

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

November 2018 Newsletter



Gather ~ Inspire ~ Transform

695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222 * Phone: 716-885-2136, Website: www.buffalouu.org

What does it mean to be People of Memory?

Rev. Joan Montagnes



Crack open the Tofurky and the pumpkin pie! Bring out the apple cider and the dressing. Tip and tail those green beans and sprinkle a few toasted almonds on top. It is time to feast! There is a nip in the air. Leaves are fleeing the trees to make way for winter. Surround yourself with a thick comforter of family and tuck in. Whew! We made it through another brutally refulgent summer and now it is time to thank our lucky stars for the abundance in our lives by stuffing our faces.

Here's a childhood memory for you: remember learning the story of the very first Thanksgiving? Way back in 1621, the first Pilgrim immigrants and Wampanoag First Nations People gathered at Plymouth to rejoice in good food, fellowship and to celebrate the harvest?

Remember that?

Well, apparently that first Thanksgiving was repeated all over New England throughout the 17th century. The Pilgrims were so grateful that they had survived that first year that they held big feasts commemorating their success every year afterwards. After all, who doesn't like a party! But there's more to the story. Perhaps one of many stories we don't remember as well as we might.

Listen to this. The national holiday we celebrate these days owes a whole lot to Presidents Washington and Lincoln. Washington, at the urging of Congress, commended to state governors a day of thanksgiving in the fall of 1789. This became an annual custom for Washington and his successor, John Adams.

Our buddy, and aspiring Unitarian, Thomas Jefferson, broke the pattern. He saw the Thanksgiving



celebration of his predecessors as a religious holiday. This violated Jefferson's strong need to divide church from state, so during his presidency he put the kibosh on Thanksgiving (booo!). What a spoil sport.

Lincoln, however, said, "To heck with that!" (I am paraphrasing here) and endorsed a national day of Thanksgiving for every fourth Thursday of November from now until eternity (yay!).

That's all boring history. This is the bit in the story that we, as people of memory, might spend some time remembering.

The Thanksgiving proclamations of Washington and Lincoln included something we have forgotten. Not only did the Presidents urge us to give thanks for all our blessings; they also called us to reflect upon the nation's failings.

Washington urged that we "beseech him [God] to pardon our national and other transgressions."

Lincoln asked that all Americans, "with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged."

Imagine that. Presidents calling upon us to be remorseful. Just imagine that. I don't know about you, but my mind is a little blown.

We, as people of memory, might observe, this Thanksgiving, that our nation is again engaged in lamentable civil strife. And perhaps the worst of our strife today is avoidable. While reflecting on all our abundant blessings which fall upon us undeserved, we might also spend some time reflecting on the failings of our nation and the systems of oppression and opposition in which we live, act, move and breathe.

I would in no way discourage you from enjoying your feast day to the utmost. Gratitude is the whipped cream plopped on top of the delicious pie of life. It is important to remember our blessings.

But I would also remind you that generosity to your neighbor is a grateful response to all our blessings. May we, as people of memory, humbly remember this month and all the months ahead that the systems of oppression and opposition that create strife today, systems in which each of us participates, had their seeds in the Mayflower's landing. Let's work together to dismantle those systems and create new ways to be in community.





Joys and Sorrows

We send healing thoughts to Charlene Montgomery's nephew-in-law, Rob Vero. Rob was in a serious car accident and received multiple injuries. Although he will recover, it will be a long journey. Rob married and is the father of two young daughters, so our thoughts are with the whole family.

Zoe Bell-Schwede was also in a major car accident. Although the car flipped twice, Zoe emerged without any major injuries. She is shaken and bruised. We are grateful that the outcome was not what it could have been.

We send deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Johanne Trotter. Johanne, a longtime member of this congregation and the Amherst congregation, passed away in October.

Our compassion is with the family and friends of Dodie Locke, mother of Marty Nicotera. Dodie passed away on October 15. A celebration of her life will be held at our church on November 25 at 2:00pm.

Pulpit Previews

November 4: Memories Matter, Rev. Joan Montagnes

We hear the call to justice best through our neighbors' stories. Sometimes we hear the call best when we reflect on our own story. Memories matter because they inspire transformation.

November 11: Lest We Forget, Rev. Joan Montagnes

George Santayana told us, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Apparently, we have a lot of remembering to do.

November 18: Remembering Our Blessings, Rev. Joan Montagnes

A special Thanksgiving service. Let's pay attention to all the blessings in our lives. Let's respond with gratitude. Let's let nothing sacred slip easily through the hourglass of our lives, for the joy that isn't felt or shared, dies young.

Tuesday, November 20: 7:00pm — Transgender Day of Remembrance

Rev. Joan Montagnes and Sarah Martin

A quiet service to hold all transgender people in our hearts, especially those who have died through hatred and violence this year.

November 25: Beyond Gratitude, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich

As we emerge from a week of giving thanks, how will we turn our "attitude of gratitude" into action? As recipients of blessings, what is our responsibility to the world when blessings are so unfairly distributed? This is an ancient question. How do ancient texts and contemporary observations help us delve deeper?

November Religious Education and Events

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education



Greetings everyone! I'm taking a little break and I'll be back writing next month. Be sure to check out the "Justice Not Walls" class on page 7 (under "Beyond the Hedge") as well as our offerings below. Wishing you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Adult Faith Development



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

Saturday, November 17, 9:30 am - 4 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 to register!

Music with Michael: Leonard Bernstein -- American Maestro **Michael Harris, instructor**



14 sessions in the UUCB Alliance Room; Wednesdays, 9:30 -- 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 Church Office at 885-2136. check out the full course syllabus on the church website (scroll down) at

<http://www.buffalouu.org/adult-faith-development.html>.

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. This year, as 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!"



Music Notes – November, 2018

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



Music and memory have a very special relationship. To think that all of humanity and civilization has grown up hand-in-hand with the expressive, communicative art of music, yet we've only had the technological ability to record and playback sounds for a century-and-a-half puts things into perspective. Before then, and still today, we find ourselves drawn to those who are musical – we *know* they have the ability to transport us. Surely, we're also aware of the ephemeral nature of music; that the musical gifts we share in exist solely in that present moment. The act of experiencing music holds within it a glimpse into the formation of memory, and as musicians, our art lies in creating and re-creating memories, moment-by-moment.

The month begins with *Memories Matter*, and on that November 4th Sunday service, your UUCB Choir will present Dr. Ysaye Barnwell's "Wanting Memories", a selection from her song suite, *Crossings*. The service will also feature the song "Remember Me" from Disney/Pixar's 2017 smash hit, *Coco*.

November 11th marks the centenary of Armistice, and the conclusion of The Great War. We celebrate Veterans Day with guests from Soprano Soloist, Jessie Downs' vocal ensemble, *Sotto Voce*. That group will share a special arrangement of the hymn, Ubi Caritas ("Where Charity and Love Prevail") alongside a contemporary music protest song, "Stop the Testing" by American composer, Frederic Rzewski. Our Choir will sing Elanor Daley's "In Remembrance" and historic war songs will be given an instrumental rendition on the Cornette.

On November 18th we're in for a treat for *Remembering Our Blessings* – a trio of local jazz luminaries will provide the service music, as our Choir takes an extended Thanksgiving break to focus on our dual Music Sunday and Epiphany Sunday Bach performances. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting music feature!

Finally, we close out the month with guest preacher, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich. Our music program vocal soloists will provide the music that Sunday, featuring solo and ensemble numbers on themes of gratitude and social justice.

We look forward to sharing this music with each of you, during a November to remember!



The 2019 Giving Campaign is Underway!

We kicked off the 2019 Stewardship Campaign on Sunday October 28, with pledge packets for just about everyone, members and friends. Please stop by the table on November 4th & 11th and the friendly folks will give you yours. This year we have the ambitious goal of raising \$400,000 in pledges, which will allow us to fully fund the 2019 budget – Religious Education, Access and Inclusion, Racial Justice, Family Promise and all of the ministries of our beloved church. Will we make it? You bet we will! Although the figure sounds daunting, it is an increase of just 4% from last year's total. If everyone increases their pledge by 4% (or more!) we will have it made.

Think about what this church means to you, and to the community, in 2019 and for many more years to come. Your generous pledge of financial support to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo is a way to live your values in a tangible way.

Social Action Sunday Events (SASE) News

On September Saturdays and October 6 we had a successful Voter Registration table at Sweet-Ness 7.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in taking time to staff the table. We provided a positive presence in the community.

In conjunction with our Share-the-Plate recipient for October, the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition, we wrote postcards to members of the Buffalo Board of Education in support of full inclusion and funding for restorative justice practices in all city schools. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the Voice Public Meeting on October 25. We had a great turnout from our congregation.

In November our Share-the-Plate recipient is the Veterans One Stop center. We will be writing postcards in support of an issue they feel needs to be lifted up within the community. We are also exploring other avenues of providing support to the One Stop center. Steve Wixson



November Share-the-Plate: [Veteran's One Stop](#)

The Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, Inc. brings people, resources, and organizations together in time, space, and effort to effectively improve the well-being of all WNY veterans, current service members, and their families. We ensure barrier-free access to essential services that are an integral part of the transition from military life to civilian life. Our wide range of services include one-on-one case management, employment, financial counseling, education benefits, peer support programs, accredited benefits counseling, and housing services.

Beyond the Hedge: Denomination and Interfaith Connections

A WNY Cluster Event hosted by UU Church of Buffalo

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

UU Class Conversations: UUs getting real about privilege and access

November 10, 2018; 9:30am-3:30pm

UU Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY

Issues of race and class intersect here in Western New York, making this one of the most segregated areas in the country. In the spirit of beginning a process to become more inclusive, we are pleased to offer the following workshop. 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.

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

Registration deadline is November 7. REGISTER HERE: <https://goo.gl/forms/pipY2CjAuDpXgFKY2>

Deadline for requesting childcare is November 2.

Presented by UU Class Conversations For more information go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/552451158536358/> or email uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com with any questions!



Faithfully Bringing Forth Justice

You are cordially invited to our Sustainers Breakfast!

November 15, 8:00 am – 8:45 am

Villa Maria College, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Buffalo, NY 14225

Webiste: www.voicebuffalo.org/events, Email: events@voicebuffalo.org

Our Community Needs:

- ⇒ Accessible service for everyone
- ⇒ Criminal Justice reform
- ⇒ Restorative Justice
- ⇒ High quality public education for our kids
- ⇒ A VOICE in the decisions that affect us

**Community Organizing makes
that happen.**

**Learn how your pocket change can
fund POWERFUL change!**



Peace Conference and Peace Circle Practices

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

Peace Conference, First Thursday of each Month. Next: November 1, 2018

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

Registration and refreshments at 5:00 pm, Peace Conference Practice; 5:30-7:30 pm

Peace Circle, Second Tuesday of each month. Next: November 13, 2018

UU Church of Buffalo, 2nd Fl. "Alliance Room", 695 Elmwood Ave.

Registration and refreshments at 6:00 pm, Peace Circle Practice; 6:30-8:30 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.
- ◆ For more information on the Denomination and Interfaith Connection events listed in this month's newsletter please email: uucb.wny.specevents@gmail.com unless noted otherwise.
- ◆ Find out more about VOICE activities by visiting their website: <https://voicebuffalo.org>
- ◆ **Circle Service this and every Sunday this fall at 7 PM in the Alliance Room. Contact Edward Harris for more information: red86@hotmail.com**





**Join us for the Annual Covenant Group Ministry Pot Luck
Sunday, November 4th, 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Parish Hall**

**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? 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.

Hope to see you then!

*An Evening of
Wine, Dessert & Poetry
Friday, November 30, 2018
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.*

*End your week with a soothing and soulful evening of
wines, home-made desserts, and poetry reading
by a selection of UUCB's talented poets and thespians*

Advance Tickets: \$20

At the door: \$25

Available at the Auction Table after services For information: JW61@aol.com

Sponsored by The Auction Team

UAIM NEWS



At our October meeting, Rev Joan and the UAIM Team invited Jason Goldstein, founder of Service Bridges to speak to us. Service Bridges is an interpreter service for the Deaf. Jason is the first deaf person to be a CEO of an interpreter service agency. Most interpreter services are led by hearing persons. He truly believes that organizations for the Deaf should be run by the Deaf. The agency feels strongly that the Deaf are the best advocate for themselves.

We invited Jason to help us think about how we might become a more welcoming church to the Deaf community. He was able to direct us to area agencies for the Deaf that we could contact to assist us in outreaching to the local Deaf community.

He also made us cognizant that many deaf people believe that deafness is not a disability but a sub-culture of society. When Deaf is used with a capital D, it refers to people who identify with each other through shared language (American Sign Language) and experiences of being deaf. This is an integral belief of Service Bridges that the Deaf can and should be deciding and leading their culture. Our conversation with Jason was helpful as we consider the UAIM goal of increasing access and inclusion.

Pastoral Care & Support

The team of Pastoral Care & Support would like to remind people that the purposes of the Joys, Concerns and Sorrows Tables on Sunday are to:



- Light a candle of Remembrance or for a Wish
- To complete a Joy Card (yellow) to be read during the Pastoral Prayer
- To complete a Concern or Sorrow Card (blue) to be read during the Pastoral Prayer

Reading the Cards during the services, let people share your joy, sorrow or concern.

"A Joy shared is doubled, a Sorrow shared is halved". -A Proverb

Widows and Widowers Circle

A gathering of Women and Men who have lost their partners

Description: 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)

This group meets once a month after church at noon (room to be announced). **Our next meeting is November 25th in the Marge Gardner Room.**



UUCB WOMEN'S SOCIETY'S SPEAKER-LUNCHEON SERIES continues on November



15: The Luncheon Speaker is LISSA MARIE REDMOND, author of "A COLD DAY IN HELL." Lissa is a retired Cold Case Homicide Detective in the Buffalo Police Department. Lissa will describe the challenges and rewards of solving cases in our own City that were for so long regarded as unsolvable.

Refreshments: 11 am (\$3 donation), Lissa's talk at 11:30, Luncheon at 12:30. Cost: \$5 at the door for Lissa's talk alone for non-members of the UUCB Women's Society (members are free). The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for Women's Society members, \$20 for non-members. Lunch may be paid for on November 4 and 11 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, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. Important: write "Women's Society November Nov. lunch" on the check's memo line. Your check must be received in the Church Office by noon on Friday, Nov. 9.

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 joukjebo@gmail.com.



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



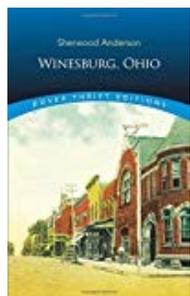
Your Women's Society maintains a collection bin year-round to receive your unneeded eyeglasses, sunglasses and hearing aids. The bin is located in the Garden Entrance foyer on Sundays and in the Parish Hall during our Thursday luncheons September - April.

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.



UUCB BOOK GROUP MEETING, Monday, November 26 at 7 PM



We'll be discussing the American classic WINESBURG, OHIO by Sherwood Anderson. 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, Sandy (628-5945 or sandyvanevery@yahoo.com) so that she may plan for seating and refreshments. Looking ahead: December - no meeting; January 28, 2 pm, RED-HAIRED WOMAN by Orhan Palmuk; Feb. 25 at 2 pm, ELEPHANT WHISPERER by Lawrence Anthony. Questions? Ellen Gibson at 882-3488.



**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

<p>Minister: Rev. Joan Montagnes minister@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Bridge Rauch office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Director of Religious Education: Sarah Martin lifespan@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Music Director: Daniel Bassin music@buffalouu.org</p>
<p>Care Network: Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 wixsonsg@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gatekeeper: Sara Kirkland office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Wedding Coordinator: Paulette Notaro weddings@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Organist/ Accompanist: We're looking! Apply here</p>
<p>Administrator for-Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Nursery Care Coordinator: Morgan Silver</p>	<p>Newsletter: newsletter@buffalouu.org</p> <p>Weekly Announcements: announcements@buffalouu.org</p>	



A chalice alit since 1831
A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

