

The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather

Inspire

Transform

June 2017 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave . Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 www.buffalouu.org



Being a Community of Zest!

Rev. Joan Montagnes

There's something astringently joyful about the word "zest". It is also a word that's a tad confusing. Lemons and soap. Hmmmm...

The word, "zest," was borrowed into English in the 17th century from French to describe orange or lemon peel. My bet is that limes and grapefruits were somewhere in there too. Where the French got the word we don't know. The earliest uses of "zest" in English are found in recipes that instruct us to use citrus peel to add flavor to food and drinks. Yummy.

By the early 18th century, however, zest had developed another meaning. It was used to refer to a quality that adds enjoyment to something, in the same way that the zest of an orange or lemon adds a certain pizzazz to food.

But then in 1955, Procter & Gamble introduced Zest as a brand name for, not soap, but a body wash bar, with the slogan "For the first time in your life, feel really clean."

Early commercials stated that Zest is not a soap, because it does not leave the sticky film that soap does. One such commercial showed us this concept with a demonstration in which two photographs of a person were dipped in one of two bowls, one labeled "soap" and the other "Zest" — the one that came out of the



"soap" bowl had a yucky, scummy coating whereas the one that came out of the "Zest" bowl was sparkling clean.

Zest really took off in the 1980s when they started using the advertising slogan "You're not fully clean unless you're Zestfully clean!" It's amazing what you can do by spouting nonsense. "Zestfully"? That's not really a word, is it?

"Zest" is a word, but it a confusing word. It now means everything from citrus peel, to keen enjoyment, to a non-soap body bar. What do all these have in common? This is our question for June. What does it mean to be a community of zest? Perhaps it means to cultivate our sour dispositions. Maybe it means to dance joyfully in the Pride Parade. Or it could mean scrubbing the church down until it is "Zestfully clean."

But I don't think any of those options entirely capture what it means to be a community of zest. I believe a community of zest is refreshing, lively, mouth-watering,

stimulating, and provocative. Our zesty community is astringent when we need to sting decision-makers toward justice and our zesty community is absolutely bursting with pizzazz.

This June let's march together at the Dyke March and Pride Parade. Let's eat poke-a-dot pancakes and join the VOICE Criminal Justice Task Force. Let's go to General Assembly as online delegates and support the Western New York's Gay and Lesbian Youth Services through Share the Plate. Let's bring spectacular flowers to the flower communion ceremony and sing all our hymns of celebration and resistance lustily. Let's welcome new members to our congregation in creative and radical hospitality.

That, I think, is what it means to be a community of zest. Let's squeeze our church life to get the most out of every day.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes



Joys and Sorrows



Our deepest sympathy and compassion go to Grace Myhre and her family. Grace's husband John, passed away on Saturday, April 29. John and Grace are long-time members of our church. A memorial service celebrating John's life was held in our sanctuary on May 20.

We send healing thoughts to Diane Bockrath. Dianne had her second knee replaced recently.

We also send healing thoughts to Deborah Dahlberg. Deborah also had a knee replaced, but then fell on the new knee which meant she required additional surgery.

Our thoughts are with Paulette Notaro's husband, Peter Hasset, who is dealing with some unpleasant health issues.

And we are keeping Michelle Thompson in our hearts. Michelle, a young wife and mother, had a stroke this month. Her family asks for our prayers.

Finally, we are sending our best wishes to Dodie Locke. Dodie took a spill on May 11 and broke a hip. We hope she mends quickly and uneventfully.

New Member Potluck

If you joined the church in the last year or two, Rev. Joan and the Membership and Outreach Ministry Team invite you to a delicious potluck dinner. By now you have probably discovered that we Unitarian Universalists are fabulous cooks who cater to all kinds of dietary needs and preferences. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the delicious mix that is our congregation. Childcare will be provided if you give us a week's notice. Thursday, July 7, at 6:00 pm.



Pulpit Previews

June Worship Theme: Zest!



This month, in all our ministries, we strive to bring zest to all we do

June 4 • “Pride and Joy” Rev. Joan Montagnes

Rainbows, butterfly wings, body glitter and dancing in the streets. The Pride Fest brings a lot of zest to Elmwood Avenue. But its more than a party. Together, the Parade and the Dyke March remind us that these uncertain times call us to speak up against injustice everywhere.



June 11 • “Zest for the Quest” Rev. Joan Montagnes

Last winter several of our congregation gathered to explore, build and articulate our own personal belief systems. Hear what your friends have discovered on their quest for truth and meaning. Consider your own journey.

June 18 • “Freedom, Beauty and Power” Rev. Joan Montagnes

Spring has finally come. The flowers are out in wild colors and vivid scents. Life springs eternal and spring means Flower Communion Sunday. Bring a flower to share. Don't worry, we don't eat the flowers!

June 25 • “Profiles in Courage” Bill Parke

In terms of justice work, Unitarian Universalists in Buffalo have been early adopters. We support social change before it is fashionable. In times like these, in a city like ours, that role is noble, unique and priceless, and we can own it like few others. We should draw strength from our commitment to justice because it makes our world a better place, even if it is sometimes a hard road. It is the best road, spiritually, because travelling that road is to live on the side of righteousness.



Religious Education and June Events

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

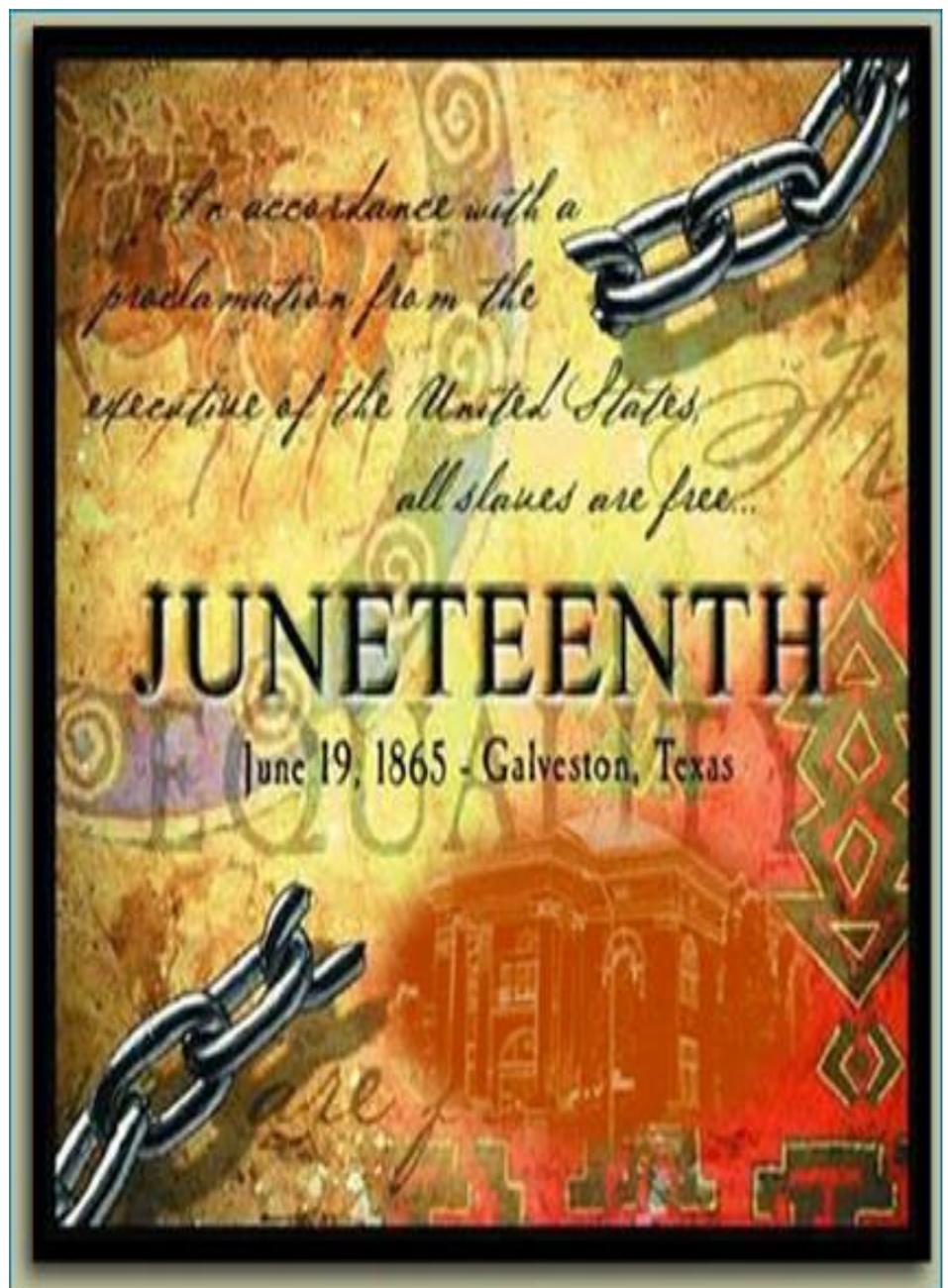
Our regular Religious Education programming has wrapped up for the year, and we are heading into a laid back kind of summer. Each Sunday, there will be games, art projects, and stories up in the Alliance Room, with occasional outings to the kitchen or lawn. The Religious Education Ministry Team and I hope to make this a fun, bonding experience for our children and youth, giving them the opportunity to feel at home in our church building while creating strong relationships with one another.

We need a minimal number of volunteers to staff this program, and if you're interested in spending a Sunday morning or two this summer with our children and youth, or if you have a special skill or talent you might want to share with them, please email me at lifespan@buffalouu.org and we'll get you on the schedule!

This summer, we're also in need of nursery volunteers to sit with our paid caregiver, Morgan Silver, on Sunday mornings so that we meet the criteria of our Safe Congregations policy. We must have two background checked adults in the nursery in order to keep it open. If you think you might be interested in volunteering with us this summer, email me at the above address for more information.

In late June, our 8th and 9th Grade Coming of Age class will be heading to Boston for a trip that will be both an exciting, fun-filled weekend with friends, and an opportunity to learn about our Unitarian Universalist heritage amongst the many important UU landmarks in Boston.

This class has worked hard to fundraise for their trip all year, and they have successfully covered the major expenses involved, thanks to our generous and supportive congregation. Now they'd like to raise some funds to help offset the cost of food for the trip. For the first three Sundays in June, we will be holding a penny drive at the Religious Education table. Please consider dropping a handful of your pocket change into the large glass jar on the RE table. Every little bit helps!



June 2017 Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



The month of June focuses on the topic of “zest”. It is surely a fitting theme for the final month of our ‘Choir Season’ as the music our volunteers and professional staff share in each Sunday service most certainly brings a dynamic, engaging, and exciting feature to each service, and the sheer joy of music is evident in their very sound. Our service music will feature a series of powerful anthems to complement the final three services of our regular church year, and then we end out the month with music by our in-house trumpet and piano duo for Bill Parke’s sermon, *Profiles in Courage*.

June begins with Pride Weekend, and Rev.

Montagnes’s service, *Pride and Joy*, will feature three choral contributions: the rousing, affirming anthem, “*Everything Possible*”, Z. Randall Stroope’s richly-textured love song, “*Amor de mi alma*”, and Clif Hardin’s benediction, “*May Love Be Your Guide*”.

The Building Your Own Theology group will share their stories on June 11 – *Zest for the Quest*. That Sunday our music will feature the Choir in George Gershwin’s “*I’ll Build a Stairway to Paradise*”, and our soloists will be front-and-center in Leonard Bernstein’s “*Simple Song*” from *Mass*, and a rare gem by the brothers Gershwin, “*They All Laughed*” from the film, *Shall We Dance*.

June 18 concludes our formal church year, before our vibrant and varied summer services. This service is, of course, Flower Communion Sunday, and service music will include a few ‘Choir favorites’ as we reflect on the year past, the richness of our gathered community, and to musically wish one another a wonderful summer.

We look forward to spending these weeks with you, and please stay tuned for the July/August newsletter for details on special summer music events!



Thursday night Choir rehearsal – the hard work that makes Sunday so fabulous!

Looking Backward to Go Forward

Barbara Kloberdanz for the Racial Justice Ministry Team

Thanks to the leadership of GiGi Tyson, for the Racial Justice Ministry Team, and Sharon Walker, for Denominational Affairs, we had the opportunity to view the documentary “13th” on May 13 along with visitors from neighboring congregations.

Adding to our experience was a discussion led by Kartika from VOICE Buffalo.

Thanks to all who attended and participated.

This film lays out in stark clarity the sad history of our country when it comes to how we have dealt with our African American citizens. In summation we somehow thought that we had solved everything when we passed the 13th Amendment. As has now been said, we didn’t eliminate slavery, we just changed it.

The statistics regarding incarceration in our country are staggering.

This is a tough film to watch, but even if it makes you uncomfortable, I highly recommend it. In fact perhaps I recommend it because I want it to make you uncomfortable. It is available on Netflix.

Now – as Kartika says – seeing this film and then saying “Oh, isn’t that sad,” and then going home and closing the door is not where we need to be for UUCB. And we cannot withdraw into a cocoon because we cannot change the whole world all by ourselves.

We will be going forward.

As members of VOICE we will be participating in their Criminal Justice Task Force and plugging in to a variety of issues: voting rights, diversion systems to avoid incarceration, prison reform, etc.

Please consider joining in.

For any questions and information:

bklober@aol.com





As we go throughout life, we tend to pass through many stages. One may be born with a disability, or one may acquire a disability and one may also have a temporary disability. In the UAIM handbook, there is the following statement, "There is no 'us' and 'them', people without disabilities and people with disabilities. We all benefit as we grow in friendship with each other."

The UAIM handbook gives the following suggestions for people who might have invisible disabilities, but I believe the suggestions are appropriate when interacting with anyone.

- Don't refuse to believe what you cannot see by doubting a person's truthfulness.
- If a person says they cannot do something, don't try to coax or cajole or convince them to try anyway.
- When announcing an event outside of church, please indicate whether the place is accessible. Also state if parking is nearby and/or if there is disabled parking.
- A hearing impairment is a hidden disability; always assume there is a person in your group with hearing loss, so face your audience and use a microphone.
- Don't judge another person's pain or limitations; accept as true what the person tells you.

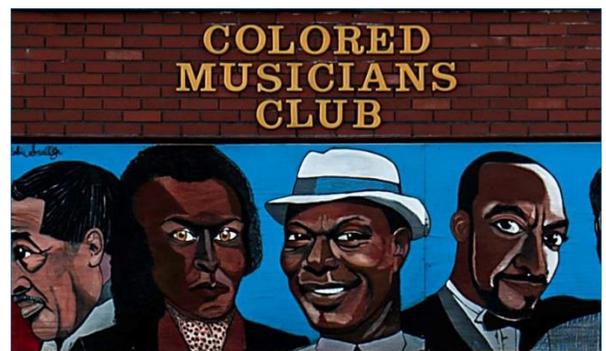
The UAIM Team reminds people that nothing should be placed under a Fire Alarm

The reasoning for this is so people who use scooters or wheelchairs can get as close to the alarm, so they can activate it.



Tour of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor

We will have guided tours of the Colored Musician's Club, the Jesse Nash House and the Michigan Street Baptist Church. The Church was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The sites are within walking distance of each other. Tickets (\$15) will go on sale after the service on Sunday, May 28, June 4, and June 11.



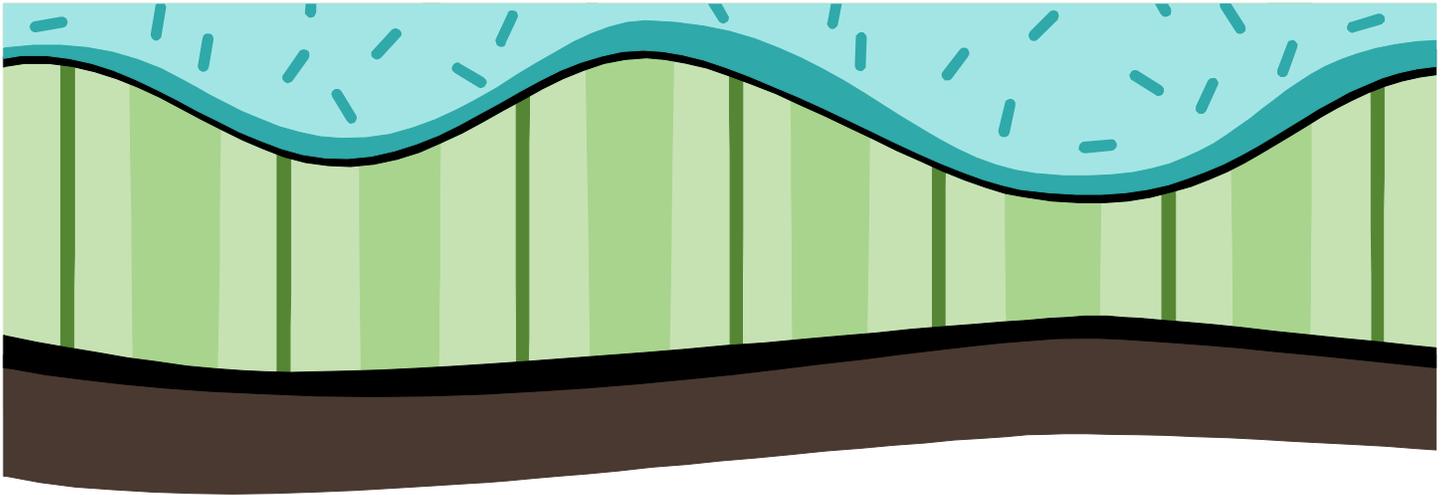
Membership for young adults who have completed Coming of Age (COACH)



Are you a teen or young adult who has completed Coming of Age (COACH), probably in 8th grade? We would like to offer you adult membership in our church, with all of the privileges and responsibilities that this entails. As a member of UUCB, you will have a voice in congregational meetings and be eligible to hold all church offices.

The Membership Study group has discussed this policy at length and decided, in consultation with DRE Sarah Martin, that beginning this year, we will offer adult membership to teens who are at least 16 years old and have completed Coming of Age. Since we have not done this in the past, we are offering Membership to anyone who has completed Coming of Age in the past.

If you would like to join our church, please speak to Rev. Joan about joining and signing the book. We would be enriched by your participation!



Eat, drink, dance and be merry as we celebrate

Dave Batt's 70th Birthday!

And anyone who is celebrating a decade birthday this year!

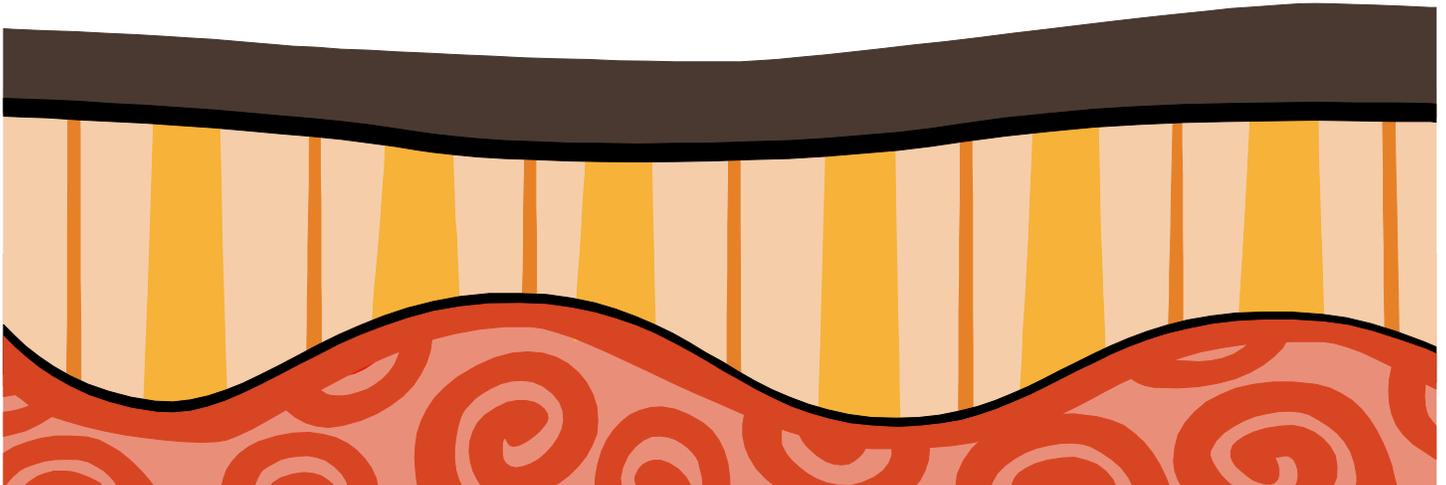
July 15, 2017, 6 - 9 pm

UU Church of Buffalo

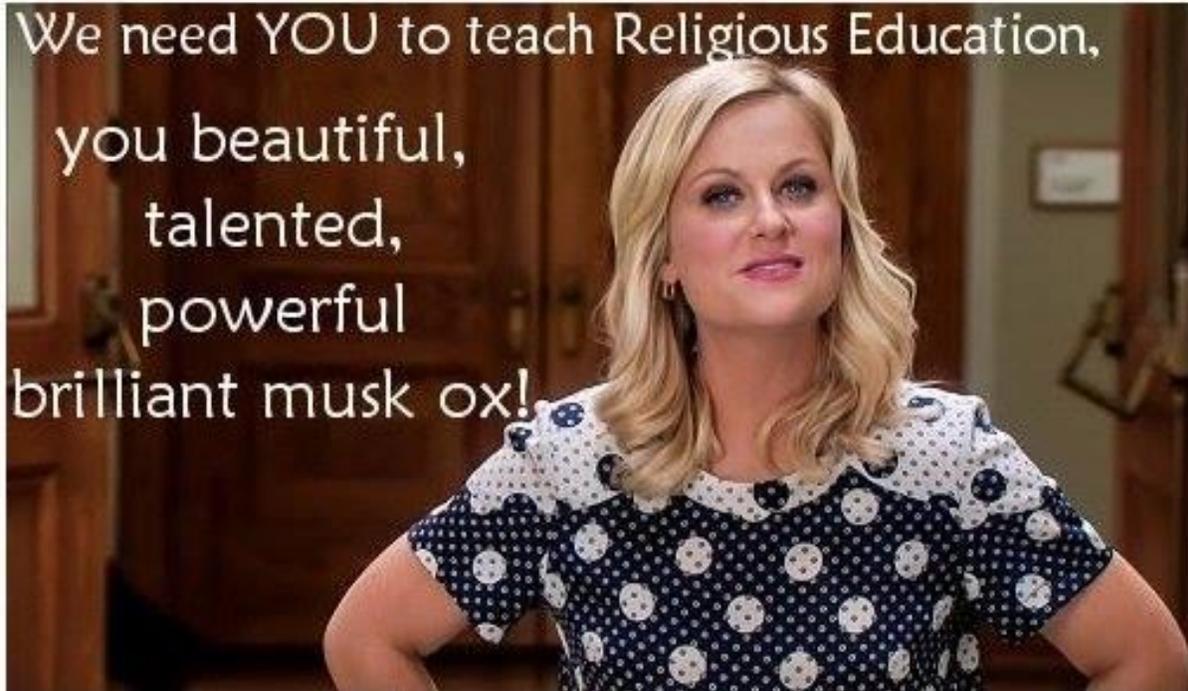
Parish Hall

Featuring the band "Five to One" and catered food from Dash's Market.
BYOB, and NO PRESENTS, but a "free will" donation for the use of the Hall is OK!

Please RSVP to Dave Batt dbatt@premierwines.com



We need YOU to teach Religious Education,
you beautiful,
talented,
powerful
brilliant musk ox!



**Are you interested in
teaching RE next year?**

**Do you want more information about
our program and what being an RE
Volunteer entails? Sign up at the
RE table on Sunday morning to join
our prospective volunteer mailing list!**

Pulpit Flowers



June Schedule

June 4 Beryl Smith
June 11 Judy Kieffer
June 18 Jeanne Heinl

We are accepting reservations for the 2018-19 program year which begins in September. If you would like more information or to reserve a date and participate in this wonderful ministry, please see us after the Sunday services, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call us at 885-2136 ext. 4 at your earliest convenience.



Calling All Followers of the Fiber for a Yarnbusters N4KO Special Event



There will be no Tuesday meetings in June.
Yarnbusters will be hosting:

World Wide Knit in Public Day!
Saturday, June 10, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
corner lawn of our Church

Better living through stitching together!

WWKIPDAY is unique, in that it's the largest knitter run event in the world. Each local event is put together by a volunteer or a group of volunteers – in our church's case, The Yarnbusters.

This is Not 4 Knitters Only. We supply the space. You bring a blanket, chair, water, and snacks. Please support our local coffee shops and restaurants. In the event of rain, room will be available indoors. For more information please email Sharon Walker at sharonw447@gmail.com

The UU Church of Buffalo Staff
695 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222
716-885-2136
www.buffalouu.org

Minister:

Rev. Joan Montagnes
mailto:minister@buffalouu.org

Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Martin
lifespan@buffalouu.org

Music Director:

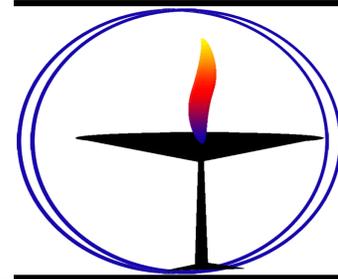
Daniel Bassin
music@buffalouu.org

Organist/Accompanist:

Su Lee
organist@buffalouu.org

Nursery Care Coordinator:

Morgan Silver



Church Administrator:

Joshua Layton
office@buffalouu.org

Bookkeeper:

Donna Sentz
bookkeeper@buffalouu.org

Gatekeeper:

Sara Kirkland
office@buffalouu.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Paulette Notaro
weddings@buffalouu.org

Care Network:

Ginny Vaughan
716-768-1077
wixsonsg@gmail.com