

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

## January 2022 Newsletter

*Gather - Inspire - Transform*



### **Rev. Joan Montagnes on Sabbatical**

Rev. Joan is on sabbatical leave until March 1. Sabbaticals are for rest, recuperation, re-balancing, and re-grounding. While she is away, she will not be answering email, phone calls or texts. Meanwhile we have secured the services of Rev. Lynn Acquafondata as a Pastoral Care Minister. Rev. Lynn's contact information is 585-330-1340 [acquafondatal@gmail.com](mailto:acquafondatal@gmail.com) You may also contact our Lay Pastoral Ministers, Bonnie Collins, Karen Jarvis, Lynn Mancuso and John Marohn. All worship services will be led by our Worship Associates and some wonderful guest speakers. The Board of Trustees and the staff know how to contact Rev. Joan in case of emergency.

### **Pulpit Previews: Living with Intention**

We are currently holding in-person services at the church. For those who wish to live-stream our church services from home, click our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) link at <http://live.buffalouu.org>.

#### **Jan 2: Finding Your Voice, Jessie Downs and Jonathan Vogtle**

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds," is the radical call of Romans 12:2. Similarly, vocal pedagogue Cornelius Reid writes in *The Free Voice* that, "...growth into freedom means discarding familiar response patterns and hazarding new ones." Through pairing theological and pedagogical readings and reflections with a performance of one of opera's most infamous scenes, Music Director Jessie Downs will share thoughts on singing as a spiritual practice.

#### **Jan 9: Living the Web, Rev. Lynn Acquafondata**

A focus on COVID, global warming, human division and our profound interconnection. Exploring the wisdom of the Tibetan Buddhist leader, The Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje in his book *Interconnected*.

#### **Jan 16: The Hidden Principle, Rev. Fran Manly**

I used to think, only half joking, that our Seven Principles were just a list of the only seven things Unitarian Universalists could all agree on. In fact, they're much more than that. Underlying the Principles is a deep structure that speaks volumes about who we are, where and how we search for meaning, and what we are called to do in the world.

#### **Jan 23: The Gamble, Julie Taylor**

The truck rumbles down a road it hadn't been down in years, its bed full of old metal waiting to be recycled. "The universe will provide," the driver says, right as a never before seen scrap metal yard appears on the left. There exists a gamble between intentionally influencing the arc of the universe and trusting the movement of the universe through meditation and observation. The choice is yours—do you gamble?

#### **Jan 30: When the Parade is Over, Rev. Lisa Peterangelo**

How do we live with intention when there is no reminder? When the celebrations end, how do we lift up those on the margins in our everyday life?

## Religious Education & Faith Development News

Lisa Peterangelo, Acting Director



Happy New Year from the Religious Education ministry team. We are looking forward to facing 2022 with a renewed sense of hope and excitement and are happy to announce that RE is coming back to in-person programming.

### **Beginning January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be offering:**

Our nursery will be opened as it has been but with a new teacher. Morgan Silver has given her resignation after years of devoted service, so we are searching for an Early Childhood teacher for our beloved littles. Morgan offered years of quality service and we want to maintain that level of love and expertise. We truly wish Morgan the highest and best. Please spread the word that we are looking for a new infant/ toddler teacher.

We will be offering two classes of Spirit Play, one for ages 5 through 7, and one for the 8- year- old children. Splitting up the age groups between our two teachers keeps the classes smaller and safer. The two classes will rotate so each class will meet twice a month. We are still looking for volunteers to assist. We are also bringing back Coming of Age with the support of our newest volunteers. This class will take place every Sunday during service and run from Jan 23rd to May 22nd. They will meet in the Harper Room. Our Youth Group has been moving right along on Sundays in the Alliance Room and will celebrate their year on Youth Sunday, April 24th.

**We are still looking for volunteers to help us in a variety of ways.** Please consider being a member of this important UUCB Ministry.



We are thrilled to announce that we are starting a **Dungeons & Dragons Ministry Team**. This ministry team will oversee D&D events throughout the year for children and adults. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Lisa Peterangelo at [lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org](mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org)

### **In Adult Religious Education News:**

#### **Coming on February 13th at Noon... *Café Odyssey***

You are invited to the opening of Café Odyssey. Come and start your personal writing journey.

Since 2016, a small group of members of this congregation have bonded over our love of sharing stories. This experience has created sacred space for sharing tender memories and creating gifts for future generations to enjoy. Deep friendships have been established throughout the journey of writing, talking, and creating.

Now we are inviting you to join this journey. Please come to the Café Odyssey workshop on February 13th at noon to learn the many ways you can tell your story. We will be serving a Covid friendly lunch and starting at 12:30.

A Hybrid option will be offered for those who want to join us from home. A link will be sent out after you register.

This project is open to everyone ages 14 and up.

**To register please email Lisa Peterangelo at [lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org](mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org) by February 9th.**



## Adult Education Continued

### **IT TAKES A WOMAN ! – TAKE TWO** **Creativity from a Female Perspective** **Michael Harris, instructor**



Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222

**14 meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., January 12 to April 13, 2022, Cost: \$75 for full course, or \$10 per session**

The course will start remotely using the Zoom platform, with the option of moving to in-person meetings at UUCB. To register, send your check, made out to UUCB, to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222. (Put 'It Takes a Woman' on memo line of check.) For more information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).

Following Abigail Adam's advice to "Remember the ladies," we spot-light women's artistic creativity in all its many forms: painting (Georgia O'Keefe), poetry (Emily Dickinson), drama (Theresa Rebeck), novels (George Eliot), photography (Margaret Bourke-White) and film (Dorothy Arzner). Among those profiled will be some illustrious Buffalonians like architect Louise Blanchard Bethune and conductor JoAnn Falletta. We'll see that, in spite of gender-based roadblocks, female creativity will find a way to blossom and thrive.

#### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Session One (January 12):** It Takes a Painter 1 – Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1656) and Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)

**Session Two (January 19):** It Takes a Painter 2 – Georgia O'Keefe (1887-1986) and Tamara de Lempicka 1898-1980)

**Session Three (January 26):** It Takes a Poet 1 – Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672) and Phyllis Wheatley (1753-1784)

**Session Four (February 2):** It Takes a Poet 2 – Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) and Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885)

**Session Five (February 9):** It Takes a Photographer – Dorothea Lange (1895-1965) and Margaret Bourke-White (1904-1971)

**Session Six (February 16):** It Takes a Playwright 1 – Aphra Behn (1640-1689)

**Session Seven (February 23):** It Takes a Playwright 2 – Theresa Rebeck (b. 1958)

**Session Eight (March 2):** It Takes a Dancer – Ruth St. Denis (1879-1968) and Martha Graham (1894-1991)

**Session Nine (March 9):** It Takes an Architect – Louise Blanchard Bethune (1856-1913) and Julia Morgan (1872-1957)

**Session Ten (March 16):** It Takes a Film-Maker – Dorothy Arzner (1897-1979) and Edith Head (1897-1981)

**Session Eleven (March 23):** It Takes a Novelist – George Sand (1804-76); George Eliot (1819-80)

**Session Twelve (March 30):** It Takes a Storyteller – Eudora Welty (1909-2001) and Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964)

**Session Thirteen (April 6):** It Takes a Composer – Ethel Smyth (1858-1944); and Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)

**Session Fourteen (April 13):** It Takes a Conductor – Marin Alsop (b. 1956) and JoAnn Falletta (b. 1954) Session

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## **Folk Dancing**

Folk dancing is a fun experience for all ages. Simple dances are taught or reviewed each week. We do walking dances from 9:30-10:15, regular folk dances from 10:15-11 and more complicated dances from 11-11:30. We laugh a lot and get exercise while learning a bit about the world's cultures. No experience or skill is needed! All are welcome! Martha Malkiewicz has taught folk dancing for 6 years at the UU Church. Contact Martha at [martmalk2@mac.com](mailto:martmalk2@mac.com) for schedule.

9:30 am, Parish Hall  
Mondays

\$2.00 per class. Pay at the door.



## Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Acting Music Director



As January 2022 marks the start of Reverend Joan's two-month sabbatical, UUCB will be welcoming in a variety of guest speakers and with them a variety of musical offerings.

In weekly choir rehearsals, vocal volunteers and staff will be working on deepening key vocal and musicianship skills and preparing choral works both new and familiar to the ensemble. **If you've been thinking about returning or joining the ensemble, the start of the year might be the perfect time!**

Additionally, on **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we will be kicking off what we hope will become a **monthly Saturday afternoon concert series, featuring music performed by UUCB members and friends.** These events will be open to the general public and ticket sales will benefit both the artists and our church. If you are interested in proposing an event or helping organize this new branch of our ministry, please contact Music Director Jessie Downs at [jdowns@buffalouu.org](mailto:jdowns@buffalouu.org).

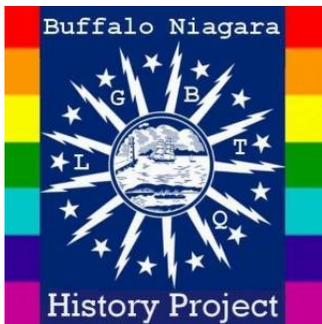
**To start off the year, Jessie has organized the January 2<sup>nd</sup> service entitled "Finding Your Voice," featuring readings and reflections about the connections between spiritual and creative practices.** The service music will follow an unusual format, with only one 15-minute musical offering in addition to the hymns, prelude, and postlude – the Mad Scene from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, which will function as an example of the potential for transcendence that can be found in the creative-spiritual practice of operatic singing.

On Lynn Aquafondata's **January 9<sup>th</sup> service**, Helen Lowry, Liam Allen, and Michael Harris will share solos from the American folk and musical theatre traditions about working towards world unity. On Fran Manly's **January 16<sup>th</sup> service**, jazz vocalist Alex McArthur will be joined by her trio of keys, drums, and saxophone, sharing with us her special gifts. Julie Taylor's **January 23<sup>rd</sup> service** entitled "The Gambler" will feature thematically apropos offerings from Helen Lowry and her band *The Bitter Nasties*, as well as a male a capella quartet rendition of a crooner classic. The UUCB Choir will close out the month on January 30<sup>th</sup> with a special choral music Sunday, featuring a complex arrangement of a Kenyan folk song.

**On Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm, the new UUCB monthly concert series will kick off with Jessie Downs's Voice Studio Recital "All the Things You Can Sing," including performances by choir members Beth White and Leo Mitchell, Music Director Jessie Downs and Alto Soloist Helen Lowry, and several other talented vocalists from the broader community.** Consider coming out to support these students - from beginners to emerging professionals - on their journeys of vocal discovery and growth, as well as to hear great music from the classical canon, interspersed with select show tunes and popular songs. Stay tuned to the weekly e-blasts for more information about this and all other January musical offerings.



## January Share-the-Plate: [Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project](#)



The Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project is a volunteer-run organization that preserves and shares the stories of Western New York's many LGBTQ communities. The primary work of the History Project is to create immersive events and educational materials that make local LGBTQ histories accessible to all. In so doing, we have three goals: to provide a more accurate account of how LGBTQ people live and build communities in Western New York, to promote intergenerational dialogue within the LGBTQ community, and to assert that local and regional LGBTQ histories matter just as much as histories originating in large coastal cities. Learn

more about us [HERE](#), or on our website at [Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project](#).

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## Please join us for the Home Again Project with Journey's End

### *With your help, we will make a house a home*

We're off to a great start! We've set our READY date! – **January 16, 2022**

That is our target date to complete the gathering of items and prepare teams for moving, cleaning, setting up and decorating the apartment on Moving Day. That day will be determined by Journeys End when they know we are ready.

We have a roster of teams dedicated to gathering furnishings, household goods and all things necessary to establish a safe and comfortable living space. **We need space for storage of large items; trucks and teams of volunteers to help transport goods to the apartment; crews for cleaning, set-up and decorating, and grocery shopping. There is a role for everyone.** Sign up in the Parish Hall after church or obtain the list of opportunities by e-mailing [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com).

It's not too late to join this life-enhancing project. For more information, to volunteer to captain a team of volunteers, or to offer your assistance wherever it is needed, please e-mail Juli Van Woert ([JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com)). ***In times like these, when the need is so great, we cannot do everything, but we can do something.*** Please join us.

**There are many ways to help and the more hands the merrier!**

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## Volunteers Needed for the Angel Project

As the coordinator of the Angel Project, I am seeking volunteers to cook a meal, provide a ride, or do a household task for others in our congregation who at times may need our support. Let us show that we are truly a loving community. If you can provide any of these services please contact me at [josettepc50@gmail.com](mailto:josettepc50@gmail.com) and leave me your full name, home address, a phone number and your email address.

Thank you, Josette Cunningham

# Coming Soon !!!



## UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction

(In-person and On-Line)

**Sunday**

**January 30, 2022**

**We've set the date:** To avoid the holiday rush, we've decided on an early 2022 date. In keeping with the times, the auction will be both on-line and in-person. The in-person event will be on **Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** before and after church. Stay tuned for details.

**Be a Donor:** It's not too late! **Deadline for donations is Sunday January 16, 2022.**

**Be a "Creative Force":** Share your ideas for how to make the 2022 Auction a success! Contact the Auction Team through Juli Van Woert [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com) and Andrea Burke-Harris [aburkeharris@gmail.com](mailto:aburkeharris@gmail.com).

**Don't miss out on the fun! Thank you for your generosity and support**

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### "NANCY'S GARDEN"

The centerpoint of UUCB's gardens, lovingly tended for decades by Master Gardener Nancy Thomas and a cadre of dedicated volunteers, are the brilliant red Dahlias. Carefully unearthed in Fall and stored for the winter, the Dahlias are re-introduced to the garden each Spring.

As a gift to the church each year, and a donation to the Fun and Fellowship Auction, Peter Sloan creates an original linoleum block print representing a revered aspect of UUCB life. This print, entitled "Nancy's Garden," captures the beauty of the Dahlias and their rich green foliage.

You have the opportunity to purchase this print, to honor not only the long-held place of our beloved church in beautifying the Elmwood Village, but the countless hours that UUCB's volunteers devote in service to the church and the community. Made-to order and shipped in a cardboard mailing tube after payment is received, prints may be purchased for \$25.00 which includes handling and postage.

Pick up an order form after church or place your order via e-mail to [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com). Include **the number of prints, the complete name and address to whom they should be mailed, and your phone number**. Send a check (write PRINT on the memo line) to UUCB, 695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. To pay by credit card, **go to:**

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=TBVBC2NA5ZH54&source=url](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=TBVBC2NA5ZH54&source=url)



## BOARD REPORT

The Board held its second **Town Hall** in December. Our centering time brought out the following words: Be curious. Be open. Make room for others. Be not just open-minded but also open-hearted. What a wonderful way to begin!

The December Town Hall briefly covered the canvass progress (more pledges are needed), Joan's sabbatical (well deserved, well covered), and information from the Gathering-in-Person Task Force (working to keep us safe). The majority of the time was spent sharing what was learned from the Listening Circles as reported to the Board from Rev. Paul Langston Daley. The discussion centered on communication - not just from the Board to the congregation, but also from the congregation to the Board. (Look for more Town Halls as places to share ideas, concerns, and congratulations.)

We are looking for people to serve on the **Strategy Advisory Committee**. People on this committee look ahead and state the priorities necessary for the congregation to fulfill its vision and mission. It is similar to a Think Tank for the church. Your input would help the church as we move into the future. Can you help or are you interested in finding out more? Let the Board know: [board@buffalouu.org](mailto:board@buffalouu.org)

**Future dates: Winter Congregational meeting - Jan. 23 after the service**

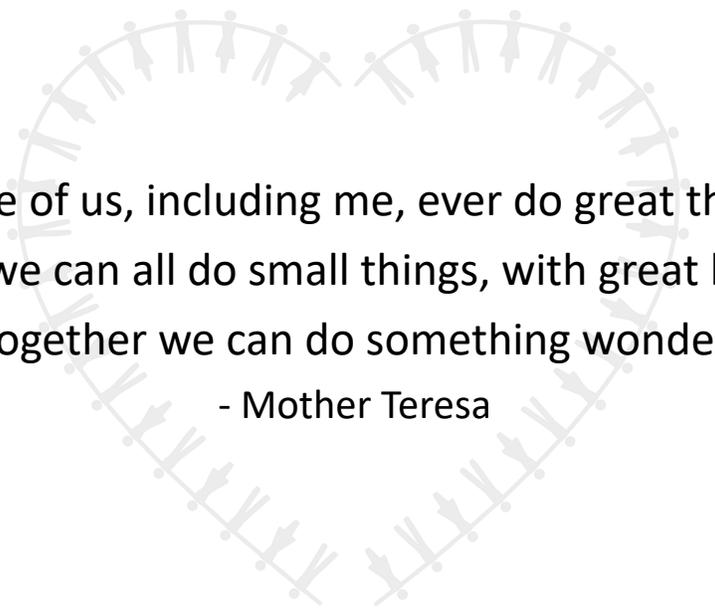
**Town Hall Meeting - February 12 - 10:00 - 11:30 am**

**Listening circles for the RE community (and everyone else) will be set up in January/February.**

### How to be in touch with your Board of Trustees:

To reach the Board, please email [board@buffalouu.org](mailto:board@buffalouu.org) or attend their meetings (3rd Wed at 7pm in the Alliance Room or via Zoom - <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/367428065>). Current Board of Trustees members can be viewed at our website here: [Board of Trustees](#).

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“None of us, including me, ever do great things.  
But we can all do small things, with great love,  
and together we can do something wonderful.”

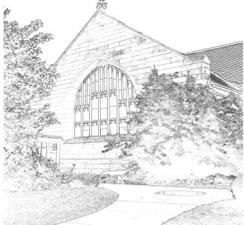
- Mother Teresa



**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)

<p><b>Minister:</b> Rev. Joan Montagnes <a href="mailto:minister@buffalouu.org">minister@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Administrator of Facilities and Communication:</b> Acting Administrator Emilia Taylor-Sweet <a href="mailto:office@buffalouu.org">office@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Acting Director of Religious Education:</b> Rev. Lisa Peterangelo <a href="mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org">lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Acting Music Director:</b> Dr. Jessie Downs <a href="mailto:jdowns@buffalouu.org">jdowns@buffalouu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Care Network:</b> Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 <a href="mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com">wixsonsg@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Gatekeeper:</b> Sara Kirkland <a href="mailto:office@buffalouu.org">office@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Administrator for Finance:</b> Donna Sentz <a href="mailto:donnasentz@buffalouu.org">donnasentz@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Organist/ Accompanist:</b> Jonathan Vogtle</p>
<p><b>Nursery Care Coordinator:</b> Morgan Silver</p>		<p><b>Newsletter</b> (submissions due by the 15th) <a href="mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org">newsletter@buffalouu.org</a></p> <p><b>Weekly Announcements</b> (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) <a href="mailto:announcements@buffalouu.org">announcements@buffalouu.org</a></p>	



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

