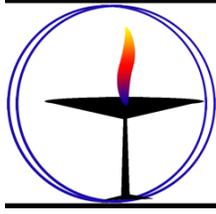


# The UU Church of Buffalo



*Gather – Inspire – Transform*

July - August 2016 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave • Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 - [www.BuffaloUU.org](http://www.BuffaloUU.org)



## Faith Matters: Summer School Worship Theme: Transformation

Rev. Joan Montagnes

Every summer I spend blissful days in a little cabin by a pond with nobody but the frogs to keep me company. Willows wave along the shore whispering to the gold-bearded irises covered in dragonflies emerging from brown nymphs to colorful iridescent flashes on air. Fish rise in lazy arcs to swallow hapless, twitching creatures floating on the water's green surface. Wildflowers in the surrounding meadow hum with the bee's worksongs and coyotes fill the night with their complicated ballads.

I've watched the frogs transform themselves in mystery and miracle from millions of jelly-string eggs to a writhing caviar of black tadpoles. Then one day little arms appear on either side, each with tiny fingers. Before I know it, they have legs and their tails are absorbed slowly into grown up frogginess. Eventually, the day comes when I have to watch where I walk on my way down to the beach. Thousands of little brown peepers are migrating like miniature buffalos across the plains. Then the beach is empty. The frenzy of becoming is over. Eggs, tadpoles, peepers all gone, except at night when the deep calling daddies begin to unmistakably croak for the next season to begin, "I want a date! Ribbit. I want a date!"

As I take my morning stroll along the edge of the pond the water erupts in splashes before me. In their terror, the frogs are hurling themselves into water to hide, to swim away from the threat, to survive. I like to believe they think I am a long-legged great blue heron stalking my breakfast, but they might be afraid of something much more sinister. *They might think I am a princess.*

Frogs know a lot about transformation. It's no surprise that an amphibian was chosen for the fairy tale. I ask

you, what could a mammal, born more or less in the same shape as its mature form, tell us about change?

**Change is hard.** I'm not sure what goes through a frog's mind as it wakes up one morning with not only the desire, but the ability to eat flies, but it must come as a bit of a shock. I think we have all have experienced a time in our lives when we were smooched hard by transformation without our consent and that kiss turns



the world upside down. **All kinds of understandable feelings emerge – denial, anger, grief – before we discover a different way of being.**

**Although change is hard, sometimes we actually seek it out, little tadpoles that we are**, because we realize, in spite everything, we are not yet fully mature. We have not yet developed our whole frogginess humanity. That is why I retreat to my cabin by the pond each year; to learn from the frogs and the butterflies and the dragonflies who all dramatically and beautifully transform themselves as a matter of course. I go to the pond to watch and to still my spirit long enough to listen to its yearnings. I go there to reconnect with something larger than myself. And when I return to the city each fall, I am transformed.

**May your summer be restful and full of joy.** May you find time for relaxation and the gentle breathing of your soul. May you face the challenge of transformation with an open and courageous heart so you can discover more deeply who you really are in the world.

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

#### Rev. Joan's Vacation

Our minister will be on vacation from July 9 – August 15. If you have a pastoral concern please contact congregant Rev. Sally Hamlin (716) 907-2882. Sally will be away between July 23 and 30 – during this time you may contact congregant Rev. Fran Manly (716) 480-9633.



## Joys and Sorrows



**We send our deepest compassion to Doris Poodry.** Doris' brother, Harley passed away last month.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue Dolce and her family and friends. Sue's husband Frank passed away on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Frank and Sue joined our congregation 23 years ago and raised their sons, Frank, Sam and Michael in our children and youth ministry.

**We send our congratulations to the daughters of Gigi Helliwell, Abby-Lulu and Tess**, who graduated from college last month; **and to the daughter of Tracey Kassman, Annika**, who graduated from high school. Best of luck to you and all our graduating seniors!

**With heartfelt joy we welcome Robert Vaughn Blass into the world.** Robert, grandson of Steve Wixson and Ginny Vaughn, son of their daughter, Liz, was born on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Mom, dad and baby are doing fine.

**Kaitlyn Steinburg wishes congratulations to her wonderful parents, Judy and Ty**, who recently celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**We are keeping Paula McGirr's friend Denise Hunca in our thoughts.** Denise passed away after a lengthy illness. She was an amazing mother, wife, colleague, and friend.

**We were overjoyed to celebrate the Dedication of baby Grace Harper Keenan on June 12<sup>th</sup>.** Grace is the child of Antoinette Krauss, granddaughter of Hope Krauss, great-niece of Bonnie Collins, great granddaughter of Grace Martin, and great great granddaughter Grace Burgdorf all of whom were dedicated at our church and from the same font.



## Pulpit Previews

Summer Sunday Services 2016  
Summer Worship Theme: Transformation



**July 3 "Transformative Truth" Rev. Joan Montagnes**

The Truth not only sets you free, it can change you forever. A light bulb goes on and suddenly everything is different. All revolutions of mind and spirit begin with an inkling which surges to brilliant insight.

*The Rev. Joan Montagnes is our congregation's minister.*

**July 10 "Desiring Change" Rita Capezzi**

Many of us want to make a change, some large and some small, but either way change is often strangely difficult. Why should we struggle through to change? To what kind of future might that struggle lead? Helen Lowry will provide some special music to illuminate this subject.

*Formerly an English Professor at Canisius College, Rita is a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She joined this congregation in 2004. In the fall, she will serve First Unitarian of Rochester and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua as an intern minister. She lives in Buffalo with her husband and their cats; her grown children live nearby.*

**July 17 "Your Gold and Silver have Rusted" Rev. Kirk Laubenstein**

A reflection on the "Fight for \$15" and "Black Lives Matter" movements and James 5. Explore the ways work and income play out in the Bible and continue to play out today.

*The Rev. Kirk Laubenstein is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Economic Justice.*

**July 24 "The Road Not Taken" Kenneth Manly**

The last three lines of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" are widely recognized. They seem to celebrate the transformative power of individual choice. Or do they help us consider how we choose and what choices can "make all the difference".

*Dr. Kenneth Manly is a mostly retired scientist still active as a software developer in the Genetics Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He first joined this congregation in 1982.*

**July 31 "In the Moments that Matter" Julie Taylor**

One of the many reasons we come here and listen to sermons week after week is to seek some sort of transformation in ourselves, in others, or in the world. The ability to transform another person with words has a profound impact on our inner core. We can choose to use our powers for good. When words are our power, we might even be able to save a life.

*Julie Taylor has been a member of our congregation for almost a decade and frequent visitor for a decade before that. She has served as a Religious Education teacher and on the Welcome and Connections and the Souper Sunday teams. She currently sits on the Board of Trustees.*



**August 7 "Consumption and Assumption" Susan Frawley**

We are transformed by witnessing, experiencing and grieving death. Death has a beautiful gift that one can experience if your heart is open. What and how we think about death will be explored in an easy, fun (yes fun) and enriching way.

*Susan Frawley is a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School and a member of this congregation. She will be the intern minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara Falls next year and preaches at Hamburg Unitarian Universalist Church each month.*

**August 14 “A Compass to Find Home” Rev. Frances Manly and Doug Yeomans**

Home may be the place where we’re born, a place we’ve found, or more a feeling than a place. Sometimes, growing spiritually means expanding and transforming our sense of home until we can be at home wherever we are—at home in the universe. Weaving together story, song, and reflection, explore the idea of home and challenge us to think of home in new and larger ways.

*Rev. Frances Manly is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister and a member of this congregation. Singer, songwriter, and guitarist Doug Yeomans has partnered with her on several previous summer services.*

**August 21 “Got Spirituality?” Rev. Joan Montagnes**

Are you spiritual but not religious? What’s the difference? What is this thing called “spirituality” anyway?

*Joan Montagnes is the minister of our congregation.*

**August 28 “Soul Revolution” Dana Gerace**

A revolution of transformation is happening right now! We all have Response-Ability to take a part in this Great Turning. Positive change is possible. First, we must be open to personal transformation then, with courage, passion and gratitude we can change the world.

*Dana Gerace joined our congregation two years ago. She is a Worship Associate and serves on our Ministry for Earth Team. She is a social justice activist and loves to bike, hike and be with nature. She is also a proud cat mother to a black and white boy whose name is Freedom.*

**September 5 “Let Your Heart Sing!” The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo Choir**

Singing with others transforms a group of individuals into a deeply connected community, especially when they sing until the songs begin to sing them. This is our annual “singing service,” where all of us—confident singers, tentative singers, and even those who think they can’t sing—raise our voices in our favorite and soon-to-be-favorite hymns. Choir members will be there not to perform but to help all of us sing better and more joyfully than we thought possible.



On the evening of Sunday, June 12, UUCB held a public candlelight vigil to remember, honor and pray for the victims of the shooting in Orlando and their families, spouses, partners and friends.

Photo courtesy New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan

# Beyond the Hedge: Denomination and Interfaith Connections

Sharon Walker, Chair, Denomination and Interfaith Connections Ministry

**As I write this, I'm getting ready to attend UUA's annual General Assembly.** Honored to be able to make it to GA almost every year since I first attended in 2001; each year I return to UUCB with new insight into our faith, and energy to be a part of the ministry of our congregation. This year many of our members will be participating for the first time. They will be GA volunteers assisting the several thousand other UU members from around North America and the world with their questions concerning tech issues to the more earthy, "where's the coffee?", as well as attending workshops. Some will also represent our congregation as delegates participating in the business of our Association at the Assembly.

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## Spring 2016 Denomination Events

**Our members have participated** in many denominational events this past spring. Among them were:

♦ **St Lawrence District Regional Meeting: Covenant; April 1, 2016 - First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, NY**

As our Board President, Liz Parke reported last month the St. Lawrence District was officially dissolved at our April 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Meeting. We are now joined together with the former Ohio-Meadville, Metro-New York and Joseph Priestly Districts, creating our new Central Eastern Regional Group, or CERG.

♦ **WNY Cluster of UU Churches Social Justice Summit: Activate! Saturday, April 23, 2016, UU Church of Buffalo**

With the dissolution of the smaller districts, forming "clusters" (alliances) with our UU neighbors is more important than ever. The seeds for this were sown with this inaugural event. This all-day Summit was the culmination of a meeting of Rev. Renee Ruchotzke with members of WNY UU churches in

January to begin to find ways to come together. 50 UUCBers from several of our local congregations gathered together to find ways to support and work together on Climate Change and Racial and LGBTQ Justice.

♦ **The Once & Future Church (or, "Chicken Little Goes to Church!")**

On May 21, many UUCBers attended this WNY Cluster event hosted by UU Church of Amherst. The Rev. Joan VanBecelaere presented information from her research on faith and church trends in the 21st century, and how we might prepare for the shift in how we might do church in the future.

♦ **General Assembly June 22 - 26, 2016; Columbus, OH, Greater Columbus Convention Center: "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect"**

GA assembled 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.

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## Upcoming Denomination Event

♦ **The 2016 Annual Meeting of the New York State Conference of Universalists, October 14-15, Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion, NY**

Keynote Speaker: Philip P. Arnold - *"Doctrine of Discovery: The Real Story"*

*All Unitarian Universalists are warmly invited to attend.*

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## Interfaith Connections

*The future of liberal religion is multifaith*

*"Religious liberals from all traditions share not only common values, but also a common cosmology..."* UUA President Peter Morales; UU World Magazine, Summer 2016

### ◆ **Bridge Building with the Muslim Community**

Our Women's Society-sponsored luncheon at the Masjid An-Noor Mosque on May 13<sup>th</sup> has resulted in plans to meet again later this summer to find ways to work together on a future project. One suggestion is for an introductory course on Islam to be offered here at our church.

### ◆ **Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) –**

SURJ supports white people organizing for racial justice in the United States. This work is grounded in accountability to the Black Lives Matter movement and shared values that you can find here.

### ◆ **Faith and Anti-Racism: A Meeting for White Allies.**

On May 21, several members of our congregation participated, with other UUs and practitioners of other faiths, in Faith and Anti-Racism: A Meeting for White Allies. During our time together we: learned about the SURJ values and ways of working; met with other people of faith in the hopes of building relationships with those who want to do this work in Western New York; explored our various faith traditions' past

experiences (the good and the bad!) in showing up for racial justice; practiced engaging white people of faith in conversations about race; and discussed ways for working together in the future.

◆ *“VOICE-**Buffalo** [was formed] in 1996 to give voice at the table of power; to break down barriers, and to hold public authorities and government representatives accountable. With training and support from the Gamaliel Foundation, a network of congregations and leaders was created to organize and embolden communities across racial, demographic and socio-economic divides...”*

### **VOICE-**Buffalo**; 2016 Annual Awards Banquet: 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration, June 2, 2016**

Several of our members attended this wonderful event and held witness to all that this organization has been doing in and for our community for these past two decades and their plans for the future.

For more information on any event please contact Sharon at [sharonw447@gmail.com](mailto:sharonw447@gmail.com).

## **Summer Religious Education**

**Sarah Martin, Director of Lifespan Faith Development**



**The summer is finally upon us and I am out of the building until early August.** However, our Religious Education and Adult Faith Development programs will still be up and running strong!

**This summer, our Spirit Play program continues upstairs during the service.** There will be no 'Time for All Ages' in the service, so please come straight upstairs at the ringing of the second church bell (10:30 am) for class. Our Spirit Play teachers have worked hard to create a wonderful, engaging program for children from young middle-schoolers down to preK. Please be respectful of their time and effort and pick up your child promptly by 11:45.

**Look for our Adult Faith Development Summer Prospectus Brochure at the Welcome Table** on Sunday morning! We have some great programming coming up. In my absence, please turn completed registrations forms in to the office.

**We still have two open teaching slots for Religious Education this fall!** If you think you may be interested or you know someone who is, please email me at [sarahmartin@buffalouu.org](mailto:sarahmartin@buffalouu.org) at any time and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

**I am so excited to come back in August** and begin my first official year as your settled Director of Religious Education. Have a fabulous summer!

# Music Notes – Summer 2016

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



**This time of year, immediately following the close of our formal church year – which also coincides with our Choir Season** – I typically begin my summer newsletter column with some reassuring statement like “Summer is upon us, but the music will go on at UUCB.” Well, this summer will be no exception! Rest assured, you can expect the same dedication to excellence in our summer service music, with many of the familiar faces and musical personalities of our dear friends and guest summer vocalists and instrumentalists. Furthermore, we are planning several dynamic, engaging performances and special events beyond our regular Sunday worship schedule – stay-tuned for updates, and read your weekly email blasts carefully.

**While the music continues to resonate** throughout our church, exciting work continues behind-the-scenes with our Music Ministry Team, and among our volunteer members of the UUCB Choir and our Music Program professional staff. **(We have something big in the works for the fall which I can’t wait to tell you about!)** As we closed the Choir Season, our two Music Sunday services for 2016-2017 are now solidified, and we are delighted to announce that **in December we’ll continue on with our Bach Christmas Oratorio project**, sharing the joyous and festive Part III of that masterwork, accompanied by members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. **Our Spring Music Sunday service will feature works by Aaron Copland, Gustav Holst, and the brilliant early 20<sup>th</sup> century French composer, Lili Boulanger.** Boulanger’s name is preserved in the lexicon of modern musical geniuses chiefly through the advocacy and brilliant teaching efforts of her older sister, Nadia who almost literally taught ALL of the major composers of the mid-century, including Copland. Tragically, Lili’s life was cut short by chronic illness at just 24 years of age, but our musical culture is all the richer for the handful of masterworks she produced – we look forward to sharing this vital music with you on these special services, and throughout all of 2016-2017!

**One extra-special musical event we have on the books for this summer** will undoubtedly introduce our church to a wide-range of guests and new friends, and I’d like to invite each of you to mark your calendars accordingly: **The evening of Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00** we will host a **free public concert by the Buffalo-based band Cages alongside Matt Dunning and members of the Buffalo Gamelan Club.** The concert opener will feature a solo set by the brilliant jazz and Indian classical musician Ravi Padmanabha. Although free, we will be accepting donations to be shared between the musicians and our church.



Cages Ravi Padmanabha 7-16-16 UUCB 7pm

**Now, to explain what you might expect to hear** – beyond a collection of some of my favorite performers in our area – Cages is a duo comprised of vocalist Nola Ranallo and guitarist David Bailey. Their music is difficult to pin down, as their projects frequently change shape from record to record (with each new record regularly cited as indie critics’ favorites), and through their unique collaborations. At its heart, their music is

decidedly melodic, frequently built up of layers of electronically-processed guitar loops and field recordings, with alternately intense and haunting vocal lines. The incorporation of Matt Dunning and friends, playing the traditional gamelan instruments of Java will add poignancy, unique colors, and quite possibly a danceable rhythmic underlay, all of which should sound phenomenal in our space – this concert is not-to-be missed!

**So, we'll be seeing and hearing lots this summer**, and we look forward to sharing it all with each of you in community. From festive trumpet-and-organ works, jazz standards, solo songs, chamber music groups, and even the occasional after-hours, cutting-edge rock show, there'll be plenty to satisfy all tastes, and to send you out into the community with a song in your hearts. **Enjoy the summer, and thank you for your continued support of our Music Program.**

## Legacy Gifts Sustain Our Church Now and into the Future

**Each year, several forward-thinking members of our congregation** make a special kind of gift to our church community – a legacy or planned gift. Legacy gifts differ from our annual pledges in that they are one-time promises of a future gift that usually comes from the benefactor's estate when they are deceased. These gifts are another way that our ancestors continue to provide for this beloved community now and into the future. In doing so, our family and friends remain with us in memory and spirit when they are no longer here in body.



**We place these gifts in our Endowment and hold them for a future time** when the church needs special funds. In past years, our Endowment has allowed our church to carry out necessary repairs and upgrades to our church that we wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. Our ancestors have helped to fix the roof over our heads, repair and replace the furnace that keeps us warm, and allowed us to fix the bell that calls us to worship each Sunday. When we sit in a warm church on a cold day, with a roof that keeps the elements at bay, and hear the peal of our bell, we remember those who continue to sustain us in this way.

**Legacy gifts have done more** than simply meet our material needs, as important as that is. It was these gifts that have empowered us to make monumental changes over the past five years. Our forbearers have provided for a ministerial search that resulted in our calling Rev. Joan Montagnes to our pulpit. They have sustained us through difficult financial times that would have collapsed many other churches. The Endowment has allowed us to place our feet on a new path, one that will continue far into the future.

**Finally, these gifts from our recently and long gone friends and family** have allowed us to remain free of debt. Too many churches today, in our denomination and many others, are drowning in debt. It is a millstone around the necks of those congregations, keeping them from reaching their full potential. In many cases, this debt has caused a church to sink and close. The great generosity of our ancestors' legacy gifts has saved us from that pain. We are free to act and chart a course to the future because of their final act of generosity.

**There are many ways that you can make a legacy gift to our church**, gifts that are not given out of the need of today but from what is left when you leave us forever. It is an opportunity to show your love for our community even when you can no longer be physically present. If you are interested in exploring ways to make a legacy gift to our church, please contact Rev. Montagnes or a member of the Endowment Committee. Help sustain our community into the future.

## Our UUCB Racial Justice Ministry Team Gets to Work

**During this church year members of our church began meeting** to develop this new ministry team. With the assistance of Rev. Montagnes and the leadership of Tracey Kassman, Chanda O'Donnell de Ramirez and Sharon Walker, we got to work. We created a covenant and planned how we would deal with our vision for our involvement in these issues of importance.

**We shared our stories**, we had a bake sale, we attended community events as individuals, and we viewed classes that are available to us from UUA. The funds for the bake sale are going into a fund to buy vests that we can wear when we go to events as a group and that will identify us as members of UUCB.

**And then we planned our first event – the Extravaganza that was held on Saturday June 4.** On a beautiful Saturday with lots of events going on in our city, we were pleased to have over 25 adult participants and several children. All of our committee members contributed, including some who were not able to attend that day.

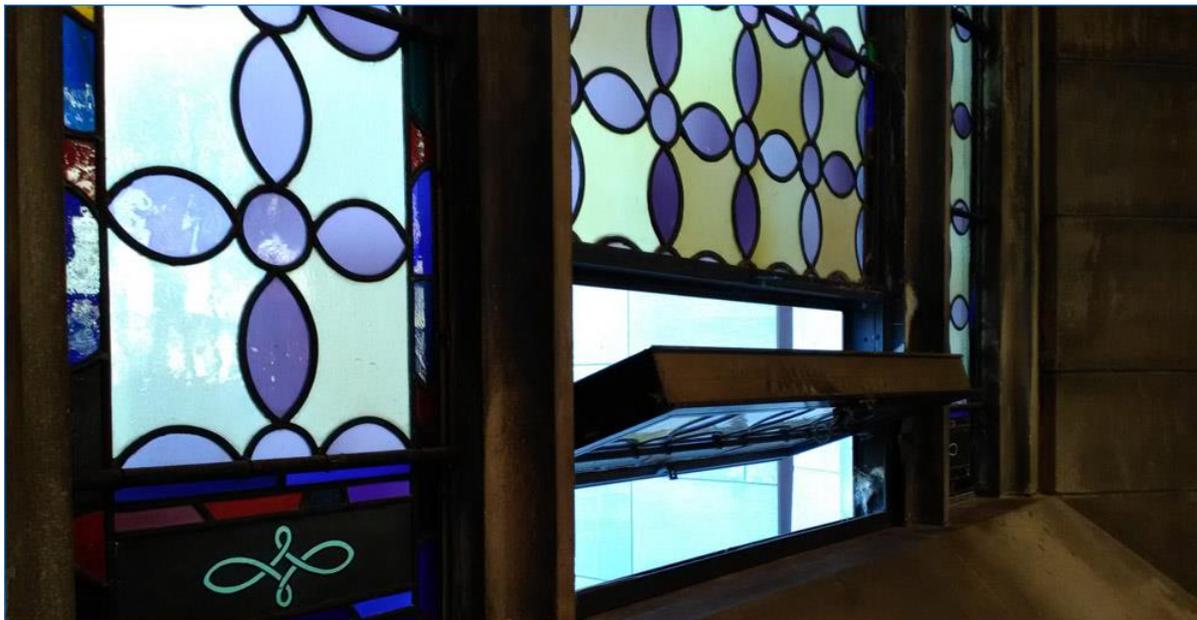
**We heard an inspiring story regarding inclusion**, had an exercise that pointed out the meaning of privilege, a

group that discussed parenting issues, and a workshop that focused on how we respond to “difficult” conversation. The children had a session that dealt with identification – as in what do people know about you just from looking at you, and what would you like them to know. And of course they had playtime.

**Part of our experience involved posting our thoughts on a fence** that was an important visual for our workshop. Here are a few: “Those with the most privilege have the least perspective” – “An awesome opportunity to have open dialogue about difference (racial)” – “I thought I knew a lot about the topic but I’ve still got so much farther to go- there’s so much more than abstract knowledge”.

**And we can’t forget** that we also nourished our bodies as well as our minds by partaking of a marvelous pot luck lunch.

**Please stay tuned** for future events, including a RJMT-led worship on Sunday, November 13. **And please consider attending our next Team meeting, which is being held on Saturday July 16, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.**



## News from the Universal Access and Inclusion Team (UAIM)



Since the inception of UUCB's Universal Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Team, the team has strived to become a visible and vibrant part of our church community. On Pride Sunday UAIM created and supported the Sunday Service. Our guest speaker Tami Moore spoke about the intersection of people who are LGBTQ and people who are disabled. Besides speaking about that, she also challenged us to be a welcoming church community for all.

**As an urban church, we attract people from all walks of life.** At times, it seems like we divide ourselves into groups such as UAIM, Social Justice, Choir, LGBTQ, etc., instead of seeing each group as part of the whole church community. All of the groups strive to enhance each other and the entire congregation. Can we connect with one another to become a truly more welcoming and inclusive church? When each of us enters the church and its community, we are all seeking acceptance for who we are. May we welcome a visitor as we welcome a church member who has been with us for many years, with dignity and a smile. As we greet each other enthusiastically during service may we carry that friendliness into the Parish Hall and beyond.

### N4KO:

#### "Not for Knitters Only"



**Our UUCB Yarnbusters group continues** through the summer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30ish to 8:00ish in The Women's Lounge. **Our summer schedule: July 12, July 26, August 9, August 23.** Whether you knit, crochet or cross stitch give us a try. This is an open group, church membership not required (please forward to any friends or family that may be interested).

#### Baby Blankets and Hats for Newborns of UUCB Families

**Knitters and crocheters (aka "knitwits" and "hookers"), looking for a project?** Minister to our families and give the gift of a layette to our newborns and at dedications. For more information please email Sharon Walker at [sharonw447@gmail.com](mailto:sharonw447@gmail.com).

## Covenant Groups – You're Invited!



**You're Invited !!!**

**The Covenant Group program is an established small group ministry** in UU churches all over the country. Covenant groups, led by trained co-facilitators, create an opportunity to develop relationships, explore our personal values and beliefs, and support and strengthen our church – one small group at a time.

**New groups will be starting in the Fall.** To explore whether this might be the time and way for you to wade more deeply into connection with others in this congregation, we are offering a **one-session Covenant Group Orientation**.

If you are new or not-so-new and would like to experience the connection that our model of "deep listening" inspires, we invite you to join us in the Alliance Room on **Saturday August 6, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.**

Pre-registering for this session will help us plan. For questions or to register for the Orientation, please contact us at [covenantgroups@buffalouu.org](mailto:covenantgroups@buffalouu.org), or stop by the Membership and Connections table in the Parish Hall after church on any Sunday. We look forward to – truly – getting to know you.

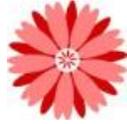
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### **Facilitator Training !!!**

***Our Covenant program is growing! New groups will be starting in the Fall.***

If you are currently participating in a Covenant group and would like to train as a co-facilitator for a future group, or simply want to become a more informed group member, please join us for a two-session facilitator training, scheduled for two consecutive Saturdays: **September 17th and 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Participation in both sessions is required.** Registration is important to insure enough materials. To inquire about the training, please contact us at [covenantgroups@buffalouu.org](mailto:covenantgroups@buffalouu.org).

## Pulpit Flower Ministry Is Growing!



According to our traditional schedule, there will be no scheduled flowers on Sunday mornings during the summer months of July and August. We will resume again in September, and we are now accepting reservations for flowers for the entire 2016-17 program year which will begin on September 4th.

Please consider joining us in this wonderful ministry by reserving a special Sunday for your flowers. The cost is \$35.00 and includes your personal text dedication in our order of service. You may choose to keep the flowers or possibly donate them to a local hospital after the service.

For more information or to reserve flowers, please email us at [pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org](mailto:pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org) or call us at 881-2136 ext. 4 as soon as possible so that you will be able to choose the dates that are most meaningful for you. Thank you to all who participate in this wonderful ministry!

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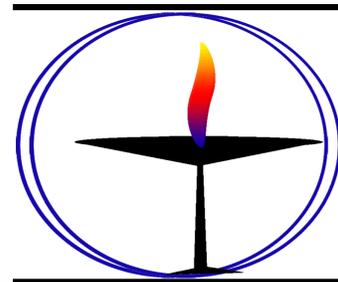
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