

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

April 2022 Newsletter

Gather - Inspire - Transform



Minister's Column: What does it mean to be a People Awakening?

Being “Woke” isn’t exactly a new thing. Way back in the 13th century the Sufi mystic, Mewlana Jalaladdin Rumi, wrote:

*The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.*

*You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.*

*People are going back and forth across the doorsill
where the two worlds touch.*

*The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.*



If we consider being “Woke” a thing that you either are or are not, we will tend to get judgy – either you are “Woke” or you are “Not Woke”. Like a light switch – on or off, binary, good or bad. Not helpful.

Rather, if we consider being “Woke” as a state of continual understanding, of continual awakenings, of continual growth, being “Woke” becomes listening to the secrets that each breeze at dawn has to tell you. It becomes a verb and not a stagnant adjective.

Being “Woke” is about an ongoing commitment to deeper learning, to increasing compassion, and to living in and building a community of ever-greater justice. Being “Woke” is about discovering what you and your neighbor really want and then asking for it until it is made manifest.

Being “Woke” is about continually passing between the world as it is right now and the world of which we dream. We pass back and forth, weighed down by the news of the day and buoyed up by our hopes for the future.

April is a wonderful month to intentionally explore what it means to be a People of Awakening. It is a perfect month to wake from our winter slumbering and spring into life again.

On Easter Sunday I’ll ask you, [“In one word, what is waking within you.” It could be anything – compassion, hope, puppy, baking, service, gardening, love, art, balance, mindfulness, peace, aging, baby...](#)

Let us be wakeful so we can rise again with the spring.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Pulpit Previews

April 3: Awakening and Dreaming, Joan Montagnes

We can only have dreams of a better world if we wake up to the ills of today. As we awaken, our dreams grow and change. It's a constant dance of grounded awareness and uplifting reverie.

April 10: Honoring Your Ministry, Joan Montagnes

In the Christian Calendar, Palm Sunday was the day Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem and began his ministry. Today we will hear from four of our members about when their ministries began.

April 17: Rise Up, Joan Montagnes, Lisa Peterangelo, Charlene Montgomery

Its Easter! Lo, the World Awakes Again! This Sunday we will hold a Seed Communion. Don't worry, you won't be eating the seeds. You don't even need to bring the seeds. Just show up as your sweet self. But be ready, I will ask you "In one word, what is waking within you." It could be anything – compassion, hope, puppy, baking, service, gardening, love, art, balance, mindfulness, peace...

April 24: Declaration of Ideas and Principles, Youth Group

The Youth Group displays their manifesto through music and readings while referring to the Seven Principles and the Teenager Bill of Rights into a modern context finding how they hold up today.

Summer Sunday Services Calling all Preachers!

What a perfect year for you to lead a worship service for your beloved community. Thanks to our marvelous Tech Team, Worship Associates and Musicians we have created an easy way for you to offer your thoughts and spirit. We make it easy to put on a show. We want to hear your voice, see your face, share in your wisdom, and soar on your inspiration. And because you are a Unitarian Universalist, we know you have something to say about something.

If you are interested in offering a Summer Sunday service, you will be assigned a Worship Associate who partner with you all the way from Prelude to Postlude and everything in between. You can take on as much or as little of the service design as you like.

The Worship Ministry welcomes your submission. Just send Rev. Joan an email about your proposed service with:

Your name

Possible dates for your service – June 26 - September 4

Sermon title

A 10-50 word blurb describing your service

A 50 word biography

And if you like, an outline of your sermon so we know where you are headed.

Send your information to minister@buffalouu.org We would love to hear from you!

Joys and Sorrows

We hold in our hearts the friends and family of James Magavern. James, a long-time member of our congregation, who passed away on March 7. The memorial service will be held on April 1, at 3:00 pm at Kleinmans Music Hall.

Religious Education & Faith Development News

Lisa Peterangelo, Acting Director



If you are interested in any of the classes, projects, or other groups that we are starting, please contact Lisa Peterangelo, Acting DRE at

lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org

Religious Education is back, and everyone is happy to be together again. Since we have opened, we have had some additional families register which is wonderful!

We are still implementing Covid precautions. All children, volunteers and advisors are required to wear masks. When the policy changes, we will communicate that to families. We will also continue to have children go directly to their classrooms instead of starting in the sanctuary as we continue to encourage families to get the children and youth vaccinated.

Important Message: The Nursery will be closed until children ages 1 to 5 are eligible to be vaccinated. This is to keep everyone safe especially when the older children and teachers come back. We are sorry for this necessary inconvenience.

Stay tuned for future plans for our nursery while we await the vaccine for our littlest ones.

We Are Hiring

We need a Nursery teacher for our Infants and Toddlers. We are looking for someone with Infant/Toddler experience who is willing to work Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 1:00 PM. The position pays \$15.00 per hour. We will train the candidate and arrange for CPR training.

OWL is coming back!



Our Whole Lives is the sexuality training which is offered to multiple age groups in the Religious Education program here at UUCB. Our goal is to get adults (25 and over) trained in the elementary and secondary curriculums starting for the Fall of 2022.

RE teachers for OWL must be trained in these curriculums and there are online trainings coming up in the Spring and Summer. We need a diverse group of teachers who are comfortable with liberal sexuality discussions with youth. All RE volunteers must be given a background check.

Registration for these classes starts in March. Classes are paid for by the Religious Education Ministry team. We need volunteers to make this happen.

Announcing our new Dungeons and Dragons Ministry Team



Dungeons and Dragons is coming back to UUCB! We have formed a D&D Ministry team that will offer events for kids, adults, and families. We are also planning summer events.

We are looking for people who wish to be a part of this fun team. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact [Lisa Peterangelo](#).

Our next meeting is on April 12th. Please contact Lisa for the online link.

Adult Religious Education News!

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.

We will be offering a Hybrid option for those who want to join us from home. A link will be sent out. **This project is open to everyone ages 14 and up.**

To register please email [Lisa Peterangelo](#).



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

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$10 per session

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.

COURSE SYLLABUS—Our last two classes!

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



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 for schedule.

Mondays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall

\$2.00 per class. Pay at the door. Registration not required



Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Acting Music Director



While the choir works hard to prepare for our May 15th Music Sunday: *Sacred Sounds* – the devotional music of Francis Poulenc, solo and small ensemble offerings will grace our Sunday services. The month of April will also bring the fourth installment of the *Casual Concerts* (formerly *Monthly Recital*) series, featuring our very own bluegrass group *The Stringitarians*. Finally, at the end of the month, we will be treated to special music presented by the church's Youth.

The Sunday April 3rd Awakening and Dreaming service will feature a typical UUCB potpourri of musical styles organized around one central message – that we must wake to the dream of a better world for all. The service will start and end on some classical notes – beginning with the dreamy piano music of Debussy and closing with an excerpt from Bach's *Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme* (or "Awaken, the voice calls to us"). An a capella rendition of the spiritual "Oh, I Woke up This Morning (with My Mind Stayed on Freedom)" will move into a special Offertory arrangement of Bob Dylan's "Chimes of Freedom," with choir member Jim Jarvis offering up his guitar playing and vocals in support of peace for the Ukraine. As the Centering, tenor soloist Liam Allen will share the heartfelt musical-theatre-style number "A Million Dreams" from the movie *The Greatest Showman*.

On the April 10th service, the Music Staff will do their part to honor the stories of how different congregation members began their lives' ministries by sharing a selection of songs from Disney films. Disney protagonists' songs about overcoming obstacles - from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, and *Moanna* - can inspire us all to find the strength to answer the unique calls of our lives.

The April 17th service will feature both folksy arrangements of hymn tunes about "rising up" and the folk tune "Mary Ellen Carter" by Stan Rodgers performed by The Stringitarians – our featured recital artists the following Saturday. Additionally, the UUCB Soloist Quartet will present a celebratory classical choral piece by Samuel Coleridge Taylor proclaiming the traditional power of the Easter story and a UUCB Choir small group will share the more universal "We Rise Again" by Leon Dubinski.

On Saturday April 23rd at 2pm in the sanctuary and on our YouTube page, the Stringitarians will present their *Casual Concert* program "Homegrown Grass," a program of tunes and songs from the Bluegrass, Celtic, and Old-Time traditions. The Stringitarians are Leslie Nickerson on fiddle and dulcimer, Athena McCrory on Banjo, Fran Manly on Guitar, and Paul Zanolli on Bass. Please attend and tell (or even bring!) your friends and neighbors so that we can get the word out about these monthly events!

Finally, on Sunday April 24th, the UUCB Youth Group will lead a service entitled "Declaration of Ideas and Principles" and will be providing both the service' special music and leading the hymns. Come out to support the talents of our young people!



April Share-the-Plate: [Restoration Society, Inc.](#)



Restoration Society Inc. is a grassroots, peer run agency, dedicated to recovery for those living with homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse.

RSI enacts its mission across multiple locations in downtown Buffalo, including a housing assistance office in the downtown library. The Harbor House serves as an overnight resource center for the homeless and mentally ill. Here clients can collaborate with resource navigators to create a plan and tend to their immediate needs with amenities such as laundry, showers, and warm meals. Just a block away, the Empowerment Academy provides daytime peer support through community advocates, therapeutic groups and activities, and soft skills and employment training. RSI also coordinates the Code Blue Shelters, providing no-barrier access to shelter for the homeless during the winter months. This role allows RSI to create a pipeline toward Housing Solutions, the largest of its programs. The housing team finds customers new housing and stability within the community. RSI prides itself on connecting those disconnected from society and helping them to establish the essential elements of a stable and fulfilling life.

Update from the Board

Greetings to all! We held a wonderful Town Hall meeting on Saturday the 12th of March. Plenty was discussed and questions were asked and answers were given. One thing that stood out to the Board was that quite a few of our members had some fundamental misunderstandings about pledging. So here is a quick rundown on why pledging is so important! In late October we have our pledging Kickoff! This is when people start talking about filling out a pledge card and turning it in. But why? What is this all about? Simply put, the pledge card helps us make a budget. Even if you give to the church every month with an automatic withdrawal, or write a check and mail it in, or click a donation through PayPal, unless you have that written on a pledge card, we can not plan for our future. We need to know, through the writing of a pledge card, what you plan to donate to YOUR church in the next year! We know you have a generous heart and that you give to the church, but without that pledge, we can't be sure we will have enough to pay salary and programming and RE activities as well as that h heating bill! So while we very much appreciate all of your generous gifts, we would really appreciate it, if you would pledge what you are going to give, so we can plan. Thank You!

- John Petrocelli, Bridget Evans, Shawn Sweet, Michael Hill, Bobby Withrow, Kate Bell-Schwede

How to be in touch with your Board of Trustees:

- To reach the Board, email board@buffalouu.org.
- Attend Board meetings (3rd Wed at 7pm in the Alliance Room or via Zoom - <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97736244745>).
- To view Current Board of Trustees members click here: [Board of Trustees](#).



Easter Lilies, Hyacinths, and Tulips: A Pop-Up Fundraiser

Order your Easter Lilies, Hyacinths and Tulips today! Your lovely potted flowers will bring beauty to our sanctuary on Easter morning. After the service, take your flowers home. Decorate your table. Give them to friends and family. Plant them in your garden. Celebrate spring's blessings while giving to a good cause. Cost: \$15 per plant. Orders must be in by April 3. To place your order contact Rev. Joan minister@buffalouu.org or sign up on Sundays in the Parish Hall. Please make checks payable to UUCB and write "Easter flowers" on the memo line.

What's the BUZZ ?



UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction

(In-person and On-Line)

Sunday
May 22, 2022

We've set the date: In keeping with the times, the auction will be both on-line and in-person. The in-person event will be on **Sunday, May 22nd** before and after church. Stay tuned for details.

Be a Donor: It's not too late! **Deadline for donations is Sunday May 1st.**

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 and Andrea Burke-Harris aburkeharris@gmail.com.

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

Pastoral Care & Support Ministry Team

We are the Ministry Team who send cards to members/friend who are experiencing a Joy, Concern or Sorrow. We also write cards twice a year to members/friends who cannot attend service or social events for various reasons. Some of our members have moved to be closer to their family but enjoy receiving cards from UUCB.



If you would enjoy being part of the team or would like more information contact Ginny Vaughan at wixsonsg@gmail.com. The other members of the team are Bobbie Baker, Josette Cunningham, Jackie Knowles, and Martha Malkiewicz.

Home Again Update

We are so grateful for the \$2600 you have donated so far!

If you haven't seen the glorious posting on the Journeys End Facebook page, check it out! Not only are there pictures and accolades for the UUCB generosity of spirit, there is special mention of the beautiful Welcome card, and carefully chosen and wrapped gifts for each member of the family. UUCB has become a model of enfolding these weary families with love. It's not too late for you to make a donation to assist with rent and household expenses for the Atal family. <https://buffalouu.org/donate>, click the donate button, go down to "other" and put "home again" in the memo; or send a check to 695 Elmwood Ave., 14222, *made out to UUCB with Home Again in the memo line.*

It is the love shared by all of you that made this house a home.



We will end our fourth season with “The Runner,” the extraordinary, uplifting story of marathon runner and South Sudanese refugee Guor Maker, which rightly deserved the multiple awards it garnered on the international film festival circuit.

T H E R U N N E R

The last film of our 4th season, *The Runner*, has it all: sports, immigration issues and the violent, war-torn history of Sudan are but a few of the topics dealt with in Bill Gallagher's engrossing documentary about South Sudanese “Lost Boy” Guor Mading Maker, who fled his native country, moved to America as a refugee with his aunt and uncle and became an Olympic athlete.

Wherever you may live, let's show buffalove to our newest arrivals to the City of Good Neighbors by attending this season's virtual WNY Refugee Film Festival, Buffalo's signature cultural event amplifying the voices and lived experiences of refugees! **Register** on the website: Journey's End Refugee Services.



JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM IS RECRUITING



As we are Awakening to new life in the form of both in-person worship and better weather, we are hoping to entice a few more members to the Justice Ministry Team. During the pandemic, we have largely focused on the Share the Plate program as a way of engaging our Church in activities beyond our walls. We have been exposed to and supported worthy organizations, both familiar and new.

Now it is time to re-imagine the SASE (Social Action Sunday Events) Team model and bring enthusiasm each and every Sunday of the month. Bring your creativity to the second Thursday meeting, 6:30 PM, March 10. For the agenda and Zoom instructions, please email

Chair Hy Carrel at hcarrel@gmail.com. We look forward to working/playing with you.

Calling All Artists!

We would like to revive the Theme Art Board in the Parish Hall. We are looking for Artists who would like to design and display their interpretations of the monthly Themes. This isn't restricted to professionals. Embrace your inner child. Get crafty, go beautiful, make a collage, be inventive, interactive, 2-D or 3-D, imaginative, finger paint. It's all good. Probably each Artist would take one or two Themes per year as a super fun, creative project. Maybe your Covenant Group, RE Class or Ministry Team would like to take a on a Theme. Just let Rev. Joan know minister@buffalouu.org.



Something to make you smile: People were asked to send in a positive news story. By far the most-shared story was about a California elementary school that set up a hotline people can call to receive a pep talk from a kindergartener. **The number is 707-998-8410;** check out [NPR](#) for the story.

Always be aware that Rev. Joan's Identity can be Used and Abused!

Many emails that look like they are from Rev. Joan are not! Rev. Joan will never:

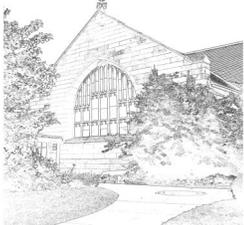
Ask you for gift cards via an email or send you an email on an account ending with gmail.com – **trust only her buffalouu.org account.** If you receive one of these emails, block the sender so they will be unable to send you any more requests. Sadly, there is nothing the church can do to stop the emails because they do not come from the church.



**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: Acting Administrator Emilia Taylor-Sweet</p>	<p>Acting Director of Religious Education: Rev. Lisa Peterangelo lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Music Director: Dr. Jessie Downs jdowns@buffalouu.org</p>
<p>Care Network: Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 wixsonsg@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gatekeeper: Sara Kirkland office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator for Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Organist/ Accompanist: Chris Sierzchula</p>
<p>Nursery Care Coordinator: TBH</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weekly Announcements (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) announcements@buffalouu.org</p>	



A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

