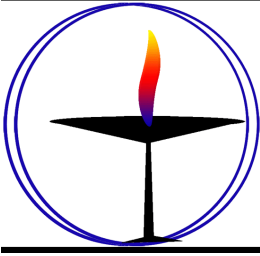


The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather – Inspire – Transform

February 2016 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave ∪ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 - www.BuffaloUU.org



Faith Matters: To Tell the Truthiness

This month our worship theme is “Truth and Secrets” which got me thinking of Pinocchio. What a bogus morality tale. I feel sorry for the guy. I’m sure being a wooden puppet was a drag, but his real problem must have been the nose issue. Just imagine the therapy bills! No, Pinocchio got a bad rap. He was just a patsy in the game of truth, lies and secrets. Let’s be honest with ourselves. We all do our share of fibbing from time to time.



I, myself, rarely confuse the Truth with the facts. Facts are so, how shall I put this... limiting and unexpressive. I find I can explain myself much better through a well-embellished story than through a well-documented argument. Metaphor can be more colorful and much more interesting than endless statistics (at least outside the laboratory). So, because I lean most comfortably toward “truthiness,” am I then a liar?

Society often confuses social norms with the Truth, which is odd because we have all kinds of historical precedents to the contrary. For instance, slavery. Once upon a time it was a social norm to hold people in slavery based on the darkness of their skin. Only a weirdo fringe element questioned the practice. We are all still recovering from that lie.

Other social norms continue to masquerade as Truth. That masquerade dance is where some of our secrets come from. I had a great aunt Grace who I knew nothing about until I discovered she had been locked away with the secret of her mental illness in the attic of our family history. My college roommate talked about sex endlessly, but never once mentioned that he was gay. My grandfather never told anyone about his experience as a pilot in WWI until the Alzheimer’s relaxed his inhibitions and the stories began to dribble out the corner of his slackened mouth.

There are those demon untruths that are fed with silence – domestic violence, a family drinking problem, child abuse.

And then there are the secrets and lies that are best left to dissolve with the ebb and flow of time and tide; truths that will actually help nobody should they ever come out and play in the light of day. After all, who is to judge whether a truth has the power to heal or harm in the long run? For that matter, who has the right to share secrets, to tell truths, to end silences, to “out” someone? Whose story is it anyway? And when and where and how is the appropriate time and place and way to let the Truth Bomb blow the *status quo* to smithereens?

Oh what a tangled web we weave when we are truthful or deceive. Relationships are hard. That's a fact and the Truth. All we can do is try to live life as well as we possibly can. Pinocchio just wanted to be a real boy. Is that too much to ask? Perhaps. His quest became one of the greatest fairytales of all time. Pinocchio and all of us – we don't necessarily want to tell each other the truth, but we do want to get real with ourselves and each other. Maybe our best bet is to tell the tale together.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan

Joys and Sorrows

We send healing thoughts to Eve Holberg and Jeanne Heinl who are both recovering from surgery. Our hearts are with Kathaleen Burke and her family. Kathleen's mother died around Christmas. We send our sympathies to the family and friends of Charlie Brothwell, a member and former sexton of the church. A celebration of Charlie's life was held on January 30th. Congratulations to Dick and Hope Kraus! They are welcoming Grace, a new granddaughter, into their family. Grace's great great grandmother joined our congregation and the family has celebrated it's child dedication ceremonies with us ever since.

February 2016 Pulpit Previews

Feb 7 ***Truth, Lies and the Laughter of the Gods*** – Rev. Joan Montagnes |

Albert Einstein said "Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods." But if we aren't the judges, who is? How do we know the Truth?

Feb 14 ***A Greater Love*** – Rev. Joan Montagnes

Love is more than intimacy between two people. At its most powerful and most joyous, Love pulses through our wider and wider community overcoming oppression, violence, exclusion, fear and hatred.

Feb 21 ***Secrets and Silence: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly***

Rev. Joan Montagnes

Keeping hidden and forbidden knowledge, maintaining family taboos and denial, participating in clandestine and closeted behavior: we all do it and we know it (except for the things that we don't know about because they are kept secret from us).

Feb 28 ***The Whole Truth*** – Laura Pederson

Lying is always morally wrong according to philosopher Immanuel Kant. Yet, my Aunt Sally says white lies are okay when they spare someone's feelings. Our attitude toward truthfulness impacts all of our relationships and shapes our expectations for behavior by others. On a larger scale, when our faith in the honesty of our leaders breaks down, society is at risk.



Coming To A Fork In The Road

Barbara Kloberdanz

It is time for me to come to this fork in the road, and as Yogi Berra has advised, I'm taking it. I have been a member of the Board of Trustees for a three year term and the last year as the President of the Board. This has been an amazing experience and one that I have been privileged to have.

It is a joy to enter the sanctuary these days and see the pews filled with many faces, both familiar and new. The committees and ministry teams are busy working to fulfill our mission. Much learning and fun is taking place. The energy is visible.

There are so many of you to thank for our current state – Rev. Joan Montagnes, who is enriching us with her marvelous worship services, our new Lifespan Faith Development Director Sarah Martin, our Music Director Daniel Bassin, our Church Administrator Josh Layton, our Bookkeeper Donna Sentz, and our gate keeper Sara Kirkland. It has been great to work with you.

To my fellow Board Members, thank you for putting in the time and effort that we needed. Your work and attention has been the underpinnings of our progress. Thanks to the major work done by our Advisory Committees. You were always there for us.

I'm going to give a special mention to Marjorie Girth, who as our Finance Committee chair attended most every Board meeting, even though she is not a member of the Board.

Special thanks to the Ministerial Search Committee – I don't know what to say – except Great Job!!

Forgive me now for not giving a long list of names. I need the orchestra to play me off.

Please remember – you are all important. It is all our time, talent, and treasure that are needed to make us grow in love and fulfill our mission.

Many good wishes to the new Board—Keep On!!

Settled Faith Development Director Search

The members of the Search Team, Marjorie Girth, Julie Taylor, Peter Sloan, Kilissa Cissoko and Rev. Joan Montagnes, are meeting weekly. Their main focus has been to rewrite the job description. The actual content of the job is not changing very much if at all, but they have streamlined the description. They are making sure that we have a very separate job posting announcement, job description, and job contract. They have also explored the idea of using the old ministerial search website as a generic website that could be tailored to fit any church job search.

Finally, Peter Sloan had a long conversation with Jan Gartner who is a UUA Professional Development Specialist in Credentialing and Professional Development. She specializes in Religious Education and Music ministries and lives in Rochester (which is very convenient for us). Jan gave us a nice search timeline to work with.

February 1 – Job posted

March 1 – All applications received

April 1 – All applicants screened

May 1 – All applicants interviewed, offer extended and hire made.

August 1 – First day of work

The Team is right on track and will endeavor to remain so. More news next month!



Faith Development News

Sarah Martin

Winter has finally arrived in Buffalo, and with it all the seasonal fun I love: sledding and ice skating and snow angels and scraping a two-inch layer of ice off the windshield. So maybe that last part is a little less “love” and a little more “try to patiently tolerate.” Wintry mornings are cold, and I find myself often lacking in motivation to leave the warmth of my bed or the coziness of a hot cup of tea in my dining room. It takes so much longer to get going in the morning. Warming up the car, clearing away the snow, even bundling up to face the chill wind all seem insurmountable some mornings. Especially weekend mornings.



So what really does motivate us this time of the year, when our few daylight hours are so precious and the urge to turn inward and stay indoors is so great? Well, luckily for us, UUCB has a vast assortment of Faith Development and Religious Education options for all ages! That little bit of extra effort to get out the door, to start the car, to brave the freezing wind, can be the foundation of a bridge that will help us all build community and find warmth in each other’s presence. Come in out of the cold and join us this winter!

Here’s what you have to look forward to:

Valentines for Our Valentines

Please join us for this multigenerational opportunity to spread some Valentine cheer throughout our communities. We will come together for a very special Souper Sunday and cookie share to create beautiful Valentines that will be shared anonymously with our friends, families, and fellow congregants. Valentines will be sent to Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo members who are ill, house-bound, or in need of pastoral care, and you will be free to take some home to send to friends and family whose Valentine’s Day might need a little brightening.

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Parish Hall

Sunday, February 7

Free of charge

No registration required



Exploring the Service

At coffee hour on Sunday, February 14, and again on Sunday, February 28, please join our facilitators, Kate Bell-Schwede and Bill Parke for a lively discussion of the themes and moments that touched us deeply, inspired thought, and lit the fires of change within us during the service. This open and inclusive group will gather in a clearly marked corner of the Parish Hall to engage in discussion and exploration of the music, readings, and sermon. After February, the group will meet on the last Sunday of the month.



Designing a Worship Service

What makes worship a meaningful experience? How do we build a polished Sunday service out of mere inklings of ideas? What is the theory behind our basic Order of Service? This is a great workshop for anyone planning to offer a lay-led service or for anyone who is just curious about the creative process.

10:00 am - 1:00 pm, in the Alliance Room

Saturday, February 27

Free of charge

Registration deadline: Feb. 23

Child's Mind: A Meditation Workshop for Parents

This four-part series for parents is based on the book *Child's Mind: Mindfulness Practices to Help Our Children Be More Focused, Calm, and Relaxed*. We will open and close each session with a brief meditation, tending to our own spiritual needs, and fill the space in between with exploration and discussion of techniques for sharing meditation with our children. The goal is to create a mindfulness practice to use with your family in your home.

6:00 - 8:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

Thursdays

March 3, 10, 17, 24

Childcare will be provided upon request

Suggested donation: \$15 for four sessions

Registration required, deadline is February 21



That's not all! Please check out our Adult Faith Development brochure and posters to see what else is in store this winter. To register for any of these programs, please email sarahmartin@buffalouu.org, or fill out a registration form found on the Faith Development/Religious Education bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

And don't forget to mark your calendar for our Third Friday Potluck, on February 19. This is a warm and wonderful gathering of community where we come together to share a meal and activities, get to know each other a little better, and delight in the love and grace of our multigenerational community. Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Fun and Fellowship Auction February 28, 2015

What is a Fun and Fellowship auction, you may ask? Unlike standard auctions of "stuff", we offer ourselves, our time, and our talents in the form of picnics, parties, dinners, hikes, kayaking, even a beekeeping outing! So, say you like to cook vegetarian food, and can fit 8 around your dining room table. Pick a date and offer a dinner for 7 (you need to sit and eat too). At the auction, church folk will bid on individual seats for your dinner. On the appointed date, all 8 of you will enjoy eating yummy food together while getting to know each other. The church raises money (about \$10,000!) and everyone has a great time at events all through the year. So start thinking about what you might offer – or at least plan to bid so that you don't miss out on all the fun. Contact MariaTesta@roadrunner.com with questions. If you are unavailable on February 28 don't worry - donors are given the option of early bidding.



Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director

We've come to the shortest month of the year, but rest assured, there will be no shortage of music in our church this February! In fact, as I write this monthly column, it occurs to me that our February this year does come with an extra day, which is a special one for music lovers: the great opera composer, Gioachino Rossini was born on February 29th, 1792...so we'll just have to find a way to share some of his wonderful music!

Our Choir has been working closely with Rev. Montagnes, both in tailoring our weekly anthems to complement her dynamic sermons, and also in laying the groundwork for long-range projects and priorities of our church's Music Program. Last month, we held meetings with our soloists and minister, and Joan also convened a meeting of our newly-minted Music Team to go over important Music Program milestones for the remainder of the choir season, and to begin the work on our Choir Covenant. We are overjoyed to have such support from our new minister, and look forward to sharing wonderful music with each of you in our acoustically beautiful – and freshly illuminated –sanctuary.

February music selections for our worship services will include music by the wonderful Armenian-American composer, Alan Hovhaness; the conclusion of Mark David Buckles' *The Seven Principles*; and an exploration of the choral works of 19th century English-Creole composer, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Of course, this month also marks a special annual highlight of our music program; our annual Choir Dinner. Taking place on Saturday, February 13th, this year's dinner will feature a Spanish theme, and is sure to be both a musical and culinary delight. That weekend we'll also welcome musical guests to our church for a festive concert – the Buffalo Silver Band will put on Valentine's Day concert in our sanctuary on Sunday the 14th, and I am delighted to join this fine ensemble for some traditional brass band tunes appropriate to the holiday. Finally, we'll end the month with a return to our "Recitals on Elmwood" series with an afternoon concert on Sunday, February 28th, featuring local flute student Adrian McGrady. Adrian is an accomplished flautist and also an enthusiastic Drum and Bugle Corps musician-athlete, serving in the color guard for the DCA band the White Sabres. At this time, Adrian is actively seeking out performances to support his music education, and we will accept free will donations at his recital to be shared with him and to support our church.



Stewardship News

The Stewardship Team gratefully acknowledges the following members and friends who have made pledges as part of the 2016 Giving Campaign. Thanks to your generosity we have exceeded our goal, with over \$335,000 in pledges, the most ever raised in a Stewardship Campaign.



<p><u>Transformer</u> Elizabeth Clark William H. Gardner Carl Granger Katherine Kubala Tom Petrocelli & Maria Testa Doris & Joe Poodry</p> <p><u>Visionary</u> David Batt & Michael Shanahan Donald Behr Kathaleen Burke Kristina Church Sandra Dunbar Grace Friel Jack Kavanaugh Tony Keller Barbara Kloberdanz Jeff Lowry & Rita Capezzi Kathleen Ludwig Martha Malkiewicz Philip Nicolai Catherine Pietrzak Beryl Smith Paul Ziebarth</p>	<p><u>Sustainer (continued)</u> Ken & Fran Manly Ken & Jennifer Mernitz Joan Montagnes Francis Montgomery Thomas Muka & Juliann Van Woert Paulette Notaro Elizabeth & William Parke John Rex Kate & Morgan Silver Peter & Lucy Sloan Devon Southall Sharon Walker Marianne Westley Michelle Wilson Steve Wixson & Ginny Vaughan Paul Zanolli & Valerie Andersen</p>	<p><u>Supporter (continued)</u> Larry Nowell Deanne O'Day Chanda O'Donnell de Ramirez John Petrocelli Georgia Pooley Marion Reslow Heron & Maura Simmonds-Price Kaitlyn Steinberg Karen Streech Frank Summit & Monty Hale Nancy Thomas Nicole Urdang Elaine Walker Gary Williams</p>
<p><u>Sustainer</u> George Block Elizabeth Cursons Suzanne Erhart Ellen Gibson Marjorie Girth Janet Goodsell Donna Hagerty Sally Hamlin Evelyn Herr Eve Holberg & Doug Sherman Ronald Houk Robert & Gina Klick Richard Leimbach & Alex Ratkowski Linda Lover & Olga Ruiz</p>	<p><u>Supporter</u> Susan Adamucci Susan Alessi Kirsten Anderson & Mary Szczepanski Alan Atkinson Diane Bockrath Joyce Bol Mark Boyce Joel & Linda Cohen Merry Constantino Joshua & Phyllis Dissek Kathy & Donn Geyer Jeanne Gunby Gigi Pooley Helliwell Mary Louise Hill Luella Johnson Charles Kaars Judy Kieffer Richard & Hope Kraus John Marohn Arlene Miles & John Segman</p>	<p><u>Other Pledges</u> Marie & Susan Andersen-Strait Tim Ashton Thomas & Roberta Baker Gypsi Ballard Ingeborg Barrus Meredith Bartek Catherine Battaglia Charles Battaglia Douglas M. Bauer Kate & Marilyn Bell-Schwede Thaddeus Bienek Douglas & Sandra Bissontz Will & Bonnie Botsford Steven Brachman Skip & Sheila Brechtel Nancy Brennan Beck & Barbara Brown Gloria Brucato Mary Brucz & Patty Gilmour Nancy & Bob Bukaty Frederic & Jean Cadwell</p>

<u>Other Pledges (continued)</u>	<u>Other Pledges (continued)</u>	<u>Other Pledges (continued)</u>
David & Barbara Cady	Kathy Hussey	Whitney Nephew & Jordan Garrow
Holly Cannon	Regan Ihde	Thomas & Martie Nicotera
Laura Jean Castelluzzo	Maxine Inera	Mario Nunez & Mary Coleman
Sandy Chelnov & Greg Photiadis	David & Elizabeth Johannes	Joseph & Jean Ott
Elizabeth Cheteny	Ruth Jones	Karen Peterson
Kilissa Cissoko	Eileen Katz	Joan Photiadis
Pauline Clay	Elizabeth Kauffman	Paul Piechalak
Cordelia Cohill	Behzad Khalili	Larry & Krista Pignataro
Sylvia Coles	David Kocak	David & Molly Quackenbush
Bonnie & Jim Collins	Janie Kustreba	Robert Reisch
Carol Condon	Robert LaVallee	Cara & Joe Reznick
Lawrence Congdon	William & Gail LaVigne	Mary Richert
Josette Cunningham	Eleanor Lawson	Nora & Vincent Roberto
Laura Dahl	Barbara Little	Sophia Roberts
Judith Danforth	Joanne (Dodie) Lock	Annie Rorrison
Susan Mann Dolce	Craig Locke	Kathleen Ryan
Gerry Evans	Marjorie Lord	Janet Sciolino
Sarah Fisher	Clifton Lund	Christopher & Mary Beth Scott
William Flynn	Patty MacDonald	Dr. Donald Shedd
Meghann French	James Magavern	John Sheffield & David Stein
Judy & Karl Frizlen	Lynn Mancuso	Janet Siegner
Jerry & Rita Gallagher	Nicholas Marchelos	Brian Spencer
Dawn Giovinazzo	Janet Massaro	Ted & Ruth Steegman
Jesse Goldberg	Kelly Masters	Shawn Sweet & Julie Taylor
Jacyra Guard	Rebecca & Peter McCauley	Richard Taft
Bev Halligan	Sara Metcalf	Zachary Unger
Michael Harris	Sally Metzger	Beth White
Gregg & Andrea Harris	Mark Meyer	Nancy Wilkins & Ed Kowal
Jonathan & Cindy Havey	Warren & Becky Moffett	Rachel Winterhalter
Kenneth Hennig	Ellen & David Moomaw	Susan Wishart
Michael Hill & Scott Nuwer	Grace Myhre	Thomas Yots
Rebecca Humphrey		Elaine Zielin

WOMEN'S SOCIETY PROGRAM

On Thursday February 18 we welcome Paul McQuillen, Esq. He is the Upstate and Western New York coordinator for New Yorker's Against Gun Violence. His topic will be "Gun Violence Prevention".

Appetizers and beverages will begin at 11. Our speaker will start at 11:30 followed by a catered lunch. The fee for the lunch is \$15. You can make your reservation at Josettepc50@gmail.com or in the Parish Hall Sundays February 7 and 14. Payment can be made at that time or if you wish to mail in your check, make it out to the U.U.C.B. and in the memo line write: Women's Society. Checks MUST arrive in the church office by Friday February 12. Mail to 695 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo 14222. If you make a reservation on the final Sunday before the event, then payment is due in person. Once the catering order is called in on Monday morning, no further reservations or payment can be accepted.

Please give your name at our welcome table when you enter from the Garden Entrance.

You will want to take this opportunity to hear an in depth discussion on the latest legislation and happenings on this important topic.



Beyond the Hedge Denomination and Interfaith Connections

Sharon Walker



St Lawrence District Regional Meeting: Covenant

April 1, 2016 - First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, NY

Registration is now open to one of our most important District meetings. During the business meeting there will be the vote on merging the St. Lawrence District with Ohio-Meadville, Metro New York, and Joseph Priestly Districts to become the regional Central Eastern Regional Group (CERG).

The Friday Night's Gould Discourse entitled "Transformers" will be given by: **Rev. Margret A. O'Neill**

Saturday's Keynote Speaker, Rev. Sue Phillips Regional Lead, New England Region will speak on "Heresy, Hubris and the Future of our Faith"

For workshop information and to register please go to: www.sld.cerguua.org.

WNY Cluster of UU Churches meeting April 23, 2016

On January 6; I participated in a video conference call with our UUA representative, Rev Renee Ruchotzke, and several other congregational representatives from UU Church of Amherst, Niagara Falls, Ea. Aurora, Hamburg, Jamestown and Fredonia on reinvigorating our WNY Cluster of UU Congregations.

Early into our conversation, I believe, it became clear to each of us that our congregations have so much to share with one another. As a result of this meeting our first WNY Cluster gathering will be held here at UUCB on Saturday April 23rd. The theme will be Social Justice with three tracks: Racial, Climate, and LGBT Justice.

This is the first step for all of our congregations to come and work together in a very long time. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please email me at sharonw447@gmail.com.

Do plan on attending

General Assembly June 22-26, 2016

Columbus, OH, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215.

Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect. " General Assembly 2016... will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all."

Registration opens March 1st.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

Bill Parke, Church Historian

On November 15, 2015 history was made at UUCB as Rev. Joan Montagnes became the church's first settled female minister. With this installation, women's involvement was also extended for the first time to the full spectrum of leadership positions in the church.

These achievements coincide with a new exhibit in the Parish Hall, "Women in Church Leadership." The exhibit traces the enduring values present in women's organizations from 1834 to today's Women's Society. It profiles the accomplishments of amazing Buffalo Unitarians Lucy Williams Hawes and Elizabeth Williams, and Universalists Alice Moore and Harriet Townsend. And it recognizes Rev. Joan's achievements in November.

I'm honored to have received Josette Cunningham's assistance as well as Joyce Bol's photographs, both on behalf of the Women's Society, and information from Rev. Frances Manly, WNY Heritage Magazine, the Buffalo History Museum, Forest Lawn Cemetery, and our own church archives for the exhibit.

I am also able to report on key contributions to the church archives: Ronald Houk provided a gift of documents about UUCB's early support of GLBTQ events in Buffalo, the UUCB Interweave organization, and our Welcoming Congregation status. Dave Batt shared an article that appeared in the Buffalo News featuring his 1995 commitment ceremony to Michael Shanahan and how support of gay marriage is the right thing to do. John Hague noticed that last year's exhibit of church directories was missing one from 2006-2007 and lent his, so that a reproduction could be added to the archives.

Thank you all for shared interest and support of church history at UUCB.



Pulpit Flowers Schedule

February 7th: Jeanne Gunby

February 14th: Rita Capezzi & Jeff Lowry

February 21st: Open

February 28th: Open



Please remember to send your check for \$35.00 to the church office before your reserved Sunday, payable to UUCB with "Pulpit Flowers" on the memo line. Your dedication text should be sent to pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org. Last chance! Two Sundays are still available to purchase Pulpit Flowers in this month. Please see us after Sunday service, email us or call us at 885-2136 ext.4 as soon as possible if you are interested in reserving one of them.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION MINISTRY TEAM

Language like water can be soothing or very hurtful. A soothing bath after a very stressful day or singing the hymn “Come Sing a Song With Me” can be very refreshing. A hurricane like Hurricane Katrina can be very disturbing and hurtful. Language can also be very hurtful and disturbing. Throughout the history of our country, new immigrants have been called by very negative words based on solely on their race or ethnicity. People who are GLBTQ have also been called by varying negative words. Once these words are used frequently enough, it is hard to take them out of our vocabulary.



People who have a disability have often been labeled negatively; words such as ‘CRAZY, MORON, STUPID, CRIPPLED, DEAF AND DUMB etc.’ Although there are exceptions, most people with disabilities do not like to be described by their disability such as the blind woman, the mentally ill guy. Instead you should reference the person first such as the ‘woman who is visually impaired.’ Also a person who uses a wheelchair is NOT CONFINED but uses the chair to be more mobile. If the disability is not relevant to whom the person is then don’t mention it. People who have a disability are just like you, they want to be known for their positive traits or their accomplishments. People who have a disability do not want to be pity or a recipient of charity. The word, ‘handicapped’ has become very offensive because it comes from the image of a person standing on the street with a cap in hand begging for money.

It can sometime be uncomfortable or difficult for an individual to interact with people who have a disability if s/he has not had a lot of past interaction. People with a disability have the same issues, hang-ups, problems and passions that everyone else does.

February Share The Plate - CEJ

The Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ) is a permanent coalition of labor, faith, community, academic and student organizations and individual activists. We engage in collective action to create good jobs, strong, sustainable communities, and equitable economic development.



CEJ was formed in 1986 when religious and labor leaders organized a campaign together to stop good manufacturing jobs from being outsourced to Mexico by the Trico corporation. Since our founding, CEJ has collaborated with a wide array of partners to win local campaigns for corporate and government accountability, sustainable economic development, and worker justice.

In 2014 we joined the #FightFor15 movement and organized fast food workers to go out on strike to demand \$15 an hour and union rights without retaliation. We won \$15 an hour for fast food workers this past Summer and are continuing our #FightFor15 work by broadening out to include all low wage workers. We have also have organized taxpayers to ensure that Industrial Development Authorities (IDAs) incentives are spent to create good-paying jobs. Over the past year our work led to a policy initiative at the Erie County IDA that ensures that women and men are paid equally for the same work.

The Coalition for Economic Justice is one of 42 community-labor coalitions nationwide that comprise the national Jobs with Justice network, as well as the NY State Labor-Religion Coalition.

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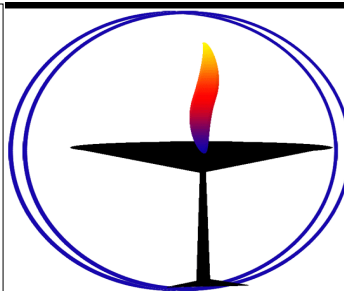
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Happening at the UUCB

UUCB Yarnbusters

Our “Not for Knitters Only” group continues: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30ish to 8ish in The Women’s Lounge. For February, we will be gathering on the 9th and 23rd. 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 on this; email Sharon Walker, at sharonw447@gmail.com.

UUCB Book Club

February 29 Meeting at 3 PM

The club will discuss Daniel James Brown's THE BOYS IN THE BOAT: nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Newcomers who have read the book are welcome! Everyone who plans to attend needs to call the

host-of-the-month, Evelyn (883-7810). She needs a count in order to plan for refreshments and seating in her home. Note the time change to 3 PM. Looking ahead, at our March 28 meeting, we will discuss Who Stole the American Dream? by Hedrich Smith.

FOOD PANTRY

The suggested food donation for the month of February is canned fish. From now on the red storage bin will be placed by our reservation table on the Sundays when reservations are taken, The bin will also be on a table during our programs. On other days it will be stored in the church kitchen. Place your food items in a bag, label is Women's Society and then place it in the bin. Thank you!

