

# The UU Church of Buffalo



*Gather*

*Inspire*

*Transform*

October 2018 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222

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



## Faith Matters:

### What does it mean to be People of Sanctuary?

Rev. Joan Montagnes

Many of us get itchy around words like “Sanctuary”. They sound... well.... just too darned churchy. Our thoughts race to soaring, gothic ceilings, choir boys in multi-layered robes, and “thou-shalt-nots” droning out from the pulpit. Words like “Sanctuary” call out to us about our puniness in a vast universe. And they make it clear, in no uncertain terms, that we are not allowed to ask questions.

But you know, there are many ways to use words and there are many ways to hear words, including the word “Sanctuary.”

Yes, a sanctuary is the holy of holies, a consecrated place such as that of the ancient Hebrew temple in Jerusalem or the part of our church where we all gather for worship on Sunday mornings. And, yes, sometimes those sanctuaries are built to inspire awe and humility, but not always.

The word “sanctuary” can also mean a place of protection such as a wildlife refuge or a place where you can go to be safe.

In some instances – think “*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*” – a sanctuary is both a sacred space and a safe place. You might also think of our Covenant Groups or our Religious Education ministry for children and youth.



**So, is this word “Sanctuary” really too churchy for us?** What if our church is a classroom in which we learn how to bring the sacred into our lives and then out into to world? What is it is here we learn how to create a safe place for everyone everywhere. And let’s be clear, in a safe place you are expected to ask questions and find answers.

**The democratic system is supposed to be a sanctuary of sorts.** It is supposed to keep us safe because in a democracy, everyone has equal say in decisions which affect them. No one is puny. Needless to say, this nation has never fully realized the potential of the democratic ideal, but that should not stop us from trying.

**It seems to me that today, more than ever, we need to use the word “Sanctuary” in our daily conversations.** Our dreams of democracy are seriously threatened by restrictive, inhumane immigration policies; systematic racism and white supremacy; and hate-filled speech. We, the people, need to think seriously about what it means to be in sacred, safe community.

**In our little classroom at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and West Ferry Street,** we have a number of opportunities for honing our sanctuary skills:

- **Voter Registration:** on October 6 you can register voters at Sweetness Seven on the West Side, talk to a SASE representative in the Parish Hall to sign up
- **Peace Circles:** restorative explorations of differences and how to achieve justice. Every second Tuesday at 6:00 pm
- **Circle Services:** Sunday night discussions of the Sunday Services, every Sunday at 7:00 pm
- **Theme Exploration Discussions (ThED Talks):** conversations about what you got out of the monthly themes, after the service on the last Sunday of each month

**The Word “Sanctuary” is not too churchy for us.** A sanctuary is something to strive for, and once achieved, it is a word to cry from the bell towers so all can hear!

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



## Joys and Sorrows and Thank You’s



**Our deepest sympathies go to Carol and Bill Wolfers and their family.** Their son, Robert, passed away after a two-year battle with cancer in September 1. We held a service celebrating his life on September 29.

**Don Behr is back in fine fettle after a stressful surgery and house move all at once.** We are glad that everything went smoothly as it possibly could.

**Congratulations go to Liz Clark.** Liz is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York. Thank you Liz for all your work for the common good.

**We thank Paulette Notaro for her years of service as our Wedding Coordinator.** Paulette managed nervous grooms, blushing brides, yards of bride's maid dresses, bounteous best men's boutonnières, untold unity candles, and flashy photographers with aplomb and grace. It has been wonderful having her help couples get off to a great start.

**And we send the utmost gratitude to Lawrence Congdon** who is resigning as our Newsletter Editor. Lawrence wrangled late submissions, found appropriate clipart, corrected spelling and grammar, arranged articles, set up style sheets, and basically brought our monthly communication to a brand new level. Thanks Lawrence!



**Pulpit Previews**  
**What does it mean to be a People of Sanctuary?**  
**Worship Schedule**  
**October 2018**



**Oct 7 Yearning to Breathe Free      Rev. Joan Montagnes**

Lately a lot of us feel like we have been holding our breath, steeped in so much fear that we hardly know which way to turn. This why we join in religious community, to widen our vision and increase our strength. You are not alone and together we can find a way to breathe free.

**Oct 14 Discovering Sanctuary      Rev. Joan Montagnes**

Take some time this morning to visit the temple of your heart. A reflective service to rest on the forming moment of the day. Open yourself to the stillness.

**Oct 21 Tiny Sanctuaries      The Memoir Writing Group**

We all know about the big room we call the Sanctuary, but we may not have noticed that there are tiny sanctuaries, like virtual tiny houses, throughout our congregation. We can find one anywhere a group has developed the trust that enables members to feel safe sharing their deep thoughts, fears, and wonderings. Members of our Memoir Writing Group will share their experience in creating sanctuary for themselves and one another through writing and reading the stories of their lives.

**Oct 28 Live in Possibility      Rev. Joan Montagnes**

Gloria Steinem said "Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning." Isn't that fun? It's stewardship Sunday!  
What do you dream of?





# October Religious Education and Events

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

## Religious Education

**We are entering our month of Sanctuary at UUCB** and I've been thinking a lot about what I'd like to see this program grow into for our children and youth. I've been part of an online conversation recently about Religious Education programs in various places and the demands of sports and other activities on families when it comes to making time for church. Some folks choose to see it as an either/or situation. A youth has to choose church over sports or that youth's priorities are in disarray.

**Families are so busy now, and even families with two parents often find both parents working** and juggling the demands of school and extracurriculars. Our homeschooling families frequently have incredibly full calendars, with too many potential events to possibly attend in the space of a week. Families with multiple children are doing all this several times over, and in opposite directions.

**It's true that we only see your young people for four hours a month.** And within that four hours, we have such limited time to work with them, to help them participate in the creation of their own faith formation, and most importantly, to get to know them. But we also know the innumerable benefits that children and youth receive from being part of team sports, or other activities like theater and music. Our youth who are involved in these projects are reaching out, making connections and bonds, and finding themselves part of something bigger. Sound familiar?

**As we move from the month of Vision to the month of Sanctuary, I think I have a clear idea** of what my vision for our RE program should be. I want this place, and this community we are all a part of, to be a sanctuary for our children and youth. I want their religious education teachers and church members of all ages to know who they are, what they love to do, what they're passionate about. I want this beautiful UUCB community to feel like home to them. For them to know we understand that when they are not here, it is because they are expressing a deep and important part of themselves, and that there will always be space for them to return when they are finished. I want them to understand that we are always rooting for them, from the stands or from a distance.

**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo has something amazing and magical about it** when it comes to retaining the involvement of our youth. We have a striking number of religious education teachers who are former students from this program. Our paid nursery care provider was also a student here. Recently, we lost one of our most excellent Our Whole Lives/Coming of Age volunteers (yes, another former RE student) when she accepted the position of running the Faith Development program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst. We are growing involved and active young people of faith here at UUCB, and I hope to see our program continue to support them as they choose to do things in this world that take them outside of our church walls.



## Adult Faith Development

We have a lot of offerings in Adult Faith Development this Fall! Here are just a few!

### Practical Mysticism: Sufi Journeys of Heart and Mind

**Sundays, beginning October 7** and running for 8 weeks

12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Community Room

Suggested Donation: \$15-\$30

**In this course, we will examine the practical aspects of Sufism in our everyday life**, especially focusing on meditative, philosophical, and psychological practices that have relevance and meaning in personal spiritual journeys. There is an option to receive a course certificate upon completing all four terms. For non-certificate attendees, attendance and assessment are not required.

Course Instructor: Dr. Yunus J. Kumek, Buffalo State University

### Understanding Special Education

**Tuesday, October 23**

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Alliance Room

Join us for this free workshop for parents of school-aged children with disabilities. You will learn:

- What is special education and where do you start?
- The steps in the special education process
- What to expect at meetings of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Preschool (CPSE)

This workshop is sponsored by the Parent Network. Light snacks will be provided.

To reserve your spot, email [info@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:info@parentnetworkwny.org) or call 716-332-4170

### Red Cross Pediatric and Adult CPR/AED/First Aid Training

**Saturday, November 17**

9:30 am – 4:00 pm (there will be a meal break)

Parish Hall

Cost: \$99

There are a limited number of spots available in this important, life-saving training. Contact Sarah Martin at [lifespan@buffalouu.org](mailto:lifespan@buffalouu.org) to register!

### Pathways to Membership

**Saturday, October 20**

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Alliance Room

Free of Charge

**Learn how you can become a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo** and hear about the many ways you can participate in church life! Meet some of the people who make this church so special.

*This class is required for membership at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo.*

Free Breakfast snacks will be provided.

Course instructors: Julie Taylor and Shaun Doyle

Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/N9Rn53dthwVRqJgp2>

If you need childcare, please email [lifespan@buffalouu.org](mailto:lifespan@buffalouu.org)

### UU Class Conversations

**Saturday, November 10**

10:00 am - 3:30 pm (Lunch will be provided)

Parish Hall

Suggested Donation: Sliding scale between \$20-\$45. (If you can afford more, please consider doing so; it allows others to participate!)

How do class and classism, race and racism shape our lives, our social justice work, and our UU organizations? And how do we make changes toward becoming more inclusive?

Through this workshop, we will:

- Explore class and race in our lives and congregations.
- Examine whether people from different classes and races experience our faith differently.
- Look at ways to expand our welcome tent for wider participation and increase congregational membership.

Presented by UU Class Conversations

Contact Sarah Martin at [lifespan@buffalouu.org](mailto:lifespan@buffalouu.org) to register!

# October 2018 Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



**This October we gather to find *Sanctuary*.** Our monthly musical offerings will consist of choral favorites, popular and operatic solo songs, classic modern anthems of our Unitarian Universalist tradition, and some requisite brass-and-keyboard duos to set the tone or send us on our merry way.

**The month begins with Rev. Joan Montagnes' October 7 sermon, *Yearning to Breathe Free*,** and on this service we will offer up Irving Berlin's setting of Emma Lazarus's "*The New Colossus*" – "*Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor*" – as well as a recent UUCB Choir popular anthem, Phillip Phillips' "*Home*".

**On October 14 our sermon is *Discovering Sanctuary*,** which will feature Alto Soloist Helen Lowry in "*God Help the Outcasts*" from the musical, "*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*" (which, incidentally your Music Director will be conducting for the debut performances of *Starring Buffalo* later that week at the Buffalo State Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall). Our Choir will sing Leonard Bernstein's "*Take Care of this House*" alongside a setting of the "*Tantum Ergo*" hymn by Anton Bruckner.

**Our new Memoir Writing Group will be featured in our October 21 service, *Tiny Sanctuaries*.** UUCB Choir favorite composer Z. Randall Stroope's evocative, "*Prelude to Peace*" will be featured alongside another "*Tantum Ergo*" setting by Bruckner. Anton Bruckner, much like Bach, was a lifelong church musician, whose devoted religious practices brings something of a diary-like impact when comparing his multiple settings of a given church work. We hope that hearing the similarities and contrasts between this week's setting and the previous week's can highlight a musical parallel to the act of writing one's memoir. Bob Dylan's "*Shelter from the Storm*" will also be heard that Sunday, in Bass Soloist, Michael Harris's rendition.

**Finally, we close out the month with *Live in Possibility*, our Stewardship Sunday.** UU Composer Mark David Buckles' settings of our Seven Principles will be on display, as well as Soprano soloist Jessie Downs' interpretation of an aria from Puccini's opera "*Madama Butterfly*".

Wanted:

Tenor Soloist  
-Section Leader

Part time

competitive  
base pay

See Dan



**Beyond the Hedge**  
**Denomination and Interfaith Connections**  
**Sharon Walker**

**Board Development Days**

October 6, Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, 10 E Park St, Albion, NY 14411

A day for congregational teams (board members and clergy) to explore and learn together.

- Are you looking for ways to build or rebuild trust within your congregation?
- What would it look like if your congregation moved from an “I” to “We” understanding of itself?
- Are there questions that could break open new possibilities in your congregation?
- What if it is not so much about our governance systems but who we are as leaders?
- How do we stay centered in times of change? And aren't they all times of change?
- Would clarity about roles and responsibilities free up some new energy in your congregation?

**Come explore** these topics with others.

**Schedule:**        1:30 pm - Time for Individual Board Planning  
                          4:30 pm - Share Plans and Closing  
                          5:00 pm - Safe Travels!

**Cost is \$15 per person.**

**[Register Now](#)**

Registration deadline is October 3, 2018.

**UU Class Conversations: UUs getting real about privilege and access**

**“Create Justice-Not Walls: Class and Race in UU Settings”**

A WNY Cluster Event hosted by UU Church of Buffalo; November 10, 2018; 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Participants will explore:

- how class and classism, race and racism shape members' lives, the life of the congregation, and its spiritual and social justice work;
- how people from different classes and races experience our faith;
- ways to make our congregations more inclusive;
- ideas for expanding our welcome tent and increasing congregational membership;
- how we can open our movement overall to wider participation.
- Registration information to be announced soon!



## The 192nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists

October 19 – 20, 2018 – [First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 109 Waring Rd., Syracuse NY 13224](#)

Keynote: [Gretchen S. Sorin, Ph.D.](#) “Driving While Black: African Americans on the road in the days of Jim Crow”

All Unitarian Universalists are warmly invited to attend.

**Annual Meeting/Conference Fee:** \$25 pre-register, \$30 at the door

**Directions:** [firstuusyr.org/directions/](http://firstuusyr.org/directions/) Set GPS for 109 Waring Road, Syracuse

**Housing:** Homewood Suites, 6006 Fair Lakes Road, East Syracuse, NY; 315-433-1009, x604 – hot breakfast, business center, fitness center, pool

Rate is \$119/\$129 night if reserved by October 1, 2018. Use NYS or NYSCU for group rate.

Home hospitality is available for \$40/night. Email [firstuusyr.org](mailto:firstuusyr.org) or call 315-436-6308

We recommend [on-line registration](#).

You may also [print a form and register by mail](#).



## Faithfully Bringing Forth Justice

### Peace Conference and Peace Circle Practices

Sponsored by VOICE-Buffalo and the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition

**Peace Conference, First Thursday of each Month**

**R Healin Center, 1057 Kensington Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215**

**October 4, 3018**

Registration and refreshments at 5:00 pm

Peace Conference Practice; 5:30 - 7:30 pm

**Peace Circle, Second Tuesday of each month**  
**UU Church of Buffalo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. "Alliance Room", 695 Elmwood Ave.**  
**October 9, 2018**

Registration and refreshments at 6:00 pm  
Peace Circle Practice; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Wondering how you could help with creating alternatives to arrest and suspensions?** Consider becoming a Peace Circle/Conference facilitator. Using Restorative Practices to create effective changes in our criminal justice system, Peace Circles build community while Peace Conferences can be used in situations where a harm has been done that needs repair. With that in mind, you are invited to experience and take part in our monthly Circle and Conference practice sessions that build community and take on real issues.

**Information on training to become a certified facilitator is available at each session.** For more information on the Peace Circles taking place at UUCB email [uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com](mailto:uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com).

**VOICE BUFFALO AND BILT PUBLIC MEETING: WE DEMAND ACCESS NOW!**

**October 25, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Elim Christian Fellowship Church, 70 Chalmers Ave., Buffalo NY 14214

**VOICE Buffalo and BILT will host a joint public meeting with local and state officials on October 25, where we will demand commitments on the following issues:**

- **Move the DDSO from West Seneca to a central location in Buffalo** that is on a bus route and easily accessible to people with disabilities
- **Address the abysmal 26% graduation rate** for English Language Learners in the Buffalo Public Schools

**These changes must be made immediately** because folks in our community are currently being denied equal access to jobs and services, and to a supportive, high-quality education. It's a matter of human rights!

**When those of us with disabilities struggle to get to the DDSO to access the services we need to be independent, we are denied our fundamental right** to self-determination and agency over our lives, as well as their right to equal access guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act. When our children, who are immigrants and refugees, lack the resources to learn while adjusting to a new language and unfamiliar culture, we are denied the right to a quality education.

**Come to Elim Christian Fellowship Church on October 25** and raise your voice for Access, Inclusion, and Justice!



## VOICE Buffalo Sustainers Breakfast

November 15, 8:00 am - 9:00 am

**Dismantling systems of oppression is hard work, and it requires funds.** We aren't a big foundation with lots of wealthy supporters. But we, too, can FUND the change we wish to see in the world through the power of grassroots organizing!

**Join us for our annual Sustainers Breakfast** to learn how YOU can be a part of our mission to faithfully bring forth justice and make Buffalo a city where everyone can thrive. For the cost of your morning coffee, you can send leaders from your community to training. For a few dollars a month, you can help us pay the professionals who support our leaders in this work and cover the cost of the marketing tools we use to get the word out. And we'll even have you out the door in time to get to work!

**You might be asking yourself, how powerful could a few dollars be?** But what if 100 people gave \$5 every month? Together, their \$5 donations add up to \$6,000 every year—*that's more than any bank gave to VOICE's banquet this year.* What if 200 people gave \$10 every month? That's \$24,000 per year—*more than the average foundation grant to a small nonprofit.* We don't have to be Fortune 500 CEOs to build power and win. We just need people who care to commit what they can afford to this fight.

Together, we WILL change the world, starting right here at home. Are you in?

Find out more about VOICE activities by clicking the Newsletter button from the home page of the VOICE Buffalo website at <https://voicebuffalo.org>.

For more information on the Denomination and Interfaith Connection events listed in this month's newsletter please email: [uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com](mailto:uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com) unless noted otherwise.

## Memorial Service for Becky Moffett

Saturday, October 13, 11:00 am

**A memorial service and reception for our dear, long-standing choir and church member, Becky Moffett, will be held at the UUCB, Saturday, October 13, at 11:00 am.**

She died peacefully at her new home in Morgantown, WV, on July 18, at age 90. Becky is survived by her husband of 66 years, Warren C. "Moff" Moffett, her brother, two daughters, four grandsons, and her brother. In May, she and Moff moved to West Virginia to be closer to her daughter, Kathy.

**If you would like to volunteer to help with the reception,** please contact Lucy Sloan, [lsloan4525@aol.com](mailto:lsloan4525@aol.com) or Nancy Wilkins, [nlaurienwilkins@yahoo.com](mailto:nlaurienwilkins@yahoo.com).



## UUCB Women's Society's October 18 Luncheon with Jim Heaney

UUCB Women's Society's October 18 Luncheon Speaker is Jim Heaney, Investigative Post's Editor and Executive Director. Jim will speak on "Watchdog Journalism in the Era of Shrinking Local News Coverage". Jim and his staff distribute their investigative reporting on 2 on Your Side (WGRZ-TV), WBFO, Capitol Press Room, in The Public, and on [investigativepost.org](http://investigativepost.org).

Refreshments – 11:00 am (\$3 donation)

Jim's talk - 11:30 am

Luncheon - 12:30 pm.

**Cost:** \$5 for Jim's talk alone, for non-members of the Women's Society (members are free) at the door. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for Women's Society members, \$20 for non-members. Lunch may be paid for on October 7 and 14 at the Women's Society table in the Parish Hall after the service or by mail (note the early mail-in deadline). Send a check made out to "UUCB" to Church Office, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. Important: write "Women's Society Oct. lunch" on the check's memo line. Your check must be received in the Church Office by noon on Friday, October 12.



## Stewardship News The Generous Community

**As UU's, we are called to make the world a better place with our deeds, our hard work, and yes, our money.** We may not all be wealthy, but we can all be generous. Giving of ourselves, from the heart, feels good!

**There is so much to accomplish in the world, and it may feel like our individual contributions are just a drop in the ocean.** But a lot of drops make up the ocean. Just look at what we – together - accomplish here at UUCB:

- **We are a proud beacon of liberal religion**, displaying the Black Lives Matter banner without fear and with a large contingent marching gleefully in the Pride Parade (to many cheers from our community)
- **We educate children in free thinking, moral values, sexuality, and appreciation of our beautiful world** so that they grow up to be really awesome adults (look at all the former RE kids currently teaching RE and holding leadership roles in our church!)
- **We support a wealth of community organizations with Share the Plate**, raising awareness and encouraging volunteerism as well as raising money
- **We provide emotional and tangible support to people who need it** – when they are struggling and just in general. We are a family!

**October marks the start of our Giving Campaign for 2019.** We invite all members and friends who believe in our mission to give generously of your time, talent, and yes, your treasure. Perhaps this year you can make a 'stretch' gift to help us meet our ambitious financial goal of \$400,000, a 4% increase from last year. Stuff wears out, but UUCB has been here a long time and with your help, will be here for a long time to come.

## Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC)

**The Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC) promotes restorative practices by providing information, training,** technical assistance to individuals, organizations, institutions and communities to build strong positive and inclusive relationships through dialogue. When a harm, conflict or crime occurs ECRJC provides community members with the skills, training and support necessary to resolve the harm in a peaceful way providing dignity and worth to all participants. We seek to promote social, economic and racial justice. By partnering with others, we create environments where children, and adults can live, learn, work, play and thrive. We envision communities where through relationship building and community dialogue we will create healthy environments of trust, mutual understanding, shared values and behaviors that bind us together and make collaboration possible.



**Currently, ECRJC has trained thirty local schools and one thousand community members.** We have partnerships with many organizations across our city. We are collaborating with Buffalo Public Schools and modeling a whole school RP implementation plan at PS #43 Lovejoy for the entire district. At Harvey Austin Community School, we are assisting Say Yes Buffalo and the Matt Urban Center to provide a restorative process for social/emotional learning coupled with youth event planning and entrepreneurship. Hosting a youth summit is also in our near future and there will soon be an opportunity to pilot a restorative justice conference process for our youth who will now enter Family Court with the passing of Raise the Age legislation. As part of our advocacy work we have held three Restorative Justice Days at the University at Buffalo, participated in Peace Hubs, done research on the effectiveness of restorative circles to change communities, spoken at countless conferences, and met one-on-one with anyone who just wanted to talk. These are just the highlights – we know if one is suffering in our community we are all suffering in some way. Restorative practices is a way where everyone has the opportunity to be seen and heard.

## Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry (UAIM) News

**The UAIM team members** (Tony Keller, Janie Kustreba, Lynn Mancuso, Sue Mann-Dolce, Sophia Roberts, Ginny Vaughan, & Steve Wixson) **would like to extend a BIG Thank You for all who contributed** to our recent fun-raiser or made a donation for the Pew Improvements.

**UAIM would like to apprise you on some upcoming events.**

- **October 10 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm** – Jason Goldstein from Service Bridge will be speaker to the UAIM Team regarding how our congregation can be more inclusive to people with hearing impairments. Everyone is Welcomed!! The meeting will be in the Alliance Room.
- **There will be two events for people to check out the accessible voting machines.** These machines can be used by anyone. The print can be enlarged and you vote using a touch screen.
  - **September 26 from 12:00 - 1:30 pm** at SEIU, 2421 Main Street, Buffalo.
  - **October 18 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm** at the Museum of Disability. 3826 Main Street, Amherst. NY State 67th District Senator Robert Ort will be in attendance and there will be a mock election using the voting machine.
- **October 25 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm** – VOICE-Buffalo will have a city-wide meeting with elected officials. Accessibility is the main focus of the meeting, so please support. The meeting is at ELIM Christian Fellowship, 70 Chalmers, Buffalo.



## Covenant Group Ministry News

### A Covenant Group May Be Just What You Are Searching For: We Are Welcoming New Members!

**The Covenant Group Ministry is preparing to welcome new members to our groups this Fall.** During Sunday worship services in October, group members will be sharing their reflections on their Covenant Group experiences. After each service, we invite you to spend time at the Covenant Group Ministry table in the Parish Hall to talk with group members and facilitators who can answer questions and register you for upcoming introductory events.

**Covenant groups are for both church members, as well as those who are considering whether UUCB may become their church home.** Each group, consisting of 8 committed members, with two trained facilitators, meets monthly. Topics relate to the monthly ministry theme and encourage deep reflection and broadening awareness of personal spirituality and connection to others both within the church and in the greater community.

**Each month, participation in a Covenant group offers the practice of presence, the courage of compassion, and the gift of listening.** We welcome each other as we return to the safe sacred space that we have created together, where we can reflect, share and deeply listen. Below is an often-used closing reading that reflects the sanctuary provided by commitment to a Covenant Group:

“Grateful for the opportunity to share this time and space together, we prepare to go now our separate ways, ...renewed by the energy of each other’s company, ...invigorated by the opportunity to communicate compassionately. As we have grown while were together, may we also grow while we are apart, may we be strengthened by the inspiration of the connection which we forged together today. And may we remain so strengthened, until we meet again. “

**The Covenant Group program is an established small group ministry in UU churches all over the country.** If you are interested in learning more, please stop by the Welcome table during September where you can pick up a brochure and talk to a representative. Throughout October we invite you to spend time with us at the Covenant Group Ministry table. Save the date for our annual pot-luck on November 4. You may also contact us at [covenantgroups@buffalouu.org](mailto:covenantgroups@buffalouu.org).



## Social Action Sunday Events (SASE) – What are we doing?

**This is the second year of our SASE program. Did you know that SASE stands for Social Action Sunday Events?** The goal of the SASE team is to engage as many members of our congregation in some type of social action activity as possible. Every month we plan to offer folks different opportunities to engage outside our walls, to impact our larger community.

**Our Ideal plan is to align the Soul Matters theme of the month along with the Share the Plate recipient and tie in our social justice activities for that month.** We plan to have a postcard writing Sunday each month, generally the first Sunday but not always. We hope to have our Share the Plate recipient identify who we should be writing postcards to and what the message should be. It is also our ideal to have our social justice activities benefit our Share the Plate recipient. Whether all the alignment works out as we might hope we will have to see but we will keep at it and provide social justice activities every Month.

**On Saturday, October 6, there will be one last opportunity to volunteer at our Voter Registration table which is at Sweet\_Ness7 Café at 220 Grant Street.** A sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Table. We feel that by encouraging citizens to vote and giving them the opportunity to be properly registered we are enhancing our democracy. This also reflects our Unitarian Universalist Fifth Principle: *“The right of*

*conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large”.*

**In October our Share the Plate recipient will be the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition.** We will be writing postcards in support of their efforts. **On October 13 and 14 ECRJC will be holding a training workshop** for anyone interested in becoming actively involved in restorative practices.

**On Thursday, October 25, Voice-Buffalo will be having a Public Meeting from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.** The focus of the meeting will be to community issues. The first is getting the state government to fund the moving of the Developmental Disabilities Service Office from the former West Seneca Developmental Center to a location in Buffalo, on a bus route. The second issue is related to educational services to immigrant children in the Buffalo Public School system. **I would ask everyone to come to this meeting.** Voice-Buffalo will be asking politicians, potentially the governor, and other decision-makers to attend. It's important that those politicians and decision-makers there are many who are in support of these issues.

**Finally, we are a small team and would welcome anybody who would like to help** shape the direction that Social Justice activities will take this year.

**Steve Wixson, SASE Chair**

### Renew You Membership in the Women's Society (or Become a New Member)

**Membership dues are \$20.** Sign up at the Women's Society table in the Parish Hall after Sunday services.





## Wednesday Mornings with Michael

# *LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AMERICAN MAESTRO*

**Michael Harris, Instructor**

14 sessions in the UUCB Alliance Room

**Wednesdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, from September 5 to December 12 (No class session on September 19).**

**Registration: \$75 for course, or \$10 per session; make check payable to UUCB. To register or for more information, call the Church Office at 885-2136.**

In 1943, when the 25-year old Leonard Bernstein made his spectacular Carnegie Hall conducting debut with the New York Philharmonic, a new classical music star was born – proving that a native American could lead a major symphony orchestra. The multi-faceted Bernstein excelled, not only on the conductor's podium, but also as a pianist, composer, lyricist, essayist, educator and, famously, as an Emmy Award-winning television personality. In 2018, when we celebrate Bernstein's centenary, we'll take the full artistic measure of this musical genius. As the "West Side Story" song goes: *"Something's coming, something good!"*

### Week-by-Week Syllabus

Session One (September 5)	Becoming Leonard Bernstein – Youth, Education, Early Compositions
Session Two (September 12)	Overnight Sensation – Carnegie Hall Conducting Debut, <b>Symphony No. 1 (Jeremiah)</b> and <b>"Fancy Free"</b>
September 19	<b>Yom Kippur – No Class Session!!</b>
Session Three (September 26)	A Helluva Town! – Leonard Bernstein's New York – <b>"On the Town"</b> and <b>"Wonderful Town"</b>
Session Four (October 3)	Orchestral Lenny – <b>Symphony No. 2 (Age of Anxiety)</b> , <b>Facsimile</b> and <b>Serenade (after Plato's "Symposium")</b>
Session Five (October 10)	Bernstein on Stage and Screen – <b>"Peter Pan"</b> , <b>"The Lark"</b> and <b>"On the Waterfront"</b>
Session Six (October 17)	The Best/Worst of All Possible Worlds – <b>"Candide"</b>
Session Seven (October 24)	East Side/West Side/Worldwide – <b>"West Side Story"</b>
Session Eight (October 31)	Bernstein the Conductor Part I – New York Philharmonic Years
Session Nine (November 7)	Bernstein the Educator – <b>Omnibus</b> , <b>Young People's Concerts</b> and <b>"The Unanswered Question"</b>
Session Ten (November 14)	Bernstein the Conductor II – <b>"Mahler: His Time Has Come"</b>
Session Eleven (Nov 21)	The Jewish Bernstein – <b>Symphony No. 3 ("Kaddish")</b> , <b>"Dybbuk"</b> , <b>"Chichester Psalms"</b>
Session Twelve (November 28)	Things Get Broken: <b>"Mass"</b> and <b>"1600 Pennsylvania Avenue"</b>
Session Thirteen (December 5)	Bernstein the Conductor III – Freelance Years/Deutsche Grammophon
Session Fourteen (December 12)	The Personal Bernstein – <b>"Trouble in Tahiti"</b> , <b>"A Quiet Place"</b> and <b>"Arias and Barcarolles"</b>

# RAISE YOUR VOICE

**With People with Disabilities  
for Access to Jobs and Services**



**With Refugee and Immigrant Students  
for Access to an Excellent Education**

**JOIN US TO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICIALS  
ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY!**



## PUBLIC MEETING



**OCTOBER 25TH 2018**

**6:30-8:00PM | Doors Open 6:00PM**

**ELIM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
70 CHALMERS AVE  
BUFFALO, NY 14214**

# CHOC- TOBER FEST

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 20TH  
6PM-9PM

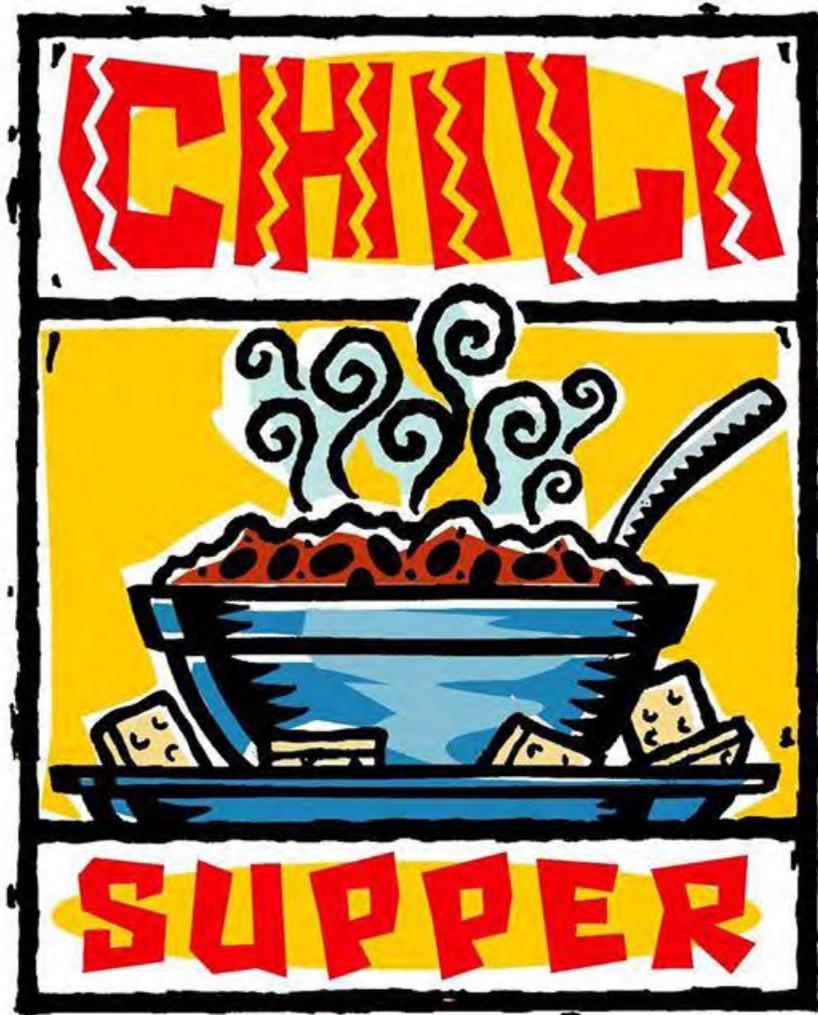
RESURGENCE  
BREWING COMPANY  
1250 NIAGARA ST,  
BUFFALO, NY 14213

Join Family Promise of Western New York  
for drinks, chocolate, raffles and good  
company and help us fight family  
homelessness in our community!



Early Bird Tickets  
\$25.00 at  
[www.fpwny.org](http://www.fpwny.org)





## Join us for a Chili Extravaganza!

Meaty - Meatless - from Traditional to Exotic !  
With the added deliciousness of salad, cornbread,  
and Mexican Sundaes!

There will something for everyone!

**Saturday 10/6/18 5:30 PM**

**UUCB Parish Hall**

**\$15 over 12 yrs old – Kids eat FREE !**

**(ask about scholarships)**

**BYOB if you wish.**

Save the Date!

**Covenant Group Ministry Pot-Luck**

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 – 8:00 PM**

**Parish Hall**

**Join us for the Annual  
Covenant Group Ministry Pot Luck**

Just be a member or friend of the church, with a dish or beverage to pass, and you're in!

Fellowship and food aren't the only things that will be shared. We will answer all of your questions about Covenant Groups, like: What is a "covenant," anyway? And what on earth is "Deep Listening"?

At dinner you will have the opportunity to meet new people, including the facilitators of each group, and deepen relationships with old church friends.

After dinner, we will experience a Covenant group session together. If you find it interesting and want more of the experience, we will gladly find a place for you.

To find out more about this event or Covenant Groups in general, stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish hall or e-mail us at [covenantgroups@buffalouu.org](mailto:covenantgroups@buffalouu.org).

**Hope to see you then!**

## Widows and Widowers Circle

### A gathering of Women and Men who have lost their partners

**Description:** This group will meet once a month starting Sunday September 30 after church at noon (room to be announced).

**We will gather for support**, nurturing and sharing coping ideas for those of us who have lost partners.

**"Bringing grief out of the shadows is our spiritual responsibility ...our sacred duty"**  
(Weller: *"The Wild Edge of Sorrow"*)

**Bonnie Collins is a family therapist and a widow herself.** She will facilitate the group. **Call her for further information** and/or to sign up. (716 648 4455)



## Endowments Monthly October Announcement

**At the October 21 Sunday morning service, we will pause to honor those individuals who have provided for the church's long term viability and vitality** through a gift to UUCB's Endowment Fund. A plaque bearing the names of those who have remembered the church in their legacy plans will be dedicated in their honor.

**We are most grateful to these visionary members** whose presence, in a very real sense, will continue to grace us as a result of their generosity that will contribute to the well-being of their beloved community in perpetuity.



## UUCB Book Group Meeting on Monday, October 29, at 2:00 pm

We'll be discussing the Nigerian classic novel *"Things Fall Apart"*, by Chinua Achebe.

**Newcomers who have read the book are always welcome to come.** Everyone who plans to come needs to let our host-of-the-month, Wilma ([wrc@buffalo.edu](mailto:wrc@buffalo.edu)) know so that she may plan for seating and refreshments.

### Looking ahead

**November 26** – 7:00 pm – *"Winesburg, Ohio"* by Sherwood Anderson

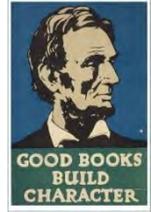
**December** – No Meeting

**January 28** – 2:00 pm – *"Elephant Whisperer"* Lawrence Anthony



## Women's Society Used Book Sale

We are looking forward to the annual book sale every spring, and are always collecting your books, i.e. hardbound and softcover books of all topics, children's and young adult books, art books, puzzles and games, books on CD. Please, no reference books or encyclopedias. If you have questions, contact Joyce Bol at [joukjebol@gmail.com](mailto:joukjebol@gmail.com).



## Turn your clutter into clear vision, better hearing, and renewed hope

Your Women's Society maintains a collection bin year-round to receive your un-needed eyeglasses, sunglasses and hearing aids. The bin is located in the Garden Entrance foyer on Sundays and in the Parish Hall during our Thursday luncheons September - April.



## Non-Perishable Food Items for the Food Pantry

Please Bring a Non-Perishable Food Item for the Food Pantry each time you come to church year-round. The donation box is in the Garden Entrance foyer.



**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

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Communication:**

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**Nursery Care Coordinator:**

Morgan Silver

**Newsletter:**

[newsletter@buffalouu.org](mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org)

**A chalice alit since 1831**

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