpack a bag of “tools” that they expect will come in handy during months of re-orientation, though it is not always easy to know which will be needed.



October 12, 10:30am

WE THE PEOPLES...

Rev. John Rex

“...OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...” So begins the Preamble of the United Nations Charter, ratified by the required number of nations on October 24, 1945. Today, with 193 member states representing a multiplicity of cultures, the UN is a source of both hope and frustration. Our UU-UNO is there to advocate for UU values worldwide. What can we do?

October 19, 10:30am

On Being a Work in Progress

Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

So what’s the problem with being a “work in progress”? Surely, we have embraced the “blessing of imperfection” by now...Probably not. Somehow it goes against the grain. “Every time a society finds itself in crisis, it instinctively turns its eyes towards its origins and looks there for a sign.”—Octavio Paz

October 26, 10:30am

To be determined

All On Board

by Phil Nicolai, UUCB Board of Trustees President

This past week the gods (more on that later) extended summer despite autumn's official start on September 22nd. This gave me the unexpected opportunity to enjoy my garden. One of the things that I love best is to bring a cup of coffee outside and read a magazine or a book. After browsing the Atlantic, the Nation, the Utne Reader and a couple of different alumni magazines from my undergraduate college, I went to Talking Leaves bookstore on Elmwood Ave and bought Barbara Ehrenreich "Living with a Wild God."



Barbara and I have a history of sorts, although I'm sure she wouldn't remember me from Adam. In the fall of 1978 she was a guest in our home for a couple of days while she spoke at the University and again in the community under the sponsorship of the American Studies program and a political group in which I was active. I remember the date because it was shortly after our first son, Chris, was born.

Aside from our shared ideology, there were more personal things that should have forged a bond between us. Barbara was a feminist and wrote about women and healthcare. The first book of hers that I read was *Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A history of Women Healers*. She claimed that she was radicalized by being forced to have an induced labor in a New York City health clinic where she was the only non-minority patient. Women needed more power over important issues like childbirth. We, on the other hand, had chosen to have home births to claim that power.

However, we didn't really make a good personal connection with Barbara. She was aloof. We were intimidated by her cool and powerful intellect. And we were trying to walk a fine line between my political activism and Linda's mystical spirituality. What a treat to find that Barbara's newest book was being promoted at the UU General Assembly this summer by the UU Atheists and Agnostics. It's a memoir of sorts, dealing with her search for truth. She had had a series of experiences in her adolescence and early adulthood that could easily be classified as mystical. However, she had chosen not to acknowledge this publicly. She had started keeping a journal in her early teens as she tried to make sense of what life was all about. After getting her PhD in cellular biology at Rockefeller University in Manhattan in the mid-1960's, the closest she came to labeling her experience was dissociation or schizophrenia.

Now in her seventies and a cancer survivor, she returned to those journals which she purposefully had not sent to the university archiving her collected papers. As the child of atheists, Barbara had come to a startling conclusion. Maybe there is a god after all. Is there a being (or beings) out there who we can occasionally experience. She's not suggesting the monotheistic god of Judaism, Christianity or Islam, an omnipotent personal god recording our every move. Instead she posits a god more akin to something from Arthur Clarke or some other science fiction writer. I could sense a feeling of remorse as Barbara reflected on the endless meetings and organizing efforts to which she had devoted her life. How might her own life have been enriched if she could have been open to more than what she, as a scientist, could give credence to?

It's an interesting question.

From the Interim Minister

Everyday we are given a new sky, and a new earth with which we are entrusted, like a perfect toy.

-Marge Piercy

A few years ago following many years of service as an Interim Minister, I decided it was time to participate in the ordinary life of a congregation. Instead I found an opportunity to see what approaching an Interim Period transition feels like and sounds like from the vantage of one sitting in the pew. This was not entirely intentional. I tried three different churches whose minister I admired. It just happened that the senior ministers in these three congregations, on the very day I first visited them, happened to announce their individual intentions to depart from their ministry within the next several months. Wow! What were the chances of that? I had been hoping and expecting to take this time to experience once again a period of time dwelling with members of a stable religious community. What a surprise for me! The first piece of that surprise was that I did not take it well. I was disappointed.



It did not take long though to figure out that in fact the situation provided a gift to my own future ministry, a window on a slice of congregational life I never see. I was able to experience not only how wise and well-known colleagues of different denominations prepared the congregations which they had served for decades to anticipate their departure but also I observed the preparations undertaken by the lay leaders as they took forward-looking measures to prepare for the departure of a beloved and long settled minister. I felt the anxiety rise as the minister began to step back. Eventually I listened objectively first hand to the messages of representatives of different liberal religious denominations when they came to counsel the congregations on the future, on being faithful to tradition and process, and on staying together if rough waters are to be encountered.

It is many a minister that believes that he or she can set things up just perfectly before departing in such a way that the congregation will not suffer loss or have to go through any real crucible of transformation beyond their tenure. This effort is generated largely I believe, out of kindness of course, with just a smidge of regret or guilt about leaving, to lighten the inevitable sadness that accompanies crossing any great threshold from which the only real way is forward. And yet, this advance planning never really works. The alchemy is changed in some magical seeming way and the congregation is left to find its way, albeit with many offers of guidance through a new phase of life. During this time there will be unexpected invitations, temptations, revelations, limitations and the like, that cause the congregations members to become aware that they do and will continue to have some have real choices to make during this time “in between” and that waiting it out will end in lost opportunity.

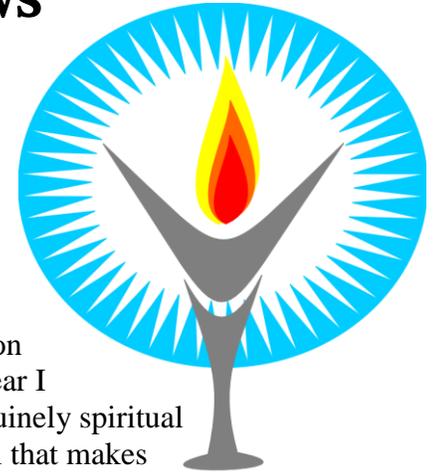
I do not believe that we as individuals or as communities enter in to processes of transformation so much willingly as necessarily. We resist this kind of change just as we resist the notion of our death. The very *mysterious* part is that if we do not allow ourselves to open to some of these invitations, cultivate wisdom to avoid most of the temptations, and come to the realistic acceptance of limitations, we are quite likely to die to the spirit of our purpose as a gathered community of faith. The question of “Who are we now?” I have found is fresh every morning and the answer if we are carefully observant and truthful about it, is never quite the same.

In Faith,

Rev. Mary Hnottavange-Telleen

Faith Development News

Sonja Jensen, CRE
Director of Lifespan Faith Development



Our church garden is almost finished for the season. On the first Sunday of October, we will give our regular teachers a break and clean up our garden and play some outdoor games. We will need some volunteers to help while the teachers get a well deserved day off. To volunteer, please email Sonja at lifespan@buffalouu.org. Tony Keller will share some of the fully matured compost from our kitchen and yard bin which we can spread on the garden after it is cleared to await spring planting. I remember the first year I composted and discovered the rich black dirt that was created. It was a genuinely spiritual experience to realize that all that dead stuff, was now this rich nutritious soil that makes new life possible.

This is a great metaphor for the cycle of life which is celebrated by people of many faiths around October 31. The pagan celebration of Samhain is also celebrated as “All Hallow’s Eve” signifying that it is the date before All Saints or All Souls Day on November 1. Some celebrate it as the Day of the Dead. But, in most cultures it has to do with recognizing our connection to our Ancestors, those who came before.

In the spirit of harvest, Souper Sunday returns on Sunday October 12 after Church. Jesse Goldberg returns as our chef and he has a great team of helpers. The suggested donation for soup will go up to \$5/bowl this year after many many years without a price change. Over the years this has gone from a fund raiser to a friend raiser and now it just barely covers costs. It’s still the least expensive way to get lunch on Elmwood Ave and will be a great way to spend time with church friends. To increase the impact, be sure to bring a donation to the food pantry!

We will have our traditional Family Halloween Costume Party, Potluck and Haunted basement on Saturday October 25, and on Sunday October 26 our UU pagan community will celebrate our Ancestors in a circle ceremony and potluck at 5:30.

We will be offering a class called Parents as Resident Theologians, which is designed to help parents talk to their children about topics like death, birth, and God. The class can begin to prepare you for many of the other myriad spiritual questions your kids can dish your way. Finding a time that is right is often the biggest challenge in getting a group of parents together. We will offer child care, but first we need to know what time works for the most parents who would like to take this class. If you are interested, please send an email to Lifespan@buffalouu.org expressing your interest and any times you might be able to meet or fill out one of the questionnaires at the welcome table this Sunday.

We will also offer “What We Choose: A Unitarian Universalist conversation about Ethics” on Thursday’s at 6pm starting on October 2. This adult faith development offering challenges us to consider our ethics and values and how they affect the choices we make every day. To sign up email Sonja at lifespan@buffalouu.org.

“Your 30 second Elevator Speech”

Christine Derby-Cuadrado, Membership Coordinator

What if someone new came up to you and asked you to quickly describe Unitarian Universalism and the UUCB quickly? What would you say? Would you be prepared?

In Aug. we posed such a challenge to those who attended the “Creative Hospitality Event.” We asked those who attended the event to write a 30 sec. “elevator speech” about Unitarian Universalism and the UUCB.

The responses we received were beautiful and moving. I would like to share those with you so that you can see how other members view us so you can create your own “elevator speech,” should a visitor ask you.

Evelyn H wrote- “We’re a congregation of seekers. We don’t have a creed but a variety of beliefs generally based on Judeo-Christian beliefs and philosophy. We welcome all people who are seeking understanding and looking for like-minded people. Love & kindness are important- so is tolerance.”

Carol W. wrote: Our church welcomes everybody regardless of ethnic background, previous religious connection or sexual preference. There is no creed but instead we agree to live by a set of ethics.”

“I believe the UU Faith offers a haven for liberal thinkers, social doers, religious questioners. We welcome all who are on a religious journey- or are needing a place to be healed or to heal others. We try to think for ourselves.”

Written by Pete S.

“This is a place where my little light can shine with your little light- and together we can make this world brighter for everyone.” Anonymous

Doug S. shared- “Its about sharing our personal beliefs of what is our guiding spirits. It is universal salvation- that we are all connected and share this life in community. We allow each other to express his or her creed and respect each and learn from each other. We share this world, strive to be fair & just with each other and those we don’t know.”

I invite you to stop by the Membership Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall to read more of the “elevator speeches” written by members and friends of the UU Church of Buffalo. I am certain that you will be as warmed and moved as I was to discover the positive qualities of being in UU community I hope you will come up with your speech of joy and gratitude. .



Music Notes

Dan Bassin, Music Director

Fall is now upon us in Buffalo, and for our Music Program at UUCB this means that our Choir Season is in full swing! This October my colleagues and I will offer up a variety of musical selections to complement our autumnal sermon themes, with choral anthems from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, baroque pieces for piccolo trumpet and organ alongside renditions of jazz standards played on (big) trumpet and piano, and masterworks of the song and solo keyboard repertoire.

We begin the month with a return to the music of a composer we “discovered” last season: Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel’s catalogue of *a capella* choral works have proven to be a musical treasure-trove – and an unexpected one at that! When programming the first Buffalo-area performance of her 1831 *Job* Cantata for last year’s Spring Music Sunday, we obtained copies of a number of her many four-part choral works as a means to introduce our choir and soloists to this master composer’s unique voice. They were so good that we took the opportunity to share a handful of these pieces last year, and it is our pleasure to offer up her choral gem, “Morgenwanderung” (Morning Stroll), for our “The Compass, the GPS, and Burning Bush” service on October 5th.

Our choral anthems for the remaining three Sundays this month trace back nearly a century from our present day, with a 2007 composition by Frank Ticheli, entitled *Earth Song*. Dr. Ticheli wrote both the words and music for this evocative modern-day hymn, which will form the centerpiece of guest preacher, Rev. John Rex’s “We the Peoples” sermon on October 12th. Our anthem composer for the “On Being a Work in Progress” sermon is not necessarily a household name. Born Arthur Schloßberg, to a Jewish family in the Alsace-Lorraine region, Jean Berger changed his name, and was forced to flee his native Germany for France, during the Nazi’s rise to power. His career as a composer, conductor, and pianist flourished in the 1930s until the political strife engulfing Europe forced his departure to Brazil. He eventually came to the United States, and in 1942 served in the US Army, taking his citizenship the following year. His gorgeous 1973 setting of Emily Dickinson’s “To Make A Prairie” will be heard on October 19th.

Finally, we will end the month with an early choral work by Aaron Copland, written while he was studying in Paris with the great Nadia Boulanger. The “Help Us, O Lord” section from his 1921 *Four Motets* is a masterly, evocative work for *a capella* chorus that will serve as the capstone to our October musical offerings. In addition to our regular musical activities for services, please stay tuned for updates about special visiting artist concerts, as well as the forming of our church’s Music Team. We look forward to sharing and celebrating with you this October!



News from the Ministerial Search Committee

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

At the end of August, we had the pleasure of the overnight retreat at Stella Niagara with our UUA Settlement Representative, Rev. Craig Schwalenberg. We got to know each other better and learned more about the deep commitment that we each feel to our church. Rev. Craig gave us a lot of good advice about the search process and helped us begin the creation of a search calendar that will take us through next spring.



September and October are a time of gathering and gleaning information about our church community. Last year, many of you completed surveys, attended cottage meetings, and participated in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. We are so appreciative of your past participation, and we are grateful for the work last year's Search Committee did to process all that information. This year, we find we will use that data again, in some cases revisiting and possibly re-interpreting what we find there.

Through our analysis to date, we find that while we reached a strong percentage of the congregation, we did not reach as many younger members, newer members, and Faith Development parents as would give us the strongest representation of our congregations and its needs and desires. We are also interested in the thoughts of friends of the church, as well as members. The MSC members are making special outreach to these groups. If one of us calls upon you for a conversation, please do respond. This can be a conversation on the phone, over email or in person. We are not going to make you repeat anything you did last year.

In November, we will be ready to report about the covenants we are creating with each other and with the Congregation.

The Women's Society Welcomes Dr. Timothy Murphy on October 23

Dr. Timothy Murphy the director of the University of Buffalo Clinical and Translational Research Center will be our guest speaker. His topic will be "Biomedical Research and Education in Buffalo: A New Era". Dr. Murphy is responsible for overseeing the transformation of the school's research programs into new and improved treatment of patients. Please note that this program/ lunch will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month, October 23.

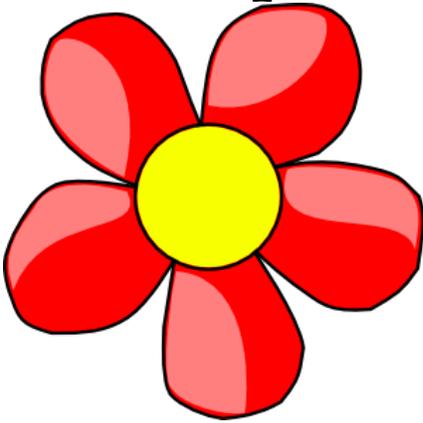


Appetizers and beverages, including wine will start at 11A.M. At 11:30 Dr. Murphy will give his presentation and then a catered lunch will be served at 12:30.

The cost of the lunch is \$15. if paid in advance or \$17. If paid at the door. We encourage you to pay in advance. Reservations can be made in the Parish Hall after the service on October 12 and October 19 or at Josettepc50@gmail.com. Payment can then be sent to the church labeled, ATTENTION: Josh Layton. Make your check payable to the UUCB and on the memo line write, Women's Society Program.

Do not miss this program which is sure to be most informative on a timely topic!

Pulpit Flower Ministry Schedule

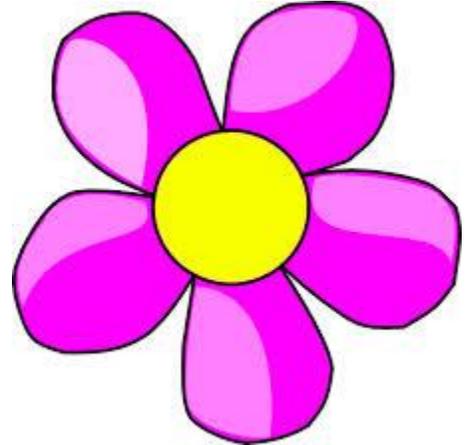


October

5th: Jeanne Heintl
12th: John Prisaznuk
19th: John Segmen
26th: Phil Nicolai

November

2nd: Martha Malkiewicz
9th: Kathy Kubala
16th: Open
23rd: Open
30th: Lawrence Congdon



Please remember to send your check in the amount of \$35.00 to the church office before your reserved Sunday, payable to UUCB with "pulpit flowers" on the memo line, and your text dedication should be sent to pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org. There are two open dates that are still available in November, and some Sundays are open in 2015. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in this ministry and sponsoring flowers on one of our remaining open dates.

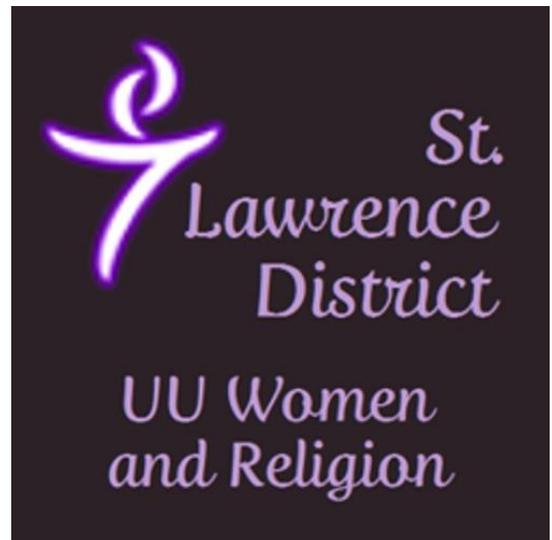
St. Lawrence District UU Women in Religion

The SLD UUWR is proud to present the the 6th annual **Women's Spirituality Conference** " Durga, Demeter, and Spiderwoman: Goddess Myths for Courage, Strength, and Creativity."

The event will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at the UU Congregation of Binghamton, 183 Riverside Dr., Binghamton, NY from 9 am to 5 pm. The keynote speaker will be Nancy Vedder-Schults. Registration is \$40

Join in on a day of fellowship and a chance to explore our spiritual inner selves! In addition to the keynote, Nancy will lead a music workshop for all in the afternoon. You will also have a choice of 2 other workshops including yoga, herbs for women's health, ritual writing, and how to make a sacred bundle! Lunch and beverages are provided. We look forward to sharing this spectacular day with friends old and new.

More information/registration is available at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1462952163967960/> and <http://www.sld.cerguua.org/calendar1.html>



Sharing the October Plate with Journey's End

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 October share-the-plate recipient is Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc., a Christian community-based organization with the mission of welcoming refugees without regard to ethnic origin or creed and to assist them to become healthy, independent, contributing members of the community.

Refugees are people who have fled their homes, businesses, farms and communities in order to escape war and persecution. After fleeing their homeland, they must build their lives from scratch, often lacking proof of identity, marriage, or birth certificates for themselves and their children. Refugees spend years, even decades, waiting in refugee camps until they can finally be resettled to a country, like the United States, and a community, like Buffalo.



Currently the United States resettles 80,000 refugees a year. Last year, 1,600 refugees were resettled in Buffalo. Journey's End resettled 418 of them. This year, the expected number of refugees coming to Buffalo is 2,000. The refugee populations living in Buffalo come from Bhutan, Burma, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Eritrea, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Liberia and Cuba. Journey's End clients come from a variety of backgrounds, and have a range of needs when they arrive. Some arrive fluent in English, with experience living in urban settings and needing only initial support in areas such as employment and registering for school. Others arrive from more rural settings, without any knowledge of English or apartment living. Journey's End offers an array of services to refugees resettled into Western New York, including Refugee & Resettlement Services, Education Services, Employment Services, Immigration-Legal Services, Housing Services, and Interpreting Services.

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.

Social Justice Task Force News

Submitted by Ellen Moomaw

Your action team will continue to be the outreach arm of the UUCB! Please interface with us when you can. The more team members we have, the more we can make a difference in our community and the world.



On Wednesday, October 15th from 7-8:30pm Susan Attridge, recycling director for the City of Buffalo will speak to us. Her topic: **I Want to be a Bench! Recommitting to Recycling.** Please attend to discover how we as a congregation can help the recycling effort throughout the city.

Our Family Promise week will begin on October 31st. Help ease the strife of these families recently made homeless by volunteering some of your time during this week. Sign up will be in the Parish Hall after church.

Our upcoming share the plate recipients will be Journeys End Refugee Services, Urban Center/Art Farms, the WNY Peace Center and the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Services.

We are donating to the Interfaith Impact of New York State. Congratulations to Jean Ott who is their newest employee!

Please continue to buy your fairly traded food items from your Social Justice Task Force. This allows us to donate funding to worthy causes and provide stipends to people attending conferences and meetings which are in keeping with our mission to create a more just and compassionate world. Thank you!

Wanted: A leader for our advocacy program and someone to be in charge of a social justice film series.

Next meeting: October 12th, after the service, in the Community Room.

Haiti Journey With The UU College of Social Justice

Join the UU Congregation of Columbia (MD), January 17-24, 2015 and participate in the opportunity to work and learn with members of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP), a UU Service Committee partner which helps rural Haitians build new lives following the earthquake.

Gardens, homes and sustainability projects await adventuresome UUs who have a sense of purpose and service.

Visit <http://www.cerguua.org/events-90926/cergevents-1879/605-haiti-journey-with-uu-college-of-social-justice-opportunity-january-17-24-2015.html> for more details.



The UU Church of Buffalo Staff

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Daniel Bassin
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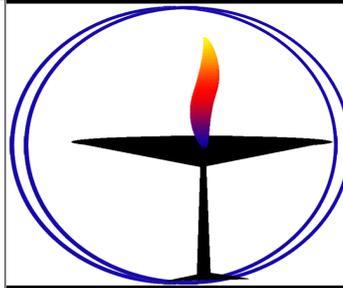
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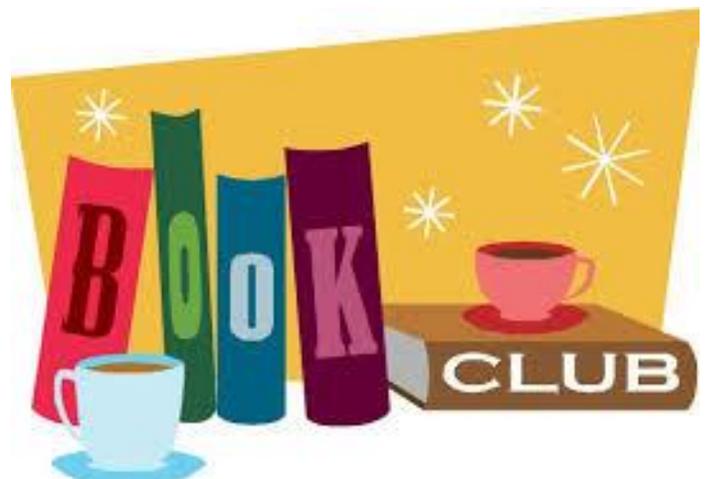
Happening at the UUCB

UUCB Book Group

October 27 at 7pm in The Alliance Room

We will be discussing AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED by Khalid Hosseini in the Church's Alliance Room at 7 PM. Please call our hosts-of-the-month at 882-5028 or 884-0012 to tell one of them that you are coming so that they may plan for refreshments and seating. Newcomers who have read the book are welcome to join us. (Be sure to call the hosts to tell them you are coming).

Looking ahead to November, the selection is FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL: life and death in a storm-ravaged hospital by Sherri Fink. For general questions about our group, please call Ellen Gibson at 882-3488.



UUCB Yarnbusters

An open knitting group; not for knitters only. Church membership not required. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Women's Lounge from approximately 6:30 to 8 "or so." Can't make it at 6:30? That's okay. This is not a meeting, drop in when you can. So...Grab your sticks, hooks or needles and join us on Tuesday, October 14th and 28th. For more information email me, Sharon Walker, at sharonw447@gmail.com.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Network for Religious Communities representative, Yvonne Stocker, would like to remind all UU's of the great opportunity to participate with our neighbors of all different faiths in - The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

This service is hosted by a different church each year and this year it is:

Temple Beth Zion
805 Delaware Ave
Buffalo, NY 14209

Who invites all to participate in the 32th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday November 25th (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) at 7:00pm The service lasts about an hour followed by a reception where you can meet the members of many of the participating faiths. For any questions about this service please contact Yvonne Stocker at 716 278-0176



The Greater Buffalo Memorial Society, Inc.

will hold its annual meeting of its lifetime members on Sunday October 19, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at the Center For Inquiry-Transnational, 1310 Sweet home Road, Amherst, NY 14228. Attorney Robert Friedman will speak on "Fourteen Ways to Preserve Your Assets with the Medicaid Laws". Congregants who are interested in learning about membership in our society are cordially invited to attend. A reservation is necessary as space is limited. Please call 837-8636 or by e-mail gbms1@verizon.net

Know Canada! -- A Cultural Salute to Our Northern Neighbors

Presented by Michael Harris
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 am

In this course, we will look at some of the most notable and influential cultural figures to come out of Canada: musicians, writers and thinkers who have changed the world with their achievements. In our attempt to know Canada better, we'll discover how much our country has been affected and enriched by this people of the 'Great White North'. \$75 for full course or \$10 per session.

Upcoming Schedule:

October 1: Composing Canada -- Harry Somers and His Historical Opera LOUIS RIEL

October 8: Humoring Canada -- Stephen Leacock and Robertson Davies

October 15: Toronto Literary and Media Theorists -- Northrop Frye and Marshall McLuhan

October 22: Bach to the Future -- Classical Pianist Glenn Gould

(October 29: Jazzy Canada
Oscar Peterson and Diana Krall

November 12: Trudeaumania! -- The Life and Legacy of Pierre Eliot Trudeau

November 19: Separatist Canada -- The Question of Sovereignty for Quebec

December 3: Not Just Folks! -- Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell

December 10: Canada's Nobel Prize Storyteller -- Alice Munro

December 17: Canadian Woman of Letters -- Margaret Atwood

