

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

April 2023 Newsletter

Gather - Inspire - Transform



Minister's column: What does it mean to be a People of Resistance?

In this season of Easter, Passover, and Spring, we may well ask what it means to be a People of Resistance. In this season, when every fragile thing – tiny leaves, fluffy chicks, delicate crocus flowers – are entering the world in fragility, how is it that we can celebrate resistance? Are we not collectively holding our breaths in fear that one wrong breeze will bring a killing frost or splintering hailstones?

Even when we look to the old stories, even when we look at life's precarious hold on rebirth, we find little to give us strength and courage. In the Passover story, didn't many die, didn't the people have to flee, didn't they betray their God with golden idols?

And Easter, well, you can't rightly tell the Easter story without acknowledging Jesus' spectacular failure to resist the Roman authorities. Without the crucifixion, there is not resurrection.

And spring, spring is the most fragile of them all. Every time we think the weather has turned and we can put away our parkas and snow shovels, another lake-effect storm smashes the daffodils and all their sunny yellow hope. Resistance is futile.

And yet, and yet, When Moses asked Pharaoh to let his people go, and Pharaoh said no, what did Moses do? He went back and asked again. And he kept asking until Pharaoh said yes. But, and this is the kicker, he didn't go alone, he had some help. The old story says that God brought forth plague upon the Egyptians every time Pharaoh said no. Every time Pharaoh refused to let the people go, the plagues got worse. Finally, when he couldn't take it anymore, Pharaoh let the people go.

What if, what if there weren't any frogs, locusts, or rivers of blood? What if those plagues are metaphors for something equally threatening? What if each plague represented an uprising, a collective action for worker liberation? And each successive uprising was larger and more organized? What if the story of Passover is the first ever documented successful labor strike? Wouldn't that be a story of resistance?

And Easter, dear me. Unless you believe (hock, line, and sinker) in that bit about the resurrection, there is no way to tell the Easter story as a successful story of resistance. Maybe the story of Easter is more of a cautionary tale.

What happens when you name yourself a leader so far above your peers that you call yourself the son of God and the only the one and only way to heaven. I'll tell you what happens. First, you are only going to get a scant dozen disciples – betrayers and doubters included. Nobody wants to follow an egomaniac with delusions of grandeur. Second, if you take on the whole Evil Empire with your tiny band of rag-tag followers, you are going to get crucified.



I just wonder, what would have happened if Jesus was a little more into shared ministry, delegation of responsibilities, leadership development, and community organizing? What if there weren't twelve disciples, but twelve thousand well-coordinated, well-trained activists? I'll tell you what, the Romans would have thought twice about arresting Jesus, and Christians probably wouldn't have the cross as their symbol.

Then there is spring. Spring is a trickster, a flirt, and a joker. Spring looks so delicate – baby bunnies and all that. But look at the egg, the epitome of spring and rebirth, so crackable, smashable, crunchable. Sweet baby birdling within. Cruel world without.

But listen to this. Scientists stood an egg in a holder and piled bricks on top of it, one at a time. Each brick weighed 25 lbs. Get this, the egg supported 10 bricks! Yes, you (and maybe a friend) could stand on an egg without breaking it. The allegedly fragile egg is a miracle of resistance. Imagine what a whole carton of eggs could resist together.

Each of us is fragile in heart and mind and body. Each of us has abundant strength and courage within. Together, we can move mountains. Together, in our shared ministry, we can resist power structures of evil, and together we can bloom brightly into a new day.

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

Joys and Sorrows

Our prayers are with Paulette Notaro and her family. Paulette's sister recently underwent brain surgery.

We send healing thoughts to Judy Kieffer who is recovering from abdominal surgery

Our sympathies are with Bobby Withrow who is mourning the death of his grandmother

We send condolences to Donna Sentz and her family as they mourn the loss of Donna's mother-in-law

Pulpit Previews

April 2: A Holy Disruption, Rev. Joan Montagnes

We recently changed our church By-Laws. We said that although we will not tolerate destructive behavior in our church, it is perfectly fine to be disruptive. Disruption means conflict. Surely, no church wants conflict. In fact, we resist conflict – to our detriment.

April 6: Maundy Thursday, Rev. Joan Montagnes

Sometimes called Tenebrae or Holy Thursday, this service of music, candles, darkness and meditation carries us into a reflection on sorrow and passion before our joyful, hope-filled rebirth on Easter.

April 9: Once Upon a Time in Jerusalem, Rev. Joan Montagnes and Jess Pond

Easter and Passover fall close enough together this year that we can celebrate the whole epic story in one service. This multigenerational service will weave together the tales of Palm Sunday, Passover, the arrest of Jesus as civil rights activist, Demeter and Persephone, and the rebirth of spring.

April 16: What it Means to Create Safe Spaces, Dr. Erin Vearncombe

There were no Christians or Christianity in the first two centuries after Jesus death. Rather, there was a kaleidoscopic diversity of Jesus' people, communities, associations, parties, and schools spread across the eastern Mediterranean. What these groups held in common was a drive to find new ways of belonging and being in community while trying to

survive under the violence of the Roman Empire. Their search for belonging offers us models of hope that have potential to shape and strengthen our own ways of belonging together.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo are proud to bring Dr. Erin Vearncombe to Buffalo for a weekend of three presentations. Vearncombe, author of *After Jesus Before Christianity*, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. A specialist in writing instruction, she worked for five years as a faculty member of the Princeton Writing Program at Princeton University, and is currently designing a program for the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto to ease the transition to university-level writing for incoming undergraduate students. Her research specialty is the social origins and histories of Jesus movements in the first centuries of the common era. She will host a book signing after the service.

April 23: Same Old Beginnings, Youth Group

As many of the Youth Group graduates this year, we explore themes of moving forward in life and the proverbial passing of the torch to the next set of youth.

April 30: Change is Hard, Rev. Joan Montagnes

We resist change. We will do handstands and back flips to keep old systems in place. We resist change even when it is in our interest to change. Why? Because change means making ourselves vulnerable to the unknown. As people of faith, it is time to leap into the abyss!

Summer Sunday Services Calling all Preachers!

Our marvelous Tech Team, Worship Associates and Musicians have created an easy way for you to offer your thoughts and spirit to your beloved congregation. 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 interesting to say about something.

If you are interested in offering a Summer Sunday service, you will be assigned a Worship Associate who will 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!



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!

Religious Education & Faith Development News



Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!

Jess Pond, Director of Religious Education

Hello UUCB!

Happy Spring! I hope you'll join in the many celebrations coming up in Religious Education Ministry this month as we look forward to sunshine and warmer weather!

Religious Education classes will be on Spring Break on April 2 and April 9. On April 2, I'll be leading a special program for children & youth on "Seeds of Change". We'll learn about Wangari Maathai, the first African woman, and environmentalist, to win a Nobel Peace Prize, and then we'll plant some seeds of our own.

On April 9, Rev. Joan and I will lead a multigenerational worship service about Passover, Easter, and the beginning of Spring.

And on April 23 we'll be treated to a very special worship service created and led by the Youth Group, where our graduating seniors will reflect on the "Same Old Beginnings" and their feelings about this transitional time in their lives. Let's all show our graduating class love and support as they share their experiences with us in this moving service!

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>

NURSERY RE-OPENING! I am very excited to announce that a new childcare supervisor has been hired, and our nursery will now be open for our littlest members on Sunday mornings, 9:30-12:30. Parents are welcome to bring infants, toddlers, and pre-k children to the nursery immediately upon arrival on Sunday mornings, or after the Time for All Ages when the children leave the service for RE classes. There will be a sign-in sheet in the nursery that you will be asked to fill out during drop-off.

VOLUNTEER IN THE NURSERY: In addition to our childcare supervisor, I will be building a list of volunteers to act as the second adult in the nursery for best safety practices. Listen to the streamed worship service while serving the young families in our community! If you would like to volunteer to help in the nursery or for childcare for special events, please email me at jpond@buffalouu.org.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) CLASSES! With a holistic approach, OWL provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and behavior.

It is my hope that we will be able to provide an abbreviated series of workshops for the K-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade groups in June or July this summer, with 5 or 6 trained volunteers. There is an online training in May with seven sessions, and all sessions are mandatory to be considered fully trained. Registration for the training is due by March 27. All costs for the training will be covered by the RE budget. If you are already trained in OWL and you would like to help out with workshops this summer, or if you would like to sign up for the training in May to be able to volunteer, please email me at jpond@buffalouu.org ASAP! Let's bring OWL back!

INTO TO SUFISM - The class will take place on Sundays 12:30-1:30 pm in the Marge Gardner room. The registration fee is \$5/session. Please register by emailing Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org.

Adult Education Offerings



GLITTERING PRIZES! A Most Excellent History of Awards

Michael Harris, instructor

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

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

For information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at 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 of Remaining Classes

Session Thirteen (April 5): Rewarding the Word – Literary Prizes
Session Fourteen (April 12): Whither Awards? The End of Awards?

Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon

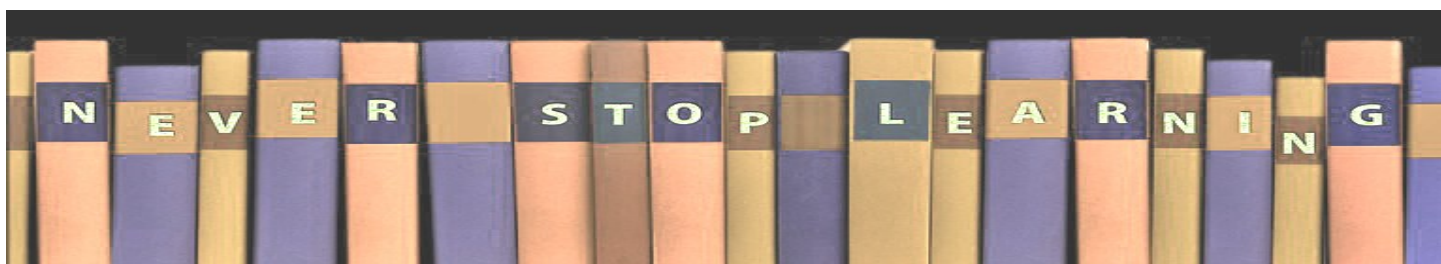
“Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us”



The first Wednesday, April 5th, will be devoted to reflection and introspection of the books we have read these past several months. Wednesday, April 19th we will begin discussing Vol I and II of Art Spiegelman’s graphic novel *Maus*. The last book in our series for this congregational year this will carry us into May.

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, including suggestions for next year, contact Mary Lou Hill and Sharon

Walker at uucbbbc@buffalouu.org or Jess Pond at jpond@buffalouu.org.



Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



April and early May 2023 is a big time for our Music Ministry, with our Cabaret-style fundraiser on Saturday April 15th at 7pm, and our first ever Music Weekend starting on Friday May 5th at 7:30pm with a full-length staged performance of Henry Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas* followed by excerpts and reflections in service on Sunday May 7th at 10:30am. You can also look forward to the next installment of our monthly Casual Concert series, and the usual rich variety of Sunday morning offerings.

The month's theme of Resistance will be introduced in this coming Sunday's service on 4/2/23. For the Prelude, Chris Sierzchula will play the theme from Frederic Rzewski's piano variations on the Chilean protest song "The People United Will Never be Defeated!" At the Offertory, our own rock diva Helen Lowry will sing a tribute to musical revolutionaries in "Nina Cried Power," accompanied by Chris on piano and Paul Zanolli on bass. Michael Harris will share a musical theatre take on the theme with the exhilarating "Make them Hear You" from *Ragtime* as well as treat us to a musical "commercial" for the upcoming Cabaret. Chris will share another variation from the Rzewski as the Postlude.

On Thursday 4/6/23 at 6:30pm, join Reverend Joan Montagnes, Chris, and Taryn Goehrig for a short, contemplative service in observance of Maundy Thursday. The service will feature reflections alongside classical, contemporary, and traditional songs about the darker side of Easter and life.

On Sunday 4/9/23, we will celebrate both Passover and Easter. The service will begin with the processional prelude "Hosanna" from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, sung by a subset of the UUCB Choir. At the Offertory, the congregation will be invited to join in singing "Dayenu," a traditional Passover song. As the Postlude, Taryn will treat us to the exuberant "Glorious Morning," as we celebrate the power of life over death.

On Saturday 4/15/23, there are two special events happening at the church. At 2pm, join Casual Concert guest artists Duo Purla – a violin and guitar pair – for their program of classical and contemporary music. At 7pm, join Shaun Doyle, the UUCB Music Staff, and several volunteer musicians from our community for *An Evening at the Lifesong Cabaret – our lives in song and stories*. This event will combine the thrill of going to the theatre with the intimacy of a speakeasy. You'll enjoy a variety of filling hors d'oeuvres and desserts, have access to the cash bar, and generally have a wonderful time – all for the benefit of our community.

On Sunday 4/16/23, no matter how much fun you had the night before, you should still consider coming out to hear guest speaker Rev. Doctor Erin Verncombe talk about the non-canonical gospel of Mary and the community of the early church. As the Prelude, Jessie Downs, Taryn, and Helen will share a trio version of Francis Poulenc's SSA choral piece "Ave Verum Corpus" as sung by the UUCB Chamber Choir as a part of last May's Music Sunday. The Soloist Quartet will also sing a contemporary arrangement of "The 23rd Psalm" by Bobby McFerrin and "Maria Walks among the Thorn" by Ron Jeffers.

Service on Sunday 4/23/23 will feature music offered up by youth musicians, supported by Chris on piano.

As we enter production week for *Dido and Aeneas*, we will be joined by our special guest vocalists in service on Sunday 4/30/23. This will serve as the congregation's introduction to our guests, as well as an exploration of the theme of "Resistance" in opera. Guest soprano Cassidy Dixon – who will be singing the role of Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas* - will kick things off with "Vissi d'arte (I Lived for Art)" from *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini. At the Offertory, tenor Michael Laporte – who will be singing the role of Aeneas – will sing "Here I Stand" from *The Rake's Progress* by Igor Stravinsky. As the Reflection, soprano Claire Tendl – who is our Dido – will sing "D'amor sull'ali rosee (On the Rosy Wings of Love)" from *Il Trovatore*. Finally, Jessie will sing "Martern aller arten (Tortures of Every Kind)" from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by W.A. Mozart.

April Share-the-Plate: [Project Mona's House](#)

**PROJECT
MONA'S
HOUSE**



Project Mona's House exists to shed light on the terrible crime of Human Trafficking, to restore those who have been victimized, and to prevent it from ever happening again through education, legislation, and amplifying our voice until freedom rings for all people... **FOREVER!**

Project Mona's House is a program of [Ramp Global Missions](#), a Christian Humanitarian organization that helps those experiencing homelessness, orphaned, and those exploited through Human Trafficking.

Social Justice Ministry on the Move!



The Social Justice Ministry team continues to facilitate fundraising for carefully selected local not-for-profits each month. But we also facilitate social justice actions. In February, our share the plate recipient was the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor. We followed this on March 4 with a tour of 3 of their historic sites – the Nash House, the Michigan Street Baptist Church, and the Colored Musicians Club. The tour was well-attended by 22 people, who learned a great deal about African American local history and efforts to preserve this historic district.

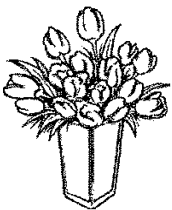


The following week, members of our ministry participated in peaceful protests at the University at Buffalo against speaker Michael Knowles, who called for the eradication of 'transgenderism.' They wore their yellow UU vests proudly!



On April 22 (Earth Day), the Social Justice Ministry will be participating in Buffalo Waterkeeper's Shoreline Sweep and you are invited to join us. From 10 am – 12pm, hundreds of volunteers will clean waterways across Western New York. UUCB will focus on the Buffalo Scajaquada Creek Mouth site which you will find here: [Spring Sweep 2023 \(salsalabs.org\)](#). Participants are required to sign up individually so please do so soon so that we can all get slots together at this site. Do so on your own or at the Social Justice table after service. Please contact marialtesta@gmail.com with any questions.

Pulpit Flowers



To remember a loved one or recognize the hard work and efforts of our UU family, flowers make a perfect tribute. 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.

In an effort to save the planet, we are asking those who purchase flowers going forward to consider NOT taking home the plastic pot the arrangement is in. After the service, the flowers will be removed from the pot and placed in a large plastic bag. This will make it easier to carry the flowers home, as we encourage those who pay for the flowers to get more enjoyment from their purchase. The florist will re-use the pots, cutting down on our consumption of plastic. If you purchased flowers in the past, you could return the pot(s) to Sandra Bissontz or Ted Bieniek. If you still want to take home the entire arrangement, pot and all, that's OK too. We will ask you after that particular service if you would like to return the pot for re-use. Just contact Sandra Bissontz at smp1127@yahoo.com to place your order, or if you have any questions .

From the Board

In "The Geometry of Love: Space, Time, Mystery and Meaning in an Ordinary Church," author Margaret Visser writes, "A church is a recognition, in stone and wood and brick, of spiritual awakenings... it constitutes a collective memory of spiritual insights, of a thousand mystical memories. A church reminds us of what we have known."

Before picking up this book, I had never considered a church this way. As a child, our church was where my mother sometimes brought me, where I sang and played with friends. Later, it was a place I visited on special occasions, mostly to please my grandparents, though the rituals comforted me. But, as an adult, this church is a place I *choose* to come to because of shared values, connection and community, and excellent music. And, yes, Visser is right: it's a place I come to remember. Whether from the pew or behind my computer screen, on many Sundays, I experience a reawakening. Ahh, yes, *this again. I remember.*

Do the stone, wood, and brick carry these remembrances forward? Yes, they are a meaningful part of it. Still, mostly it's the people, the congregation, you all, with your collective memories of personal epiphanies, spiritual awakenings, and grace that carry the message forward and share it with whoever is ready to receive it, whether it's the next generation, the hapless wanderer in need of enlightenment (like me), or those of us who have forgotten, however briefly or however long, the truth we were born with.

So thank you to the church, its walls that shelter and hold us together, and to all the people who carry our memories, awakenings, and messages forward and your willingness to share them. I'm proud to be on your Board of Trustees.

Thea Hassan

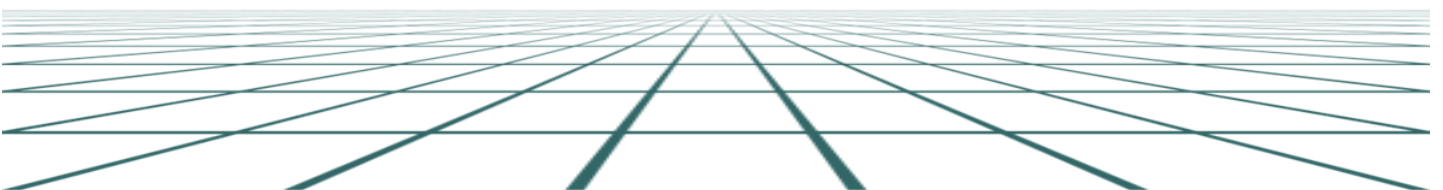
Treasurer, UUCB Board of Trustees

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: [Governance](#).

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.



Announcements, Events and Opportunities, Oh My!



Covenant Group Ministry News

On Sunday March 26th UUCB celebrated twenty years of Covenant Group Ministry.

We are filled with gratitude for all those who made our Sunday service possible: Worship Associate (and coach!) Charlene Montgomery; Janie Kustreba, Katherine Gillette-Cockerill and Alisse Sikes who offered personal reflections of their Covenant Group experiences; readings by Ron Houk, Chuck Battaglia, Mary Richert and Juli Van Woert; Story for All Ages "The Rabbit Listened" presented by RE Director Jess Pond; musical palette created by Dr. Jessie Downs and exquisitely performed by Lia Allen, Taryn Goehrig, Christopher Sierzchula, and Paul Zanolli, Welcome and Benediction (and unwavering support) by Rev Joan Montagnes, technical assistance by Josh Dissek and John Petrocelli, and a special thanks to Kaylan Ruiz for her creation of the Order of Service. And of course, our thanks to all of you who joined us in person or at home. If you missed the service, please take time to view it on YouTube.

That evening we continued our celebration - and invitation – through a potluck in the Parish Hall. Over 45 current or prospective Covenant Group members gathered for the sharing of "A Meaningful Meal" which was also the topic of the small group experience that followed the abundant dinner.

We will be developing new groups this Spring and in the Fall. If you are interested in learning more or if you have not yet completed a green worksheet identifying your preferences of type and time of group, please stop by our table in the Parish Hall after Sunday service.

Seeking to carve out time to reflect on UUCB's monthly theme, your life and spirituality, or to deepen relationships with others in the church? A Covenant Group may be just what you are looking for. For details, contact Juli Van Woert - JVW61@aol.com.



Hearts & Hands
UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction
(In-person and On-Line)
Sunday, April 23rd

We're counting down the days to our biggest fundraiser for the church. It's time to eat, learn and laugh together. This year we have set our goal at **\$14,000!** We can do it with your help! The auction not only insures that our programs will thrive, it offers important fellowship opportunities. It's time for each of us – and for each group that we are a part of - to think of a creative way to contribute! Donations of events, artwork, dinners, hikes, gift certificates, theme baskets, and culinary treats are welcomed!

Don't miss the date: The auction will be both on-line and in-person. **Virtual bidding will be from 4/17- 4/21.** The **in-person event will be on Sunday, April 23rd** in the Parish Hall before and after church. Stay tuned for details.

Be a Donor: Deadline for donations is **Sunday, April 9th**

Contact the Auction Team ASAP with your donation details: 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

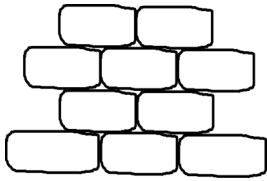
Women's Society - VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR M. MIX RECEPTION

Marjorie C. Mix, Family Court Judge and longstanding member of this church, died Dec. 20, at age 91. Her memorial service will be held in the sanctuary April 22 at 11:30am, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall, coordinated by the Women's Society.

This will be the first reception in the elegant style we recall from pre-Covid times, complete with sweet and savory snacks served on silver platters, and coffee and tea poured from the antique silver service.

Volunteers are needed to help with food prep in the kitchen, pouring, replenishing trays, and/or contributing food or funds. Would you like to help? Contact Nancy Wilkins at nlaurienwilkins@yahoo.com or Lucy Sloan at lsloan4525@aol.com.

Memorial Pathway



Orders for paver inscriptions in the Memorial Pathway are processed only once a year. They are due by May 7, 2023. It seems like a long time away, but you will miss it if you keep putting off ordering. Inscriptions may be one, two, or three lines long. Each line may have up to 14 letters and spaces. One or two I's allows one more letter per I. The cost of the paver is \$150 each. Ashes may be submitted for placement in the Memorial Garden at no cost, or for an offering of \$100 directly under the inscribed paver. Submit text and checks to the office made out to UUCB and the word paver in the For or Memo line. Any questions call Tony Keller at 716-860-0984 or kelleranthony290@gmail.com.

Henry David Thoreau Memorial Composter

A "no commitment" turning of the compost 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. kelleranthony290@gmail.com.



The **Western New York Refugee Film Festival** continues! 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 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). Four films left: April, September, October, December!

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!

Represent OUR Congregation this summer at the General Assembly!


General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The dates are June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our congregation can send up to 7 delegates. Please consider attending on-line or in person! Pittsburgh is an easy drive from Buffalo! More info from Rev. Joan or check UUA.org




THE WESTAR INSTITUTE RETURNS TO BUFFALO!

WITH DR. ERIN VEARNCOMBE
ASST. PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

APRIL 15 & 16, 2023

There were no Christians, and there was no Christianity, in the first two centuries after the death of Jesus. Rather, new evidence sheds light on a kaleidoscopic diversity of Jesus peoples, communities, associations, parties, and schools spread across the ancient eastern Mediterranean. These diverse groups had different understandings and relationships to Jesus. What they had in common, however, was a drive to find new ways of belonging, of being in community, while trying to survive under the violence of the Roman Empire. The search for belonging offers us models of hope that have the potential to shape and strengthen our own ways of belonging to each other.



 A LECTURE WITH Q&A	 A CONVERSATION	 A SERMON
<i>"After Jesus Before Christianity: Six Discoveries"</i>	<i>"Diversity and Jesus Peoples in the First Two Centuries: Models of Hope, Models of Belonging"</i>	<i>"Resistance Old and New: What it Means to Create Safe Spaces"</i>
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH (MAIN SANCTUARY)	WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (CASE LIBRARY)	BUFFALO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH (MAIN SANCTUARY)
APRIL 15 • 3:30PM	APRIL 16 • 9:00AM	APRIL 16 • 10:30AM

Dr. Erin Vearncombe is a writing and religion specialist at the University of Toronto where she teaches for the Dept. for the Study of Religion. Her 2020 course, "Museums & Material Religion," gained national attention through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). Erin's research examines the ways in which everyday social realities influence our interpretation of the writings of the early Jesus peoples. She is the lead author of *After Jesus Before Christianity* (2021).

FREE & Open to the Public!
Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Buffalo Unitarian Universalist Church. For more information, contact Jerry Kelly at 716-839-9533 or Gerald@geraldkelly.com.

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.

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.

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. Posted on Friday evenings.
- [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

OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

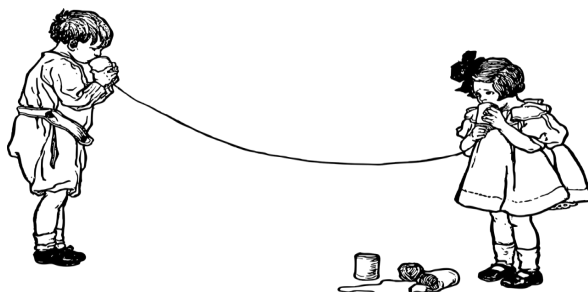
There is a "Who's Who" bulletin board in the Parish Hall that has photos of our Staff, Board of Directors, and Lay Pastoral Ministers.

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.

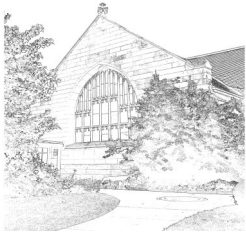
Facebook Pages for our Church in general [HERE](#), for Religious Education [HERE](#).



**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

<p>Minister: Rev. Joan Montagnes minister@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Kaylan Ruiz office@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Director of Religious Education: Jessica Pond jpond@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>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

