

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

## February 2023 Newsletter

*Gather - Inspire - Transform*



### Minister's Column: What does it mean to be People of Love?

Austrian poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, tells us:

“Perhaps everything terrible is, in its deepest being, something that needs our love.”

A caveat to that could be:

“For the sake of the common good, love the hell out of everything that is terrible.”

And possibly:

“In loving what is terrible, we become the changer and the changed.”

For example, in these days of civil disquietude and polarized ideologies, we tend to love those who think like us and hate those who differ. Strong words. Quick judgments. Easy self-righteousness.

What would happen if we, as people of faith, loved as if our lives depended on it? What if we remembered deep in our hearts that every person is inherently worthy and dignified? What if we remembered that we are all truly connected in an interdependent web of existence? Wouldn't that mean that “those people” – the Proud Boys, the Mass Shooters, the Kremlin, the Corporations, etc. – in all their terribleness, were worthy of our love? In fact, perhaps we can only be saved by loving the hell out of them. Maybe in loving them, we will become better members of society.



Hatred has never won anything. Hatred just leads to destruction, fear, and oppression. Love, on the other hand, opens the door to transformation. Love, however, is hard work.

Think, for instance, of South Africa as the white supremacist apartheid government was dismantled and the African National Congress took power. There was no lack of terribleness in the history of that country. There were also countless historical precedents for bloody revolutions fueled by revenge and hatred. And yet, South Africa chose the hard way; they chose a Truth and Reconciliation process. They chose to love the hell out of themselves and each other as they created a new country together.

Sadly, since then, the African National Congress has released its resolve, but that isn't the point. The point is that once upon a time in human history, we got it right. Maybe, just maybe it can happen again.

Imagine your relationship with someone who you find “terrible.” Could you imagine loving the hell out of them and yourself. Remember, you might be the one who changes. That is to say, you probably won’t become “terrible” but if you open your heart to this person, you might learn something profoundly new. If you ask a question, with caring curiosity, you may enter into deeper understanding and relationship.

Ask, “And how is your family?” Ask, “What was it like growing up?” Ask, “What motivates you?” “Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.”

That is revolutionary love. Reconciling love. Restorative love. Transformative love. And if we have the courage and strength of mind and spirit, we as People of Love, can hold our resolve and begin to heal the world.

---

## Joys and Sorrows

Our hearts are with the family and friends of Marjorie Mix. Marjorie passed away on December 20.

We offer our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Janet Sciolino. Janet, who joined our congregation in 1952, passed away on January 18.

We send healing thoughts to Marjorie Girth who is nursing a broken wrist.

---

## Pulpit Previews

### Feb 5: A Loving Community, Joan Montagnes

A congregation cannot love the world until it loves itself. We care for each other in, oh, so many ways. It is through our listening and giving, through our actions and our forgiving, through our appreciation and our hospitality that our strength is renewed. And once we are strong and healthy as a congregation, we can offer ourselves to the great needs of the world.

### Feb 12: “Hello, WSP and HVD”, Rev. Dr. Lynn Acquafondata

A Reflection on human connection in the digital age including family, friendships and love.

### Feb 19: I'll Love You for Always, Joan Montagnes

A reflection on beginnings, middles, and endings in relationships. Love is born and born again. Love is always born.

### Feb 26: Answering the Call of Love, Joan Montagnes

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “I’m not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love, I’m talking about a strong, demanding love.” The Rev. Dr. Cornell West tells us that “Justice is what love looks like in public.” Love calls us to action.

---

## Tuesday Coffee Klatch



Join Rev. Joan for a cup of joe (or tea, or cocoa) Tuesday mornings 10am-11am in the parish hall. No program, no agenda, just fellowship and good company. All welcome! Someone might even bring cookies!

## Religious Education & Faith Development News



**Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!**  
**Jess Pond, Director of Religious Education**

Hello UUCB!

This February we're celebrating love in all its forms, and it's important to me to teach our children to not only love themselves and those they know – family, friends – but also to spread love to our community and to those we don't know personally. So, folks of all ages, join me on Saturday, February 4 at 12:00 for a Spread the Love Baking Party to bake goodies for the 14 families who are housed by Gerard Place! Gerard Place provides housing and supportive programs for homeless, single-parent families, literacy classes, vocational job training and food distribution programs. Come have fun baking, eating pizza, and giving back to our community!

Bright blessings,

Jess

It's never too late to register for Religious Education! Please complete this form if you would like to register your child for Religious Education classes: <https://forms.gle/4LzWAX73L8vwNQWV6>

Check out the RE Calendar here: <https://rb.gy/hxvmju>



**Also, please help support a community in need  
from the Blizzard of 2022.**

**Your donation will make a huge difference!** > > > > >

## Adult Education Programs:

### **Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon**

“Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us”



On January 18, the Banned Book Club began discussing Alex Gino's YA novel *Melissa* (Previously published as *George*) by Alex Gino. We'll be following this with the YA books: George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue* and Angie Thomas' *The Hate You Give*. Art Spiegelman's *Maus* will close things out the spring.

All are welcome and you can join us at any time. We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Marge Gardiner Room. For more information, contact Mary Lou Hill and Sharon Walker at [uucbbbc@buffalouu.org](mailto:uucbbbc@buffalouu.org) or Jess Pond at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org).





## GLITTERING PRIZES!

**A Most Excellent History of Awards**  
**Michael Harris, instructor**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222  
14 meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., January 11 to April 12, 2023  
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 meetings at UUCB. To register, send your check (made payable to UUCB) to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; 695 Elmwood Ave.; Buffalo, NY 14222. [Put 'Glittering Prizes' on the memo line of the check.] For information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).

### GLITTERING PRIZES: The Rationale

We all love awards – giving them, receiving them, and watching other people get them. It's built into our genetic code to acknowledge the best of human achievement. This course will cover the most renowned of these highly sought-after prizes and citations: from knighthoods to Nobels, from Pulitzers to Peabodys, from Olympics to Oscars, from Miss America to MacArthur 'Genius Grants' – how they got started, how they've chosen their honorees, and how these judgments have stood up over time. As for saluting those who were rightfully commended, or questioning those who were dubiously awarded, you'll be the judge on that score!

### Syllabus

Session One (January 11): Going for the Gold – The Olympics Then & Now  
Session Two (January 18): For All the Saints – Roman Catholicism and Canonization  
Session Three (January 25): The 'Noble' Prize – Knighthood, Dames and Other Civic Honors  
Session Four (February 1): All Roads Lead to Rome – The *Prix de Rome*  
Session Five (February 8): Accolades from Stockholm – The Nobel Prize  
Session Six (February 15): Joseph Pulitzer's Journalistic Legacy – The Pulitzer Prize  
Session Seven (February 22): Representing the American Woman – Miss America  
Session Eight (March 1): Thanks for the Use of the Hall – Halls, Walls and Walks of Fame  
Session Nine (March 8): "I'd Like to Thank the Academy" – A History of the 'Oscars'  
Session Ten (March 15): Broadway's Big Industrial Show – The 'Tonys'  
Session Eleven (March 22): You're the Man! -- TIME magazine's "Person of the Year"  
Session Twelve (March 29): Betting on Genius – The Rhodes Scholarship and the MacArthur Fellowship  
Session Thirteen (April 5): Rewarding the Word – Literary Prizes  
Session Fourteen (April 12): Whither Awards? The End of Awards?

## Music Notes

### Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



**On Sunday 2/5/23** soloists Taryn Goehrig and Lia Allen will treat us to love-themed solo numbers by famed musical theatre composer Richard Rodgers. Appropriate to Joan's theme of building a loving church community, both "My Funny Valentine" (sung by Lia) and "You'll Never Walk Alone" (sung by Taryn) express sentiments of non-judgmental love. Chris Sierzchula will share both his voice and his piano playing on the contemplative rock number "Swim" by Stuart Davis as the Postlude, as well as get us in the groove of the month with a piano rendition of "Overjoyed" by Stevie Wonder as the Prelude.

**On Sunday 2/12/23** the UUCB Choir will share several love songs from their repertory, all of which were suggested by members of the choir community. The service will begin with a short but complex classical round by W.A. Mozart - recommended by tenor Jim Jarvis - whose title "V'amo di core" means "I love you heartily" in Italian. At the Offertory, we will share "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" a group favorite based on an Irish folk ballad; this piece was requested by Shaun Doyle, who had it sung at his wedding. For the Reflection, we will tackle the ethereal 6-part contemporary choral piece "I am not yours," requested by soloist Helen Lowry. If you stick around for the Postlude, you'll also get to hear Helen sing a duet with Taryn - "Who Will Love Me As I Am" from the musical Sideshow.

**Saturday 2/18 at 2pm** is this month's Casual Concert, a presentation by local Renaissance music ensemble the Royal Consort. Come out to hear the unique sounds of period instruments in our beautiful historic sanctuary!

**On Sunday 2/19**, Joan will speak about the different stages of love while the music staff sings about them. At the start of the service, Jessie, Helen, and Mike will share the 3-part madrigal "Follow Me Sweet Love," which evokes the fervor of young love. At the Offertory, Mike will sing the jazz tune "I Love You For Sentimental Reasons," accompanied by Jim Jarvis on the guitar - a song that captures the tenderness felt in a more established relationship. As the Reflection, Jessie, Helen, and Beth White will share the romantic trio "Hab's mir gelobt" from the opera *Der Rosenkavalier* by Richard Strauss, a bittersweet piece that explores the complexity of how when one love ends, another may begin. Finally, Mike will finish out the service with another jazz standard, "Our Love is Here to Stay," which echos the title of the service.

**On Sunday 2/26**, Joan will speak about social justice as a manifestation of love. As the Prelude, Chris will present a piano version of The Beatles "All You Need is Love." At the Offertory and as the Reflection, the UUCB Choir will present choral arrangements of a folk hymn and a spiritual, both of which lift praises to a higher power whose love manifests as justice. Finally, the congregation will be invited to lift their voices with the choir in a contemporary gospel tune about caring for one another.



## February Share-the-Plate: [Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor](#)



Our Share the Plate recipients this month will be the Michigan Street Baptist Church and the Nash House. Both are owned by the Buffalo Niagara Freedom Coalition. These buildings are part of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor.

The Church is an 1845 building which became legendary as an Underground Railroad station providing the escaped slaves sanctuary before crossing the freedom in Canada. National leaders, including Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell, Sr have spoken from its pulpit. The church is currently undergoing renovations.

The Nash House was once the home of the Rev. Edward Nash. It has been operating as a museum since 2007. Many of Rev. Nash's sermons and letters related to Buffalo's African-American community history are on display.

The Justice Ministry team would like to alert the congregation to a being put on by MSHC. These lectures will be held every Tuesday in February beginning on the 7th at the Merriweather library on Jefferson Avenue. The lectures will be at 6 PM to 7 PM and will be available either online or in person. Here is the link to the weekly lectures <https://www.michiganstreetbuffalo.org/2023-black-history-month-talks>.

The Justice Ministry team is also hoping to provide the congregation with a tour of the Church, Nash House, and the Colored Musicians Club on Saturday March 4. The anticipated cost would be \$25. Please email Steve Wixson at [wixsonsg@gmail.com](mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com) to express interest.

---

### Joys, Sorrows & Concerns Tables

The Pastoral Care & Support Team would like to remind people that there are two Joys, Sorrows & Concerns tables at Sunday Service (one at the Ferry Street Door and the other near the Parish Hall door). One purpose of these tables is to take a moment to light a candle and reflect on someone or some Joy, Sorrow, or Concern in your life. Another purpose is to fill out a yellow card with a Joy, Concern or Sorrow in your life to be read during the Pastoral Prayer. A PC&S member will bring up the card for Rev Joan to read during the Pastoral Prayer. If you would like more information, please email Ginny Vaughan at [wixsonsg@gmail.com](mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com).

The Pastoral Care & Support Team also writes & sends cards to members/friends who are experiencing a joy, sorrow or concern. We receive the names for the cards from the Pastoral Prayer, Rev. Joan or word of mouth. If you know someone who could use a card please contact Ginny, Bobbie Baker, Josette Cunningham, Jackie Knowles, Maryellen Mccone, or Martha Malkiewicz.

---

### Pulpit Flowers



Lots of Sundays are available for ordering Pulpit Flowers. Please consider reserving a date to schedule your floral tribute soon. For \$50 you can share beautiful fresh flowers with the congregation and take home a fragrant arrangement.

Just contact **Sandra Bissontz** at [smp1127@yahoo.com](mailto:smp1127@yahoo.com) to place your order, or if you have any questions. Many thanks.

## Announcements, Events and Opportunities, Oh My!

**FINDING OUR CENTER SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS:** Join Rev. Joan and DRE Jess on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30, in the Alliance Room starting on February 7 to join in the work of the Article II Commission in finding and exploring the center of our faith and our beliefs. There will be six sessions – 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14. To register, please email Jess at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org).



### Potluck Dinner with the Turkish Community of Buffalo

Come to a wonderful evening of food, conversation, and excellent company in our very own Parish Hall.

**When:** Saturday, February 11, 5:30pm

**Where:** Parish Hall

**Who:** Fun for the whole family

**What: Please note:** our guests are Muslim and follow a Halal diet. Let's bring dishes that everyone can enjoy. Hospitality is delicious. Food is love. It's easy to cook a Halal meal. Here are some simple guidelines. Your potluck dish can contain:

- Any meat clearly marked Halal (you can find Halal meat at Price Right, the International Halal Market on Sheridan, Buffalo Fresh on Broadway, and Walden Halal Groceries).
- No pork products
- Anything vegan
- Fish, but no shellfish
- Anything with eggs or milk
- Any cheese that is made without rennet (check the ingredients)
- Nothing containing alcohol, including baking extracts like vanilla



We are excited to announce the launch of our milestone 5th Anniversary of the **Western New York Refugee Film Festival!** This season has a bit of everything: from an unlikely friendship between a Syrian Kurdish refugee and former member of the KKK, to a gay refugee from Uganda now living in Canada and grappling with his new-found freedom during the pandemic, to an Afghan filmmaker documenting on his cell phone the flight of his family on foot to Europe, and much more. **Please see trailers and bookmark the schedule page here: [www.wnyrff.org](http://www.wnyrff.org)** Our film festival is still **virtual and FREE!** If you are able to give, **donations** towards the vital work of Journey's End and to help us cover the costs of the festival are most welcome (suggested donation: \$100).

### Women's Society Luncheon and Speaker

Please come and join us at the UUWS February luncheon. Our feature speaker is Ann Marie Linnabery who is the Education Coordinator at the Niagara History Center. She will be presenting "Western New York's Connection to the Titanic". Tickets will be on sale after church services on February 5th and 12th for members at \$20 and \$25 for non members. Appetizers at 11, speaker at 11:30 and lunch at 12:30.

## Ready to play?



Member and art educator Julie Carter is hosting the Buffalo Collage Club at our Church! Be ready to use varied materials and play with shapes, textures and colors to create a unique collage each month. Julie will provide guidance and a changing theme. No experience necessary. All you need is a playful attitude and she will direct the activity. Feel free to bring any materials you'd like to use or simply work with what is provided. This class is free of charge. **We meet at Church on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.** See you there!

## Compost Pile Update—Save the Date!



A "no commitment" turning of the pile is scheduled for April 15 at 9:30AM. Those thinking about helping or those just interested in getting a few pointers about composting are welcome to attend. Our new Custodian of the Henry David Thoreau Memorial Composter, Alex Gugliuzza, did the first turning recently of the newly forming pile and it would be nice to have more than one custodian. Contact Tony Keller at [kelleranthony290@gmail.com](mailto:kelleranthony290@gmail.com) for info.

## We're Not Like Other Boards; We're A Cool Board!

Fellow church members and friends, we need YOU. The church's Board of Directors is short one person, and we are looking for someone to fill in for one year as an interim board member until the next board elections in January 2024. As a non-profit, our church relies on a Board of Trustees to administer long-range planning, organizational and financial oversight, and other support.

A board member commitment includes one standing monthly meeting (the third Wednesday evening of each month), additional meetings as needed, attendance at the Annual Leadership Assembly and the Fall and Winter Congregational Meetings, and one to two newsletter articles per year.

If a board commitment seems too great, please consider joining one of our advisory committees, which support the board and church and are also pivotal to our success!

For more information and if you are interested in either a board commitment or advisory committee, please get in touch with Doug Sherman, chair of the nominating committee ([djsherman@roadrunner.com](mailto:djsherman@roadrunner.com)), or ask for information at the Beryl Smith Welcome Table. Please note you must be a church member in good standing to serve.

### 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](#).

## 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.

# Communicating and Connecting at UUCB!

A list with descriptions of our communication channels. Check them out!

## PUBLICATIONS

**The E-Blast.** E-mailed every week, usually on Friday, and provides brief, current news, announcements, and updates.

**Submissions due by NOON on Wednesday. Send to [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).**

**The Monthly Newsletter.** More in-depth, published every month of the year. Here you'll find Rev. Joan's letter to the congregation, what's coming up in R.E./Adult Ed, and Music, along with news, events, announcements for the coming month (and beyond!).

**Submissions due by the 15th of the preceding month (with some leeway, please let us know if you will be late). Send to [newsletter@buffalouu.org](mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org).**

**To sign up for our newsletters above, go to <https://buffalouu.org/sign-up>**

## THE UUCB WEBSITE

- Learn about [who we are as UUs](#), and find answers to [FAQs](#).
- Read about our [Accessibility and UAIM Program](#), and who to contact for more info.
- [The current E-Blast](#) (which includes the Order of Service)
- [The Monthly Newsletter](#) (plus links to past Newsletters)
- Info on [Religious Education and Adult R.E.](#), how to [get involved](#), and become a [member and pay your pledge](#).
- [Sermons and Services](#) archive.

\*Please note: The tabs on the homepage contain info, make sure you click on them (not just the subtabs)\*

**Questions? Comments? Concerns? Email us at [website@buffalouu.org](mailto:website@buffalouu.org)**

## OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

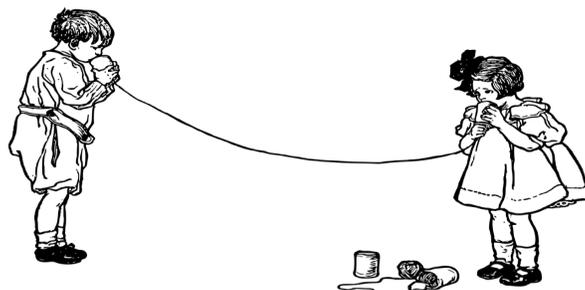
**There is a "Who's Who" bulletin board** in the Parish Hall that has photos of our Staff, Board of Directors, and Lay Pastoral Ministers.

**Board of Trustees** - You can be in touch with the BoT via email, attend board meetings in person or via Zoom, and see the Current Board of Trustees members on the website [HERE](#).

We have a **Religious Education/Welcome Table** in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

**Announcements** are made near the beginning of the church service on Sundays.

**Facebook Pages for our Church in general [HERE](#), for Religious Education [HERE](#).**

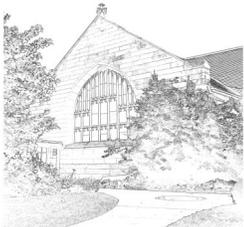




**We gather in loving community, inspiring one another,  
to transform ourselves, to create a more just and  
compassionate world**

## 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> Kaylan Ruiz <a href="mailto:office@buffalouu.org">office@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Director of Religious Education:</b> Jessica Pond <a href="mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org">jpond@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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Monthly Newsletter</b> <b>(submissions due by the 15th)</b> <a href="mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org">newsletter@buffalouu.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weekly Announcements (E-Blast)</b> <b>(submissions due by NOON Wednesday)</b> <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**

