

The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather

Inspire

Transform

January 2018 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave . Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 www.buffalouu.org



Faith Matters:

What does it mean to be People of Intention?

Rev. Joan Montagnes

A well-lived life is not for the faint of heart. It is infused with self-examination, humility and action. A well-lived life is intentional. In other words, you don't shrug off the responsibilities of living in community just because you want to, because it would be easier, or because you can. A well-lived life understands the network of mutuality in which we find ourselves and acts accordingly. A well-lived life is intentional about what matters. In the United States today, that means being intentional about race. It means recognizing the centrality of race in our efforts to build the beloved community.

Theologian Cornel West reminds us:

To engage in a serious discussion about race in America, we must not begin with problems with black people but with the flaws of American society – flaws rooted in historical inequalities and longstanding cultural stereotypes...As long as black people are viewed as "them" the burden falls on blacks to do all the "cultural" and "moral" work necessary for healthy race relations. The implication is that only certain Americans can define what it means to be American – and the rest must simply "fit in."

As people of intention, we have a lot of cultural and moral work to do.

- While whites make up roughly 62% of the US population and about 49% of those who are killed by police officers, African-Americans make up only 13% of the US population yet account for 24% of those killed by police.
- African-American students were more than 3 times as likely to attend schools where fewer than 60% of teachers meet all state certification and licensure requirements.
- African-Americans have the highest poverty rate at 22%, and non-Hispanic whites the lowest at 8.8%. The poverty rate for African-Americans and Hispanics is more than double that of non-Hispanic whites.

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. If we are ever to begin to right the wrongs and bring about the community of justice and peace that we seek, we need to be intentional about keeping race central in our efforts.

Yes, there are other real forms of oppression, and they all intersect, and those of us in the dominant culture will never dismantle the oppressive structure and powers of evil if we do not also come to terms with racism. We will not survive in a society of “us” and “them.” We will not survive in a society that is defined by a small majority of the people. No society ever has. We belong to each other.

Let’s live intentional lives together. Let’s pick up the cultural and moral work that is ours to do. Let’s live well-lived lives and create a better future for our neighbors today and the generations yet to come.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes



Joys and Sorrows



We send healing thoughts to Dana Gerace who is recovering from back surgery and will soon undergo another similar procedure.

Our thoughts are with Shaun Doyle’s mother, Grace, who also underwent back surgery this month. Reports of her recovery are excellent.

Our hearts are with Paulette Notaro’s husband, Peter, who broke his leg this month. Many wishes for a speedy and uneventful recovery.

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD

WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES



Pulpit Previews



What does it mean to be a People of Intention?

Worship Schedule

January 2018



January 7 Who Leads the Revolution? Rev. Joan Montagnes

A moral movement for change will put human faces on injustice. It will amplify the voices of the oppressed. How can we help without taking over?

January 14 Faithful Interactions Sarah Martin

We strive to honor the legacy and sacrifice of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by doing our part to help bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

January 21 Stepping into the Breach? Rev. Joan Montagnes

You can sit around for years and years and do nothing. Suddenly, often without any conscious effort on your part, you are called to action. All you have to do is dive in. *This sermon was purchased at the Service Auction by Eve Holberg.*

January 28 If You Build It, They Will Come Rev. Joan Montagnes

Do you ever get the feeling you aren't welcome? People with disabilities are greeted with barriers all the time. Our Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry Team asks, "How can we widen the circle of hospitality in our church and in our hearts?"



January 2018 Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



We begin 2018 by asking ourselves, “What does it mean to be a community of intention?” Our church’s Music Ministry seeks each month, each season, and each service to share music of depth, substance, power and innate communicativeness in a manner that is both holistic and intentional.

This month of January, opportunities to connect music to services which represent rallying cries for our dearest values, beginning with Rev. Montagnes’s sermon on Revolution, to Religious Education Director Sarah Martin’s MLK weekend service, finally closing the month with our Universal Access and Incision Ministry Team.

Our service music will include an introduction to our ‘house band,’ featuring Paul Zanolli and friends. We’ll hear soloist Michael Harris’s powerful setting of “*We Shall Overcome*”, as well as Gordon Light’s contemporary hymn, “*Draw the Circle Wide*”. The UUCB Choir continues their holiday break during the first week of the month, but then comes back in full force on the January 14 with a service highlighting both the MLK holiday and a musical reflection on the Neighboring Faiths curriculum of our Religious Education program.

We look forward to sharing our music with each of you.

**And mark your calendars for the Choir’s annual Valentine’s Fundraiser Dinner
Saturday evening, February 10!**



All I insist on,
and nothing else,
is that you should
show the whole world
that you are not afraid.
Be silent, if you choose;
but when it is necessary,
speak -- and speak in
such a way that people
will remember it.

-- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

January 27 is Mozart’s birthday!

January 18 Women's Society Luncheon

Chuck LaChiusa — "From Soaps to Riches" – 11:30 am

Chuck LaChiusa, Board President of Explore Buffalo and docent, will tell the fascinating story of Larkin Soap Company founders, John D. Larkin and Elbert Hubbard, and their relationship with architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Before Chuck's talk, refreshments will be available 11:00 - 11:30 am (\$3 donation).

Chuck will speak from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm (\$5 for non-UUCB Women's Society members). No reservations are necessary for the talk alone.

A catered lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. Cost: UUCB Women's Society members - \$15; non-members - \$20. Lunch may be paid for after the church services on January 7 and 14 or by mailing a check (made out to UUCB) to: Church Office, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. Write "Women's Society Jan. Luncheon" on the check's memo line. The check must be received in the Church Office by noon on Friday, January 12.



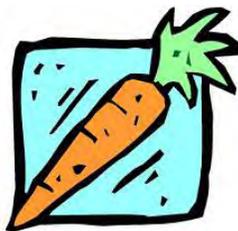
Annual Covenant Group Pot Luck Dinner - Join Us!

The Annual All-Church Covenant Group pot luck dinner will be held on Sunday, January 21, 5:00 – 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Members of existing groups and anyone interested in learning more about Covenant Groups and what it is like to participate in a typical covenant group session are invited to attend the potluck dinner.

Covenant Groups are an integral part of many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Groups of 8 - 10 people meet monthly to reflect and share about various life topics and in the process, participants

build deep connections with one another, the congregation, and with the sacred.

If you would like to attend the Pot Luck Dinner on January 21, please bring a dish or beverage to pass. Families are welcome to the dinner and child care will be available immediately following the dinner. If you require child care, we will need to know in advance and as soon as possible so we may make the necessary arrangements. For more information, stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall following the worship service.



Beyond the Hedge
Denomination and Interfaith Connections
Sharon Walker

Save the Date(s)!

February 24 - 25, 2018

Participate in our Cluster Event on Saturday. Then come and hear Kenny Wiley at our 10:30 am Sunday service. Theme on Sunday – White Supremacy: grappling with the human cost not only to people of color but its cost to us all.

See the next page for the Saturday, February 24 Cluster Event with Mr. Wiley.

June 20 - 24, 2018, Kansas City, MO



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“All Are Called”

“Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, ‘How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?’ The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. Together, we’ll ask:

Who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively?

How are we called to act and to live?

How does our Unitarian Universalist legacy strengthen us in living out our mission? In what ways does our legacy present challenges and impediments to answering our call?

The call of our faith has a place for each of us. Join us in Kansas City to build courageous, collective leadership with tools, skills and connections.”



CC Adam Johnson Flickr

Diving into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice:

An Experiential Conference

Racial justice is a spiritual practice. Experience this in a day of stories, dialogue, activities, and song so that we can transform ourselves, our congregations and the world. Kenny Wiley will guide us through what it means to create authentic diverse community.

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 24, 2017

9am – 4pm

Cost: Sliding Scale \$25-\$65

UU Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14222

Kenny Wiley is a third generation Unitarian Universalist from Houston Texas who lives in Denver, Colorado. Along with being on the **Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective**, he is a *UU World* senior editor and program director for congregational engagement at the **Interfaith Alliance of Colorado**. His writing has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and *Skyd Magazine*.



Racial Justice Ministry Team News and Events

Racial Justice Ministry Team (RJMT) invites you to mark your calendars for the following activities:

Sunday, January 14, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, UUCB, **“Doctrine of Discovery – Unmasking the Domination Code”** documentary film followed by discussion.

Discussion led by Agnes Williams, Seneca, Coordinator at Buffalo-based Indigenous Women’s Initiatives (Souper Sunday, childcare available).

Dakota filmmaker Sheldon Wolfchild's compelling documentary is premised on “Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery”, a book based on two decades of research by Shawnee/Lenape scholar Steven T. Newcomb. The film tells the story of how little-known Vatican documents of the fifteenth century resulted in a tragic global momentum of domination and dehumanization [read racism here]. This led to law systems in the United States and Canada and elsewhere in the world that are still being used against Original Nations and Peoples to this day.



On the weekend of February 24 and 25, The Racial Justice Ministry Team is co-sponsoring, with Denominational Affairs, Kenny Wiley, co-founder of Black Lives of UU, for a Cluster Event on Saturday and then Sunday’s service. See the Beyond the Hedge page and flyer, above.

All Welcome, Please come to our meetings, second Wednesday of each month

- January 10
- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9



Black Lives Matter banner coming!

The Preservation Board of Buffalo has approved our sign, on the condition that it be placed vertically on the building, with the idea this would be more ascetically pleasing and better suit the architecture.

The BLM implementation team is working with Zoom graphics on the banner design.

Stewardship News

As of mid-December, we have received about \$312,000 in pledges from 155 pledge units. We are grateful for the generosity of all who have pledged, especially those who have pledged their Fair Share, who have pledged for the first time, and who have increased their pledges. But we still have a way to go to reach our goal of \$385,000 and fully fund the 2018 budget.

A financial contribution of record is a responsibility of active membership and your hard-working Stewardship team makes every effort to contact each and every member as well as many others who have made financial contributions in the past (a lot of emails and phone calls!).

No amount is too small if it comes from the heart and in a spirit of generosity! Pledges range from \$10 to over \$10,000 per year and all are gratefully accepted. Live your UU values by returning your pledge card or emailing your pledge to stewardship@buffalouu.org. A healthy, liberal church will be your reward.



UUCB Book Group

January 29 at 7:00 pm – *“One Hundred Years of Solitude”* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Newcomers who have read the book are always welcome. Everyone who plans to come needs to tell our host-of-the-month, Marion, at mreslow295@gmail.com so that she may plan for seating and refreshments.

Looking ahead:

February 26 at 7:00 pm – *“The End of Your Life Book Club”* by Will Schwalbe

March 26 at 2:00 pm – *“The Little Red Chairs”* by Edna O’Brien

April 30 at 7:00 pm – *“Gateway to Freedom”* by Eric Foner



UUCB Yarnbusters N4KO

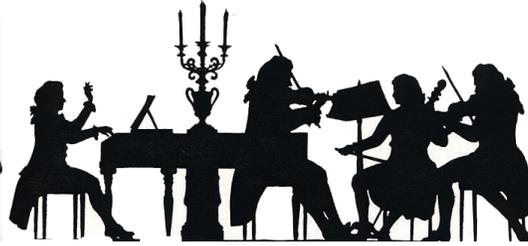
Facilitator: Sharon Walker

Happy New Year! Start the new year right and finish that project you’ve been putting off all fall. Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays at our usual time, **about 6:30 to 8:00 pm**, and place, the **Marge Gardner Meeting Room**. For January this will be **on January 9 and January 23** and open to the community. Church membership not required. For more information, email me at 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.





NEW COURSE FOR LOVERS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC!

THE SOUNDS OF INTIMACY: THE ART OF CHAMBER MUSIC

MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR



Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo NY 14222

14 Sessions: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

January 10 – April 11, 2018

Cost: \$75 for Full Course, or \$10 per Session

Phone: 885-2136 email: office@buffalouu.org



THE SOUNDS OF INTIMACY: THE ART OF CHAMBER MUSIC

MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR

If ever the statement “Less is more” were applicable, it would certainly be the case with chamber music.

Using just a handful of performers, its musical content is often more moving and profound than many works for orchestra – and yet it’s often overshadowed by music written for large ensembles. We will sample the aural delights of duets, piano trios, string quartets and other small-scale groups – musical conversations in which every player and note is important. The course will take special notice of the repertoire performed at the Buffalo Chamber Music Society (Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Shostakovich) as well as that annual WNY institution, the Slee Beethoven String Quartet Cycle. Armed with fresh musical insights, you’ll feel ready when intimacy comes a-calling!

Syllabus

Session 1 ♦ January 10	Downsizing ♦ Getting Our Chamber Music Bearings; the Early Ancestors
Session 2 ♦ January 17	The Baroque Sonata in Church and in Chamber ♦ Corelli, Handel and Telemann
Session 3 ♦ January 24	J.S. Bach and the Power of One ♦ the Cello Suites and Solo Violin Works
Session 4 ♦ January 31	Franz Joseph Haydn ♦ Inventing the Classical String Quartet
Session 5 ♦ February 7	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ♦ The <i>Galant</i> , the Jestings and the Dissonant
Session 6 ♦ February 14	Ludwig van Beethoven ♦ The Emergence of the Romantic String Quartet
Session 7 ♦ February 21	A Private Music ♦ Beethoven’s Late String Quartets
Session 8 ♦ February 28	House Music ♦ The Domestic Side of Franz Schubert and Felix Mendelssohn
Session 9 ♦ March 7	Johannes Brahms ♦ Inheriting Beethoven’s Chamber Music Legacy
Session 10 ♦ March 14	Just Plain Folk ♦ Nationalism in Chamber Music
Session 11 ♦ March 21	Chamber Music à la Française ♦ Debussy, Ravel and Poulenc
Session 12 ♦ March 28	Dmitri Shostakovich ♦ Chamber Music as a Composer’s Confessional
Session 13 ♦ April 4	The Kronos Quartet ♦ A String Quartet for the 21 st Century
Session 14 ♦ April 11	Chamber Explorations along the Silk Road ♦ Yo Yo Ma and Friends



Buffalo Outer Harbor in winter . Karen Streech

**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

Minister:

Rev. Joan Montagnes
minister@buffalouu.org

**Administrator of Facilities and
Communication:**

office@buffalouu.org

Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Martin
lifespan@buffalouu.org

Music Director:

Daniel Bassin
music@buffalouu.org

Care Network:

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

Gatekeeper:

Sara Kirkland
office@buffalouu.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Paulette Notaro
weddings@buffalouu.org

Organist/Accompanist:

Su Lee
organist@buffalouu.org

Administrator for Finance:

Donna Sentz
bookkeeper@buffalouu.org

Nursery Care Coordinator:

Morgan Silver

Newsletter:

novaheart721@gmail.com

A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places