

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

June 2022 Newsletter

Gather - Inspire - Transform



Minister's Column: What does it mean to be a People who Celebrate Blessings?



May was a rough month which followed many rough months. It began with the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion that indicated women's rights would soon be devalued by law. And then the horrific, racist, hate-based murder at Tops Friendly Market. Both reminders that democracy and human rights are ours, only if we continue to be aware, vigilant, and strive for justice. And, there was our sorrow at the death of our beloved Beryl Smith.

The world as it is, is not as it ought to be. This is clear. The list of deficits is long – racism, ablism, sexism, heterosexism, climate change, economic injustice, pollution, violence, disease, grief... and on it goes.

So, in these disturbing days, what does it mean to be a People who Celebrate Blessings? What does it mean to be blessed in this hurting and imperfect world?

Well, we can count the blessings we have. All the good stuff. Sure. It's good to remind ourselves of all the things and experiences we treasure – health, apples, grandchildren, lakes, Mozart, and the days when Buffalo smells like cheerios. Once you get started making the list, it can get long. Celebrate those blessings. They will lift your spirit and give you strength when the world seems to be going to hell in a handbasket.



And there is another kind of blessing. It's the kind that is a gracious pleading with one's own heart for transformation. It is an assurance that the spirit will be a traveling companion, offering not only hope but also guidance for the path ahead. A blessing can begin in the world as it is and point to what is possible. Blessings function as guideposts for the soul, reminders, and challenges all rolled into one. They encourage us get to where we need to go. This is the kind of blessing that might help us not only get through the pain of last month, but also help us become the changers and the changed; help us build the world as it could be.

Blessings are at their very, very best when they are personal. We all know how it feels to hear a wrote blessing: empty and passionless. But a blessing written just for you, or just by you feels powerful, fresh, intentional, and compassionate.

This month, as we explore what it means to be People who Celebrate Blessings. I invite you to write a blessing to help your community transform into the beloved community we seek. You can post your blessing on the Theme Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. Or you can just email it to me minister@buffalouu.org and I will post it for you.

Here are some easy steps for creating a blessing:

1. Start by reflecting on where we are right now on our shared journey.
2. Visualize where we need to go together.
3. Jot down a list of what you think we need to hold on to and remember as we begin the journey ahead.

Then, put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and let the blessing flow!

For example:

May these days of outrage and sorrow

*transform our hearts and minds.
Remember the precious gift
every person brings to our community.
Rejoice in our beautiful raiment of interdependence.
Reach deep into your heart and touch the truth:
yesterday's agonies can strengthen our resolve
to create a more joyous tomorrow.
Keep the faith.*

And don't feel restricted to *writing* your blessing. Draw, paint, compose, photograph, knit, build, macaroni and glue your blessing together. It's all good and it's all worth celebrating! Just pin it to the Bulletin Board and bless your community.

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



Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with the victims and families of the May 14 hate murders at Tops Friendly Market on Jefferson Avenue. May our city and this nation channel our grief and anger toward change. May we respond to terror, not with fear, but with creativity and bridgebuilding. This kind of violence should never be part of our common life.

Our hearts are with the friends and family of Beryl Smith. Beryl was a long-time member of our congregation, chair of the Welcome and Connections ministry, a facilitator and organizer of the Covenant Group ministry, member of a memoir and book group, and beloved of all who knew her. Beryl passed away on May 16. We celebrated her life on May 28. She is and will be sorely missed. May her name be inscribed in our hearts and in the book of life forever.

We send our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Nina Zackheim, step-sister of Cindy Havey, aunt to Ben and Bee Havey. Nina passed away on April 28 after a long struggle with cancer and several strokes. A celebration of her life will be held on June 4.



Pulpit Previews

June 5: Celebrating Pride, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Let's rejoice in the rainbow of orientation, affection, expression, and gender. Your body is a sacred gift. There are infinite blessings in our diversity of identity. And this year the parade is back! After the service you can be part of the big Buffalo party!

June 12: Gracious Space, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Q: How do we welcome the stranger into our lives so we can live and learn together? A: Create a gracious space of Spirit and Setting. Q: What if the stranger is your inner vulnerability, anger, fear, love or joy? A: Create a gracious space of Spirit and Setting.

June 19: Blooming Blessings! Rev. Joan Montagnes and Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

Its Flower Communion Sunday! Celebrate together the glory of a living community that changes and grows like a field of wildflowers. Our whole is so much more than the sum of our parts.

June 26: Beyond Thoughts and Prayers, Minister Denise Walden and Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

As we witness violence happen to innocent people from every walk of life how do we as Unitarian Universalists respond? How do we teach the children to live in-between the events? How do we inspire ourselves to live in hope? (We are planning on hosting Rev. Denise Walden, the new Executive Director of Voice Buffalo. Due to the horrific Jefferson St event in May, Rev. Walden may not be able to join us due to her responsibilities to the community. Lisa Peterangelo will step in to offer the sermon if needed.)

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

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 for more information.

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.



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 17th, 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

Announcing our new Dungeons and Dragons Ministry Team

First D&D Event is Set!

Come for Dinner, Dungeons and Dragons!

Date: Sunday, June 26th, 2022

Time: 4PM to 8PM

Place: Alliance Room

Dinner: A meal will be served at 6. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided.

RSVP: The event can accommodate 4 to 6 people.



We are looking for people who want to be a part of this fun Ministry Team. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please email lpeterangelo@buffalouu.org for more information.

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 to confirm schedule.

Mondays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall, \$2.00 per class. Pay at the door.

Registration not required





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.

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 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



Many fun musical surprises await in the last pre-summer month at UUCB.

On June 5th, the UUCB Soloists, along with guest musicians **Shaun Doyle (voice)**, **Alex Huddleston (guitar)**, **Paul Zanolli (bass)**, and **Charlie DeRose (piano)** will share celebratory tunes that bring the energy of the Pride Parade inside our sanctuary walls. Michael Harris will kick off the service by singing “Rainbow Connection” as a whimsical nod to the beauty of the full LGBTQIA+ spectrum. Helen Lowry and Jessie

Downs will then pay homage to two great trailblazing Queer artists - Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls and Freddie Mercury of Queen – with songs that capture these legends’ fearless self-expression. Finally, Liam Allen and Shaun Doyle will present meaningful contemporary songs whose messages challenge the powers of oppression.

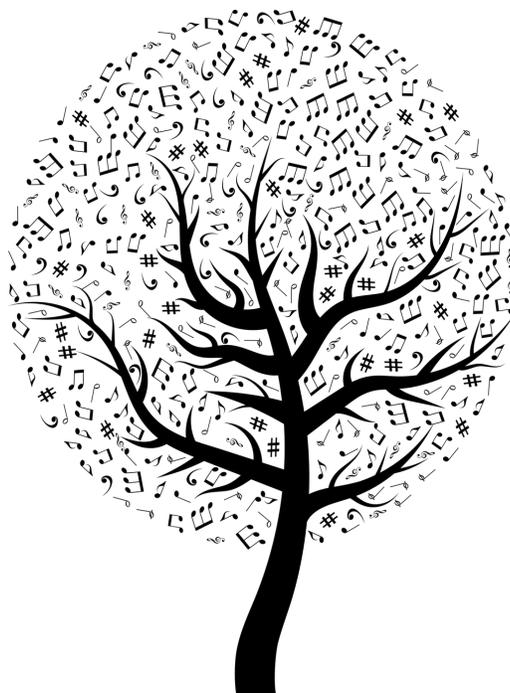
On June 12th, Taryn Goehrig, Liam Allen, Michael Harris, and Chris Sierzchula will share contemplative numbers ranging from a Michael Harris original, to a Hindu chant, to the piano music of Eric Satie.

Saturday June 18th at 7pm (note the evening time) is the next event in the Casual Concert Series – A Musical Feast: Dance of the Spirit. A Musical Feast is an organization founded in 2006 by retired Concertmaster of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Charles Haupt. Their enlightened programming melds contemporary and classical music with poetry and dance in a setting featuring locally- and internationally-acclaimed musicians and artists. All donations at this event will go to support our Music Ministry.

June 19th is Flower Communion and the last day of choral music until the fall. This special service will feature the beloved “Flower Duet” from Delibes’s opera *Lakme*, sung by Taryn Goehrig and Helen Lowry, as well as two flowery solo piano numbers – one from the classical canon and another from a contemporary Japanese film score. The service’s two choral numbers are the ephemeral “Afternoon on a Hill” - a contemporary composition that captures awe for nature’s beauty, and the triumphant finale of Leonard Bernstein’s operetta *Candide*, “Make Our Garden Grow,” which will also feature solos from Liam Allen and Taryn.

After service, stick around for a summer celebration featuring music by Helen Lowry and Paul Zanolli’s band *The Bitter Nasties*.

The final service of the month will also likely be the final service with our full Music Staff team until September, for which they will present a variety of tunes relevant to the service topic of criminal and racial justice.



June Share-the-Plate: [Niagara Pride](#)



Despite all of the progress that has been made for the LGBTQ+ community, there is still work to do. People still face challenges in accessing housing, legal services, and general healthcare. LGBTQ+ residents of rural towns in Western New York especially continue to face discrimination and a general lack of support. Niagara Pride reaches out to these rural communities to create programming and pride flag raising ceremonies to demonstrate to these residents that they are not alone, that they are seen, and that they matter. Niagara Pride has no paid staff and relies on the generosity of our board members, volunteers, and community partners to accomplish all of their activities. Niagara Pride is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that serves LGBTQ+ individuals and families in Niagara County, NY and the surrounding areas within Western New York. They collaborate with community organizations to host educational programming, supply drives, and affirming events. Please read [this letter](#) from Ronald Piaseczny, President and founding member of Niagara Pride for his own unique “why” for what drew him to create a nonprofit agency from scratch. For more information about Niagara Pride, please visit their website (linked above) or e-mail them at info@NiagaraPride.org. Thank you for your generosity!

This month UUCB is also collecting new school supplies for local LGBTQ+ youth. Please drop them in the box at the garden entrance.

Needed Supplies:

Backpacks
Notebooks
Folders
Binders
Paper
Pens / Pencils
Markers
Highlighters
Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer

These items are for middle school to high school aged children.

Backpacks will be distributed at various schools throughout WNY in September 2022.



Our Women’s Society wishes to establish donating to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) as a year-round activity of our UU Church.



Please continue to donate new, twin-size cloth mattress pads, sheet sets, comforters, blankets, and pillows. A corral for your donations has been placed in the foyer at our Garden entrance. Just as there is always a need for food donations 365 days a year, there continues to be a year-round need for bedding and bunk beds for the children of the Greater Buffalo area. Thank you for your continuing support and generosity. The kids and their parents really appreciate your gifts .

“No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town”



What's the BUZZ ?



UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction

(In-person and On-Line)

Sunday

June 12, 2022

The auction is not only a major fundraiser for the church but also offers important fellowship opportunities. Don't miss this opportunity to support the work of the church and to celebrate the UUCB community.

Soon you will be e-mailed the Summer / Early Fall 2022 auction catalog.

The process is a new one for all of us. More detailed instructions will be included.

Our events involve small gatherings, including picnics, walking and trolley tours, hikes, dinners, and "tastings." There are delectable homemade treats, exquisite and varied artistic creations, jars of honey and even a vacation home. We hope you will find several things that strike your fancy.

Bidding will begin on-line. If you will ONLY be bidding virtually, and not joining us on Auction Day, you will have four days to make your selections On-line bidding will close on June 10th and you will not have another opportunity to raise your bid. So . . . **BID ONCE, BID HIGH!!** Seats and items are limited. BUY NOW slots will be split between on-line and in-person bidders.

Anyone can view the catalog, but you will need to REGISTER in order to bid.

And then what happens?

The in-person bidding will take place after church on June 12th. On-line bids will have been recorded on the bid sheet. Later that week, you will be notified of the items you have won and the amount you owe.

Look for the catalog to arrive on June 5th.

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

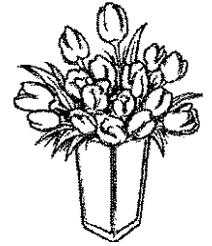
Calling All Artists!

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.



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

Update from the Board

After we announced the "Spring Rescue" at the Mother's Day service last month, we received a total of \$2,599.00 in additional financial support in just one week! The second week of our "Spring Rescue" saw contributions totaling \$17,110.00 come into the church. Week three? Donors gave an additional \$7,246.00. All together, the "Spring Rescue" has brought in a total of \$26,955.00 to date - AMAZING! We cannot thank the donors enough for their generosity. This extra financial support provides support, optimism, and confidence in the midst of what's looking to be a tough year for the church from a financial perspective.

If you haven't yet made a contribution to the "Spring Rescue," please consider doing so in June! Every dollar counts at a time like this. As a reminder you can:

1. Mail a check to the church office (695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222).
2. Place a check in the Sunday morning worship plate.
3. Place cash in an envelope in the offering plate.

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.
- 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](#).

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

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<p>Nursery Care Coordinator: TBH</p>		<p>Monthly Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org</p> <p>Weekly Announcements (E-Blast) (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) announcements@buffalouu.org</p>	



A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

