

# The UU Church of Buffalo



*Gather*

*Inspire*

*Transform*

September 2017 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave . Buffalo, NY 14222

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



**Faith Matters:**

**Welcome to a New Way of doing Social Justice!**

**Rev. Joan Montagnes**

Every month our church joins over 200 Unitarian Universalist Congregations in exploring a single spiritual theme. This month, for example, we ask: *"What does it mean to be a people of Welcome?"*

Theme-based ministry is serving us pretty well, but this year we are going to do things a little differently.

**WELCOME!**

**Up until now, we have brought our themes to worship,** religious education, covenant groups, art, Share the Plate, and music. This year, however, we are doing all that and more. We are adding a social justice overlay aimed to engage the entire congregation.

**On the first Sunday of every month we will kick-off** not only the theme of the month, but also a linked social justice theme, and a linked social justice activity. That activity may be one-day event, it may take up the full month, or we may get into it for a month of Sundays. It all depends on the type of action.

**Liz Parke is chairing a fabulous team to select and organize our monthly events.** Also serving on this team are Marjorie Girth, Sandy Dunbar, Leo Mitchell, Steve Wixson, Eve Holberg, Craig Locke, Sharon Walker, our Religious Education Director, Sarah Martin, and myself. In keeping with the high-spirited nature of this team, we have named ourselves the Social Action Sunday Events (SASE – pronounced "sassy") Ministry.

**Our goal is to inspire as many different people as possible** to take action in the coming year. Get engaged. Make a difference. Be transformed.

**Given tragic events in Charlottesville**, the egregious response from the President of the United States, the upsurge of hate in national behavior and rhetoric, the increasing strength and urgency of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, recent racist revelations in the Unitarian Universalist Association’s management,

and our whole-hearted desire to build the beloved community; the SASE Ministry will continually help us to unveil and dismantle white supremacy and racism. For these reasons, we will be working closely with our Racial Justice, Religious Education, Adult Faith Development Ministry Team and VOICE-Buffalo.

**Here is a sneak preview** of the year’s themes and SASE activities so far (please note, everything is subject to change):

Month	Spiritual Theme	Social Justice Theme	SASE Activity
October	Courage	Speak up through the democratic process	Voter registration and education
November	Abundance	We have an abundance of allies, even unexpected allies	VOICE-Buffalo offers exciting opportunities for involvement
December	Hope	Resist the “one moment” mentality, we are building a Movement!	Restorative Justice and Peace Circles
January	Intention	The freedom movement needs to be intentionally Black-led	TBD
February	Perseverance	We need the grassroots to be fully committed	Weekend with Ken Wiley, founder of #BlackLivesUU
March	Balance	Lift the voices of the marginalized, the privileged have already spoken too much	TBD
April	Emergence	The transformative experience of making a difference together	TBD
May	Creativity	Engaging in the cultural arts	Choir exchanges and all-church art projects
June	Blessing	The Blessings of a broad interfaith coalition	Faith stands on the side of love at the Dyke March and Pride Parade

**I told you they were sassy!** This is going to be a fun and exciting year for the whole congregation. Needless to say, our voices, our bodies, our minds and our hands are all needed to pull us out of our society’s current dysfunctional and terrifying state of affairs. We are all

needed if we are to begin to build the world of which we dream. Welcome to the struggle. Welcome to the party. Everyone, and I mean everyone, is invited.

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

**Save the Date!**  
**UUCB semi-annual Congregational Meeting**  
**September 25, after service**



## Joys and Sorrows



**Our hearts are with Chanda O'Donnell de Ramirez's cousin, Colleen.** She is being treated for breast cancer.

**Michael Shanahan was in the hospital in late July after a small stroke.** We hope he feels much better soon.

**Jacki and Ryan Knowles are delighted** to announce the birth of baby Colin McCarthy. Blessings all around!

**We also send healing thoughts to Francis Montgomery's mother** who was suffering with pneumonia this summer.

**It is with great sadness that we remember Jim Collins, beloved husband of Bonnie.** Jim passed away suddenly on the morning of August 4. He was working out at the gym, doing what he loved. He will be greatly missed.



## Pulpit Previews

**What does it mean to be a Community of Welcome?  
September Worship Schedule 2017**



**Sept 3**

### **Love's Labors – Sue Frawley**

As Unitarian Universalists, we value our energy and efforts toward social justice, compassion and inclusion. Where did this history come from and where is it going?

**Sept 10**

### **ANNUAL WATER COMMUNION AND INGATHERING**

#### **You are Welcome Here – Rev. Joan Montagnes and Sarah Martin**

You matter. There is a place for you here. This is our annual Water Communion and Ingathering Sunday. **Bring a little water from home or from your vacation to share with the community.** Everyone is welcome. Don't worry, we don't drink the water!

**Sept 17**

### **Getting Involved and Making a Difference – Rev. Joan Montagnes**

*Love is our doctrine, the quest for truth is our sacrament, and service is our prayer.* This year our congregation will embark on an engaging social action ministry to heal the democratic process, dismantle white supremacy, and build bridges with allies in seeking justice. Join the struggle. Join the party. Everyone is welcome.

**Sept 24**

### **Welcoming Forgiveness and Starting Anew – Rev. Joan Montagnes**

This service sits between the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – the New Year's celebration and the annual Day of Atonement. At this season, we forgive ourselves, and each other and begin again in love. Easier said than done.



# Religious Education and Faith Development Activities

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

## Children and Youth Religious Education

**Welcome back to another Religious Education year! Classes begin on September 17.** We are so glad to see our returning and brand new families entering this year's program. If your child would like to participate in Religious Education this year, please be sure to fill out a registration form, either at the Religious Education table on Sunday morning, or online through the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/uQ9zx36zRC1cD0fD2>

**We are still looking for a few more teachers for Religious Education this year.** The following classrooms could use a little extra help:

### K – 4 Grade : Workshop Rotation –

This multi-age classroom will follow a workshop rotation model. Each week the children will participate in a workshop in social justice, music, art, or science, all tied into our monthly ministry themes. We are looking for one or two assistant teachers for this class.

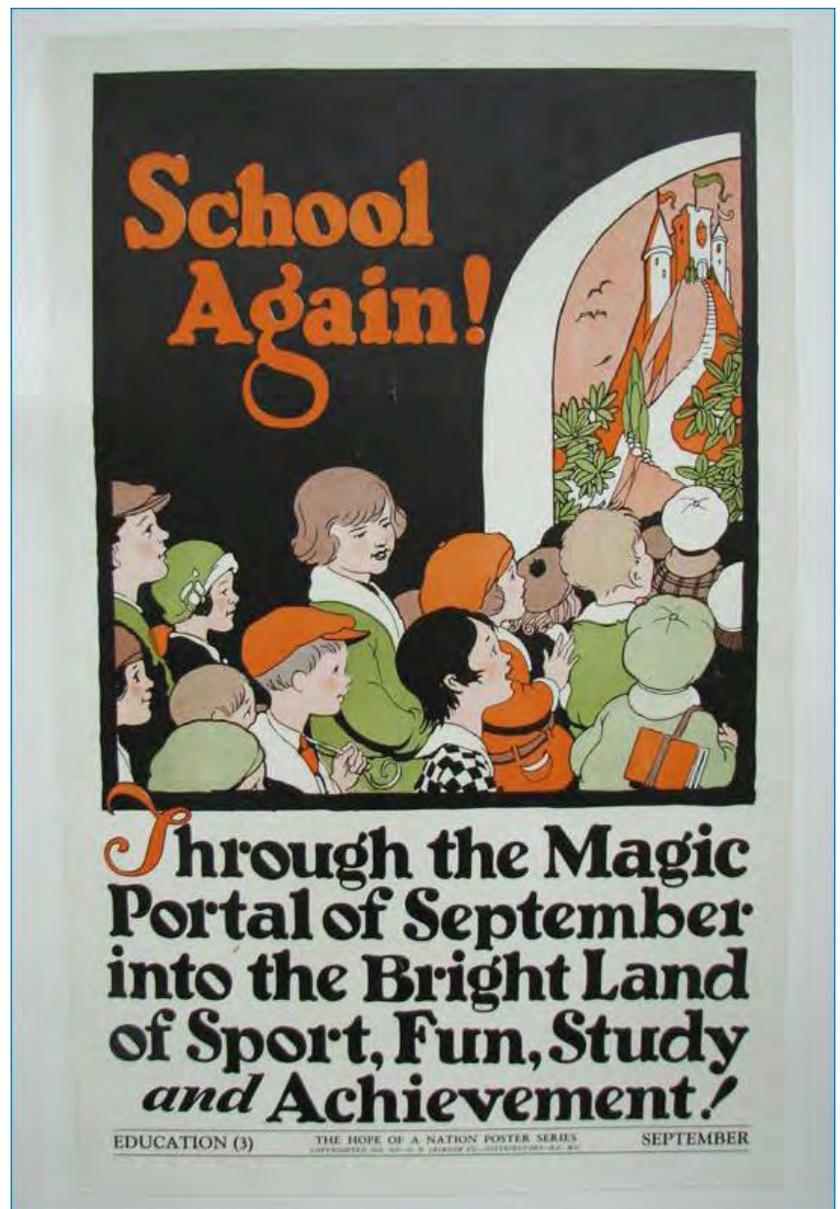
### 3 - 4 Grade : Toolbox of Faith

This classic curriculum teaches children about our Unitarian Universalist faith using tools as metaphors. We're in need of two more teachers for this classroom.

### 5 - 6 Grade : Neighboring Faiths

We would love to get one more volunteer in the rotation to help our 5th and 6th graders learn about Unitarian Universalism, world religions, and possibly accompany the class on field trips to local religious institutions.

**If you would like to help in any of these classrooms,** please email Sarah Martin at [sarahmartin@buffalouu.org](mailto:sarahmartin@buffalouu.org) at your earliest convenience!



## Adult Faith Development

Check out what's coming up in **Adult Faith Development** this fall!

### You Are Here

**Our depression support group will be moving** from the second Friday of the month **to the first and third Fridays**, beginning in September. **Join us September 1 and September 15, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm** in the Parish Hall for this group-led support experience, centered around Jenny Lawson's wonderful **"You Are Here"** coloring book.

### Intro to Unitarian Universalism

**We are now offering this class in two manageable sessions.** Our instructors, Shaun Doyle and Julie Taylor, will share with you all the information you need in order to understand our place as Unitarian Universalists in the world and join our church community!

### Intro to UU

**Through tracing your own spiritual journey, you will discover what place you may have** in the rich history of Unitarian Universalism. Find out what we are all about in this interactive two-hour course.

**Saturday, September 2, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon**, Alliance Room

Free of Charge

### Pathways to Membership

**Learn about how you can become a member of the UUCB and meet some of the key people** who make our church so special. *This class is required in order to become a UUCB member.*

**Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon**, Alliance Room

Free of Charge

### Stories of Your Life

**The indefatigable Fran Manly is open to starting a second section of her popular Stories of Your Life memoir-writing class.** If you are interested in taking this class, we would love it if you could take a moment to fill out the following survey so we can best serve all interested parties when scheduling this class:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFN22K8>

**Also coming this fall:** Sufism-Mysticism, Prayer Beads, and offerings from the Alzheimer's Association! **Stay tuned!**

**Register for any of our classes here:** <https://goo.gl/forms/BifW7AZWVSJ9Bm3u2> or at the Religious Education Table on Sunday mornings.



**In this crazy, exasperating world,  
there's only one thing to do...**



**(Okay, two things. And science has proven singing in a choir will help you stay calmer – seriously, we're not making that up.)**

**~ Talk to Dan or any choir member ~  
email [music@buffalouu.org](mailto:music@buffalouu.org)  
or call 885-2136**

# Beyond the Hedge

## Denomination and Interfaith Connections

Sharon Walker



**This year eight of us were able to attend this year's Unitarian Universalist Association "GA";** Josh Layton, Sarah Martin, Rev. Joan, Jeff Lowry, Tony Keller and myself. This was truly a year of transition for our denomination. We have our first woman President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray. Our three interim Co-Presidents, the Reverends Sofía Betancourt, William G. Sinkford, and Leon Spencer with grace and inspiring leadership laid the groundwork this spring for an assembly that held a mirror to us. Recognizing the reflection back showed one of white privilege and institutionalized white supremacy and that we are not living up to our values, we began the work that lies ahead. Each of us were inspired with what we saw and experienced; please stop and ask us about our time at "GA". Bringing it all home: Look forward to UUCB Common Reads and workshops, along with Church and Cluster events that are outgrowths of "GA".



## WNY Cluster: "Unitarian Universalists of Western New York"

Upcoming Events (you can also follow us on Facebook)

**October 14, 2014**

**10:30 am – Cluster Steering Committee Brunch with Rev. Renee Ruchotzke – site TBA**

This meeting of representatives of our Western New York Congregations will be looking at ways for us to know one another and work together better. If this interests you, please contact me at [sharonw447@gmail.com](mailto:sharonw447@gmail.com).

**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – "Leadership is a Team Sport" with Rev. Renee Ruchotzke – UU Church of Buffalo**

Parish Hall, accessible, free

Workshops to include: Board Basics, Restorative Practices with Circles Training, and Adaptive Leadership.

Presenters: Karen LoBracco, our own Sarah Martin, and Sheila Shue.

## Save the Date(s)!

### February 24, 2018

#### UUs of WNY Cluster-sponsored Social Justice Conference with the Rev. Kenny Wiley. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Morning keynote with Rev. Wiley. Afternoon breakout session themes will build on the themes of “Beloved Community”, “Soul Work”, and making this a key part of Unitarian Universalism. Specific topics and workshops to be finalized soon.

### February 25, 2018

#### UUCB Service with Rev. Wiley, 10:30 am

### June 2018

#### WNY Cluster Picnic



All Unitarian Universalists are warmly invited to attend the 191st Annual Meeting of the NYSCU

October 20–21, 2017, Unitarian Universalist Church of Albany, New York.

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert; “Climate? Change?”

Registration information will soon be available at [www.NYSCU.org](http://www.NYSCU.org)



## Faithfully Bringing Forth Justice

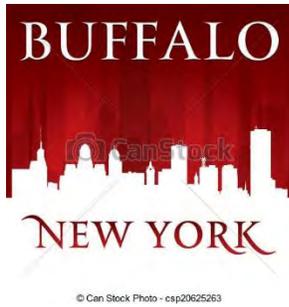
### VOICE-Buffalo news

**Rev. Joan is a very active member of the VOICE-Buffalo** Clergy and Church Leadership Caucus.

Monthly board meetings are represented by Sharon Walker, and Marjorie Girth.

### VOICE Task Forces

**How can you be involved?** In October there will be an opportunity fair after church dedicated to the task forces of VOICE-Buffalo. Look to our new Social Action Sunday team for more information on this in the coming weeks.



# THE NEW YORK STATE OF MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING THE EMPIRE STATE

MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR

13 New York Ideas that Changed America!

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo**

**695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, New York**

**13 Sessions**

**Wednesdays – 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**September 6 – December 13**

**\$75 for Course or \$10 per Session**

**Phone: 885-2136 email: [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org)**



Niagara Falls, Chautauqua Institution, the Roycroft Movement,  
and more!!

Wednesday Mornings with Michael: NEW COURSE ABOUT YOUR STATE HERITAGE!

# THE NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING THE EMPIRE STATE

13 New York Ideas that Changed America!

**MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR**  
week by week syllabus

- Session One (September 6):** Upstate – The Erie Canal and the Transportation Idea  
No Class September 13-
- Session Two (September 20):** The Leatherstocking District – James Fenimore Cooper and the Western Frontier Idea
- Session Three (September 27):** Palmyra – Joseph Smith and the Mormon Idea
- Session Four (October 4):** The Hudson Valley and the American Landscape Painting Idea - Thomas Cole and Frederick Church
- Session Five (October 11):** Seneca Falls and the Woman’s Rights Idea – Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony
- Session Six (October 18):** Native Sons – New York State and the Presidential Idea [incl. Martin van Buren, Millard Fillmore, Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt]
- Session Seven (October 25):** The Southern Tier and the Chautauqua Movement Idea
- Session Eight (November 1):** Rochester – George Eastman and the Kodak Idea  
No Class November 8-
- Session Nine (November 15):** Niagara Falls – Nikola Tesla and the Hydroelectric Power Idea
- Session Ten (November 22):** East Aurora – Elbert Hubbard and the Roycroft Idea
- Session Eleven (November 29):** Thousand Islands, Adirondacks and Catskills – Love, Life and Laughter [Boldt Castle, Saranac Lake and the ‘Borscht Belt’]
- Session Twelve (December 6):** New York City – The Schubert Brothers and the Broadway Idea
- Session Thirteen (December 13):** Albany – William Kennedy and His “Albany Cycle” Novels

**Congressman Brian Higgins to Speak at Women's Society Luncheon Meeting on September 21**



**The UUCB Women's Society is pleased to welcome Congressman Brian Higgins** as our speaker on September 21 at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall. He is expected to speak on "Growth, Redevelopment and Gentrification in Buffalo". 

**Rep. Higgins represents the 26th Congressional District**, which includes the cities of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lackawanna and parts of Erie County. In the U.S. House of Representatives, he is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on the Budget. He serves as co-chair of the Revitalizing Older Cities Task Force.

- **Refreshments:** 11:00 am – \$3
- **Rep. Higgins:** 11:30 am - 12:15 pm
- **Q & A:** 12:15 - 12:30 pm
- **A catered luncheon** will be served after a brief Women's Society meeting.

**Luncheon:** Women's Society members - \$15; non-members - \$20; Rep. Higgins' talk only - \$5 for non-members of the Women's Society. Lunch reservations may be paid for after the church service on September 10 and September 17 or by mailing payment to the Church Office with "Women's Society" in the memo line of your check. The check must be received in the Office by Friday, Sept. 15.

**N4KO:  
"Not for Knitters Only"**



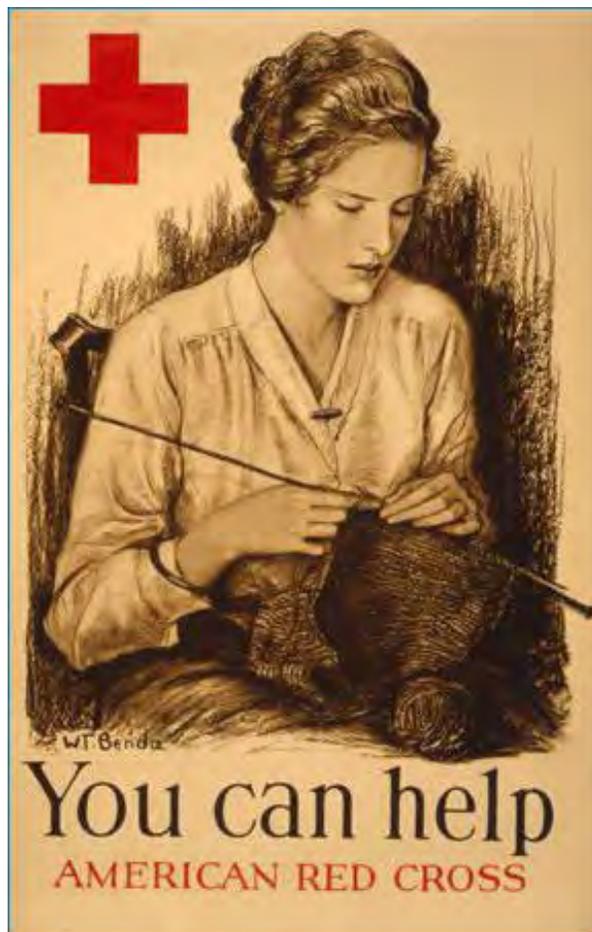
Facilitator: Sharon Walker

**We're Back and ready to stitch (or hook).**

**We'll be on our usual schedule;** the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the usual time, **about 6:30 to 8:00 pm**, and in the usual place, the Marge Gardner Meeting Room. **Please join this "Not for Knitters Only" group on September 12.** Church membership not required. For more information, email [sharonw447@gmail.com](mailto:sharonw447@gmail.com).

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

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



## Universal Access and Inclusion News



In the last newsletter we mentioned anticipated new signage for designated disabled parking spaces. There are now two new spaces on the South, opposite, side of Ferry. A metered space has been added on Elmwood at the west side corner of Ferry, this is free on Sundays. Finally the two spaces on Ferry in front of the Church have been aligned with the sidewalk.

UAIM along with the Fixed Assets team is moving ahead with our plans to create comfortable and appropriate Sanctuary seating for folks who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. On Sunday, August 20, we created the pew configuration that has been proposed. This is been accomplished by moving pews. We will leave the pews in this configuration until after Service on September 3. The pews will be returned to their original location until the selected pews are removed and ultimately cut to our desired specifications.

When the pews are rearranged we will take photographs and have drawings created to allow the whole congregation to see the proposed pew configuration. We will provide these materials in electronic distribution as well as having an enlarged version available in the Parish Hall.

Both the UAIM team and the Fixed Assets team recognize that reconfiguring Sanctuary seating needs to be carefully considered. Our goal is to have the widest possible distribution of our proposal and we welcome and encourage questions, comments, and concerns. Please contact Steve Wixson at [wixsonsg@gmail.com](mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com) regarding your thoughts.

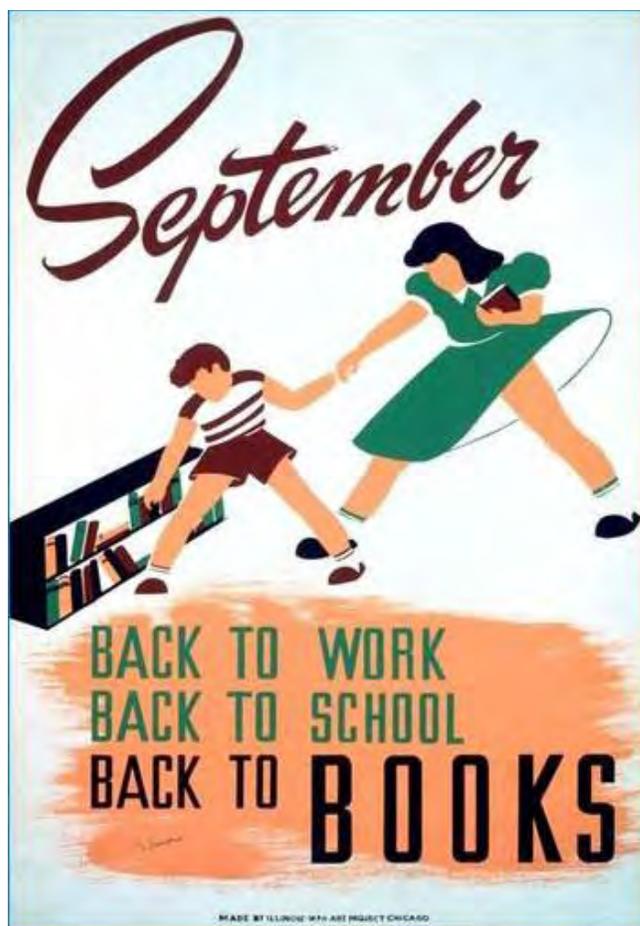
## UUCB BOOK GROUP



Meeting Monday, September 25 at 7:00 pm

We will be discussing Philip Roth's dystopian classic, *"The Plot Against America"*.

Newcomers who have read the book are always welcome to join us. Everyone who plans to come needs to tell our host-of-the-month, Beth ([bflabeth7@gmail.com](mailto:bflabeth7@gmail.com)) so that she may plan for refreshments and seating.





Charlottesville, VA, August 12  
including Unitarian Universalist Association President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray (© 2017 Nora Rasman/UUA)

**We gather in loving community ~ inspiring one another ~ to transform ourselves  
to create a more just and compassionate world**

# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

**695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo New York 14222**

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

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Su Lee  
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**A chalice alit since 1831**

**A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places**