

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

## May 2022 Newsletter

Gather - Inspire - Transform



### Minister's Column: What does it mean to be a People who Nurture Beauty?

At first glance, we may think Botticelli's Venus, or Michelangelo's David, or Beyoncé are beautiful. And I am the last person to deny their exquisite forms. I can remember walking into an art museum some years ago and seeing a stone bust of a man that literally took my breath away, like I was actually gasping for air in the middle of the gallery.

Turns out, the bust was of a man named Antinous and I am not the only one to have found him freakishly attractive. Here's his picture.

Apparently, Antinous was the lover of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. Hadrian wasn't a bad emperor, as far as dictators go. He's probably best known for building a wall between Britain and Scotland which still stands today. Hadrian also managed to visit each and every province of his vast realm, shake every hand, kiss every baby, and put down almost every rebellion. However, on an ill-fated imperial visit to Egypt (also a Roman province at that time), the beautiful Antinous took a wee dip in the Nile River and drowned.



Hadrian was inconsolable. And, because he could, he decreed that Antinous was now a god and should be worshipped as such. Statues to the new deity began popping up throughout the empire and, given how easy he was on the eyes, Antinous became the most commonly reproduced image in the western world.

But I ask you my friends, was it his beauty that made Antinous immortal, or was it Hadrian's broken heart? For that matter, was Antinous truly beautiful, or was Hadrian's love for him beautiful?

Psychiatrist Elizabeth Kübler-Ross wrote: "The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen."

Beautiful people do not just happen. Antinous the gorgeous god did not just happen. Neither did the devoted Hadrian. Antinous and Hadrian became more beautiful because of each other and their beauty was so strong that it outlived them both by millennia.

This month, as we ask, "What does it mean to be a people who nurture beauty?" I invite you to reflect not only on that first glance – that instant that takes your breath away. Reflect also on how life's inevitable defeat, suffering, struggle, and loss have nurtured your inherent compassion, gentleness and loving kindness. How has heartbreak nurtured your inner and outer beauty. And while you are at it, spend a moment meditating on how your intentional connections with other people have nurtured beauty in everyone you know.

That stunning bust of Antinous still sits in that very same museum today. I am sure that some folk are able to walk right past it without noticing him. Others may stop for time to admire his countenance and the craftsmanship. And some may have the breath knocked out of their bodies as soon as they enter the gallery. But the real beauty, I understand now, doesn't live in the statue. The beauty lives in the story of two men and how we understand ourselves as loving, beloved, heartbroken and holy. The real beauty is a continuing story of the whole person and how we nurture all our relations this day and every day.

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

## Pulpit Previews

### May 1: Nurturing Beauty, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Beauty is always out there... pretty much everywhere. It doesn't need to be nurtured. Our problem seems to be recognizing the beauty in all things. Our difficulty lies in nurturing, not beauty, but awareness.

### May 8: So Many Ways to Love, Rev. Joan Montagnes

There is a popular notion that there are five different languages of love. Each of us understands messages of love best in one or a combination of these languages. Our congregation has them all – words of affirmation, quality time together, sharing gifts, acts of service, and physical embraces. Here you are loved and you can express and receive love in ways that make sense to you.

### May 15: Sacred Sounds, Dr. Jessie Downs

The UUCB Music Staff and Choir will present our first full-scale Music Sunday since before the pandemic began: *Sacred Sounds – The Devotional Music of Francis Poulenc*. The colorful vocal works of 20th Century French composer Francis Poulenc are at once reverent yet playful, tuneful yet dense, and illustrate themes of grief, love, doubt, and wonderment. Our usual musical team will be joined by the voices of five of the Buffalo area's best young professional singers – alto Alex McArthur, tenor Matthew Spaulding, baritone and bass Brandon and Tyler Mecklenburg, and soprano Julia Anne Cordani - as well as the outstanding student musicians of Claudia Browns's UB Chamber Singers.

### May 22: Religious Education Sunday: The Celebration of Renewal! Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

The last two years has been a challenge for the Religious Education Ministry Team. On February 13<sup>th</sup> we welcomed back volunteers and students into our classrooms. It has been a joy for everyone to be back together again and we want to celebrate it. Please plan on attending this Sunday service and show your support to our volunteers, students, and families.

### May 29: Beautiful Souls, Rev. Joan Montagnes

This Memorial Day service we invite you to bring a photo or other symbolic remembrance (medal, teacup, toy, etc.) of your loved one with a short obituary (e.g. *Caroline Pitts (1914 -2001) My beloved granny; explorer, entomologist, illustrator, cookie baker, and the best storyteller in the whole wide world. – Betty Pitts Beagle*). We will have a display of all our beloveds in the Parish Hall after the service. May they live on in our hearts and lives.

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## Joys and Sorrows

We send condolences to the friends and family of Barbara Little, long time member of our congregation. Barbara passed away on February 28. A celebration of her life will be held on May 14 at Lombardo Funeral Home in Orchard Park.

We send our love to Beryl Smith who has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. She is at home and very much at peace with having spent her life cultivating caring relationships. Beryl asks for no visitors or offers of help. Emails are welcome and she welcomes lots of good vibes from all of you.

## 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](mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org)

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### 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 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 elementary classes is June 13th.** Classes are paid for by the Religious Education Ministry team. Please email Lisa Peterangelo at: [lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org](mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org) for more information.

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**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.*

### **In the meantime we are hiring, so we'll be ready!**

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.



## 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. **Our first “one-off” will be in June!**

We are looking for people who want to be a part of this fun team. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please email [lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org](mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org) for more information.

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## Adult Religious Education News!

***Café Odyssey is up and running.*** This memoir writing group is already planning their first open invitation Café event. Please come and listen to the stories of people’s lives and perhaps become inspired to write your own. This event is open to all members of the congregation who want to come and listen. New members are always welcomed to join this creative writing journey.



### **Café Odyssey Open House:**

**Date:** Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Times:** from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Place:** Parish Hall

Coffee, tea, and cold beverages will be available. We are looking for people to volunteer to bring bake goods that are individually bagged.

Please RSVP to [lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org](mailto:lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org)

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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) to confirm schedule.



**Mondays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall, \$2.00 per class. Pay at the door. Registration not required**

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## **Save the Date**

**May 22, 2022 is RE Sunday!**

The last two years has been a challenge for the Religious Education Ministry Team. On February 13<sup>th</sup> we welcomed back volunteers and students into our classrooms. It has been a joy for everyone to be back together again and we want to celebrate it. **Please plan on attending this Sunday service and show your support to our volunteers, students, and families.**



## **Enter in Case of Brahms!**

Masterworks of a Master Composer

**Michael Harris, instructor**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo  
695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222  
12 meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

May 4 to July 27, 2022

Cost: \$75 for full course, or \$10 per session

The course will start remotely using the Zoom platform, with the option to move to in-person meet-ings 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 'Enter in Case of Brahms' on memo line of check.] For information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).

### **Enter in Case of Brahms! – Masterworks of a Master Composer**

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) once said: “Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind,” and it’s the impeccable craft and polish of Brahms’ music that impresses and astonishes us; yet the frequency of his inspired moments makes Brahms a man for all musical seasons. We’ll examine the vast variety of musical high points in Brahms’ career: from symphonies and concertos to songs and chamber pieces. There’s a reason why Brahms is so central to the classical tradition; we’ll hear the results of his search for perfection, how he took infinite pains for our listening pleasure!

#### **Course Syllabus**

**Session One (May 4): The Young Brahms – Piano Sonatas**

**Session Two (May 11): The Songful Brahms – Lieder**

**Session Three (May 18): The Spice of Life – Variations**

**Session Four (May 25): Brahms the Waltz King – *Liebeslieder***

**Session Five (June 1): Gypsy in His Soul – Popular Brahms**

**Session Six (June 8): Beethoven’s Tenth – The Road to Brahms’ Symphony No. 1**

**Session Seven (June 15): The Symphonic Brahms, Part 2**

**Session Eight (June 22): Monumental Brahms –The Piano Concertos**

**June 29: No Class Session!!**

**Session Nine (July 6): Conflict and Reconciliation – The String Concertos**

**Session Ten (July 13): The Choral Brahms -- A German Requiem**

**Session Eleven (July 20): The Intimate Brahms – Chamber Music**

**Session Twelve (July 27): Famous Last Notes – Brahms’ Late Style**

## Music Notes

### Dr. Jessie Downs, Acting Music Director



“Now is the month of maying!” joyfully cry the five merry voices of Thomas Morley’s famous 16<sup>th</sup> century ballett, and indeed there is much to feel jolly about as we enter a month of several celebratory services.

**On the first service of the month**, we will not only introduce the theme of “nurturing beauty,” but dedicate a child and welcome temporary Soprano Soloist Julia Anne Cordani. Julia will be joined by Liam, Mike, and Chris - as well as choir members Beth White and Leo Mitchell - in filling our sacred space with the beautiful sounds of jazz, Renaissance polyphony, 19<sup>th</sup> century opera, soft-rock, and modernist piano music.

**On May 8<sup>th</sup>**, members of the Buffalo Silver Band will share a selection of music as a preview of their May 21<sup>st</sup> Casual Concert program. The UUCB Choir also hopes to give a brief preview of Francis Poulenc’s masterwork *Stabat Mater*, which – appropriately for Mothers’ Day – is a sweet celebration of the feminine divine.

**On May 15<sup>th</sup>**, the UUCB Music Staff and Choir will present our first full-scale Music Sunday since before the pandemic began: *Sacred Sounds – The Devotional Music of Francis Poulenc*. The colorful vocal works of 20th Century French composer Francis Poulenc are at once reverent yet playful, tuneful yet dense, and illustrate themes of grief, love, doubt, and wonderment. Our usual musical team will be joined by the voices of five of the Buffalo area’s best young professional singers – alto Alex McArthur, tenor Matthew Spaulding, baritone and bass Brandon and Tyler Mecklenburg, and the afore mentioned soprano Julia Anne Cordani - as well as the outstanding student musicians of Claudia Browns’s UB Chamber Singers.

**On Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm**, the full forces of the Buffalo Silver Band will share a Casual Concert program that will have something for everyone - from music written specifically for British Brass Band (Montclair Citadel by Stephen Bulla) to virtuosic soloists (Hunting Wabbits featuring Diana Bley) to jazz (Opus One).

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> is RE Sunday.** This youth-oriented service will showcase the musical talents of the RE students, with the Music Staff taking on a supporting role.

**Finally, on May 29<sup>th</sup>**, we will honor our lost loved ones with touching choral and quartet offerings in acknowledgment of Memorial Day.



## May Share-the-Plate: [Save the Michaels of the World](#)



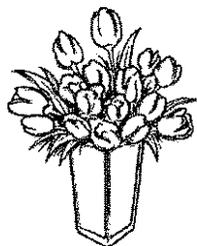
Save the Michaels of the World provides free immediate placement and transportation to treatment and wrap services for those with the disease of addiction, delivering support services to individuals and families in crisis and throughout their recovery. In 2021 we received a total of 16,535 calls regarding our various services.

## 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](mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com). The other members of the team are Bobbie Baker, Josette Cunningham, Jackie Knowles, and Martha Malkiewicz.



## Altar Flowers

Purchase an arrangement to honor your loved ones, a dearly departed family member, a birthday, an anniversary, a thank you. The flowers are displayed on the chancel on the Sunday of your choice. Your dedication will be printed in the Order of Service. You may either take the arrangement home after the service or we will donate it to the Veteran's Association.

**\$40 per arrangement. For information please contact Sandra Bissontz [smp1127@yahoo.com](mailto:smp1127@yahoo.com)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print clearly)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (please print clearly)

Date Requested \_\_\_\_\_ (please print clearly)

**Make check payable to UUCB and write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.**

**Send to the church office at 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222 with this form filled out**

\_\_\_\_ This will be an Annual gift. Preferred date: Month \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday \_\_\_ 1st \_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_ 4th \_\_\_ 5th \_\_\_

Dedication (please print clearly):

## What's the BUZZ ?



### UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction

*(In-person and On-Line)*

**NEW DATE: Sunday  
June 12, 2022**

We're trying a new on-line platform (32Auctions) to help make the Auction more efficient. We've changed the date to give us time to learn the ropes!

**We've set the NEW date:** In keeping with the times, the auction will be both on-line and in-person. The in-person event will be on **Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** before and after church. Stay tuned for details.

**Be a Donor:** It's not too late! **Deadline for donations is Sunday May 22nd.**

**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**

## JUSTICE AND BELONGING LABS

By VOICE Buffalo,  
Live Free Buffalo and  
Street Certified of Buffalo

In partnership with Live  
Free USA and Justin  
Bieber's Justice Tour

This event will include  
in-person break outs to have  
a conversation about four  
policies that directly impact  
our community. We will also  
raffle off 10 gift cards  
throughout the night!



**FRIDAY, MAY 6 | AT 6:00 PM**

**GREATER ROYAL WORSHIP CENTER**

**1335 Clinton St, Buffalo, NY 14206**

**RSVP AT [ACTIONNETWORK.ORG/EVENTS/VBJUSTICELAB](http://ACTIONNETWORK.ORG/EVENTS/VBJUSTICELAB)**

**[WWW.VOICEBUFFALO.ORG](http://WWW.VOICEBUFFALO.ORG) | [INFO@VOICEBUFFALO.ORG](mailto:INFO@VOICEBUFFALO.ORG)**

## Covenant Group Ministry News

A Covenant Group May Be Just What You Are Searching For:

### You Are Invited to an Orientation

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:00 – 2:00 PM in the (upstairs) Alliance Room**

Participation in a group offers an opportunity to explore the church-wide monthly theme in more depth, encouraging personal reflection and connection to others within the church community. Each group meets monthly for one and one-half to two hours, and consists of 8 committed members, with a trained facilitator. Some groups have begun to meet again in person, but others continue to meet regularly via Zoom. Even during our time apart, UUCB's ten Covenant groups have remained strong, with members able to stay well-connected to each other and to the spiritual heart of the church. Even members who are homebound or have moved away have been able to remain active in their groups. For many, their Covenant group has been a social and spiritual lifeline during these many months apart.

**Register for the Orientation session to learn more!**

*A box lunch will be provided for those who pre-register*

If you would like to experience the connection that our model of "deep listening" inspires, please **Register** by contacting Juli Van Woert, [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com), 716-982-5922.

**We look forward to – truly – getting to know you.**

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*With your help, we made a house a home*

### **Zoom with us for an Update on Refugees in Buffalo and the Home Again Project**

**Save-the-Date: Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 -7:30 PM**

Participating in Home Again was a great way to build community, put our values into practice, and learn about Buffalo's newest residents. Journey's End staff worked with us every step of the way. **Buffalo has reinvented itself as a haven for refugees.** But the sudden influx of new Americans from so many countries in crisis is creating a strain on services, challenged by the lack of affordable housing and never enough funding or resources. The journey has not been easy for most who arrived here. Government aid is minimal and temporary, and many come without knowledge of English.

Kathy Spillman, Journey's End Director of Marketing and Communications, will share about the status of resettlement efforts in Buffalo, as well as update us about Journey's End's Home Again experiences. To learn more, join us for an **informational Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30.** If you are interested but are unable to participate in this Zoom meeting, please contact Juli Van Woert ([JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com)) to be kept informed of any next steps. If you have particular questions you would like Kathy to address, please send them to me and I'll pass them on. ***In times like these, when the need is so great, we cannot do everything, but we can do something.*** Please join us.

Paste <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88367859643> into your (computer, phone or tablet) browser, and follow the prompts. If you are tuning in with only the audio on your phone, dial +1 646 558 8656 and enter **Meeting ID: 883 6785 9643**



## 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](mailto:minister@buffalouu.org).



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## Update from the Board

Notices from The Board 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 always high 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!

-- Bridget Evans, Shawn Sweet, John Petrocelli, 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](mailto: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](#).

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### 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:

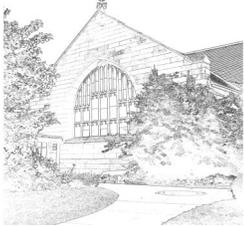
Ask you for gift cards via an email or send you an email on an account ending with gmail.com – **trust only her buffalouu.org account**. If you receive one of these emails, block the sender so they will be unable to send you any more requests. Sadly, there is nothing the church can do to stop the emails 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](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>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> Chris Sierzchula</p>
<p><b>Nursery Care Coordinator:</b> TBH</p>		<p><b>Monthly Newsletter</b> (submissions due by the 15th) <a href="mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org">newsletter@buffalouu.org</a></p> <p><b>Weekly Announcements (E-Blast)</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

