

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO

July 2023 Newsletter

Gather - Inspire - Transform



Minister's Column: What does it mean to be People of Exciting Transitions?

This is my final column in the UUCB Newsletter. Feeling very bitter-sweet. Actually “bitter-sweet” isn’t really right. There’s nothing “bitter” about it, and “sweet” isn’t nearly powerful enough.

If I were to go through the emotion wheel* and pull out everything I feel about my upcoming retirement in general, and my departure from our church in particular, I might list:

sad, tender, nostalgic, frightened, anxious, regretful, moved, excited, hopeful, proud, happy, and enormously grateful.

“Honored” and “privileged” don’t seem to be on the official wheel, but those too are swimming around in my sloppy emotion-pool. It was an honor and a privilege to serve you. And it always will be.

Transitions are exciting (sometimes a little too exciting), probably because of all the emotions fighting for attention in our hearts and minds, and in our communities. Sometimes that can lead to...shall we say, difficulties.

I know that when young people are about to leave home for the first time, there can be a period of individuation. The young person and those being left behind can start arguing about every little thing, just to make the departure “easier.” Individuation can happen anytime someone leaves anything. Tends to leave everyone in shreds and tatters. Not a great way to go.

Sometimes in a community, when a transition is afoot, one person may feel one thing and another person may feel something else. Sometimes the variety of emotional experience is not acknowledged, or honored, and misunderstandings take root and grow into conflicts. Yuck.

Some people don’t like goodbyes. I am one of these. I get all soggy and snotty and my eyes puff up and my voice gets squeaky. I feel like I am losing my dignity – on the emotion wheel it is called feeling ashamed. That’s a lousy feeling so I often try to fade away rather than say goodbye properly. Fading away is basically an unhealthy coping strategy and does not honor the people I love and who care for me.

Alternatively, sometimes I just “perform” my way through the transitions, and nobody gets to see the tears of the clown. Not very authentic.

I am very sad about leaving our beloved community, but don’t get me wrong. Sadness is not all that I am. There’s all that other stuff going on too. After all, we had a phenomenally joyful dance party at the end of the service on Sunday, June 18. That happiness will stay with me forever.

Walt Whitman said it best,

Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)

I am large, I contain multitudes, and so do you, and so does your community. Acknowledge that diversity and variety of emotions going on during this time of exciting transitions. Listen to each other. Be curious and compassionate. You are not riding a wave of emotion – crashing and rising – you are the water. You are the beloved community in all your glory and always will be.

Thank you for letting me be part of your life.

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

* if you are wondering about the emotion wheel, see <https://humansystems.co/emotionwheels/>



Joys and Concerns

Best wishes to Kaitlyn Steinberg and her family who has been blessed with a new nephew.

This month our congregation had three delightful Child Dedication Ceremonies. We welcome to the world:

Genevieve Lewis, daughter of Maddie and Billy Lewis, granddaughter of Rebecca and Peter McCauley,
great granddaughter of Paul Ziebarth

Julien Palatino-Sada, son of Suzanne Palatino and David Sada

Colin, Alexandra, and Nathaniel Knowles, children of Jacquelyn and Ryan Knowles

Last month we interred the remains of Janet Scolinio in our Memorial Garden. Janet and her husband were active members of our congregation for many years.

We also interred the remains of Margaret Callaghan in our Memorial Garden. Margaret was a much beloved aunt of Kate Bell-Schwede.



Pulpit Previews

July 2: Poetry Sunday, Eve Holberg

Join us as we celebrate verse in spoken and musical compositions! Be ready to join in song and to enjoy some enigmatic and beautiful verse! We'll hear songs and poems from a variety of artists including our own John Marohn!

A life-long Unitarian Universalist, Eve Holberg was raised in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, NY and has been a member of UUCB for more than 20 years. She has served on various church committees and task forces and is currently involved in the Welcoming and Connections Team and serves as a Worship Associate. She often passes the plate as an usher – a role she enjoys because she gets to greet and thank so many people. Eve serves as moderator of our congregational meetings. In her work-a-day life, Eve is an urban planner.

July 9: Persistent, Pleasant, and Unique, Tony Keller

Persistent persons, pleasant places, uniquely UU. The persons and places that most exemplify the spirit of our church. They have diversity, vitality, and leadership. Let us follow them.

Tony Keller was born and grew up in Niagara Falls, NY, 82 years ago. After a completely Roman Catholic education, he attended The Pontifical Gregorian University at the Vatican in Rome and was ordained a Catholic priest in December 1966. After ten years in the RC ministry, he left to marry. He searched dozens of churches for a spiritually satisfying home, first Catholic, then Protestant, finally settling on our own UUCB, where he has been a diversely active member for 36 years.

July 16: Walk with Me, Julie Taylor

Keeping a chaotic world at bay requires many intentional acts of solace. Join me on my walk and learn about the complexity of weaving peace into the wild soul. Bring your electronic device--we are going to attempt an interactive service!

Julie Taylor has been attending UUCB since 2006 and has served on the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee, and various other committees. She and her husband raised three children in the church, and both were actively involved in teaching RE. With a very busy career, Julie has chosen to serve the church now as a Worship Associate and finds time to preach in the area's smaller UU churches.

July 23: Breaking Free, Charlene Montgomery

Relationships are complicated. Sometimes they need to end. How do you become your true self without the established relationships you were once accustomed to? Breaking free of relationships that have a negative impact on yourself is the best way of loving yourself. Endings and beginnings can be equally stressful, but both are necessary.

Previously a Catholic Nun for 35 years, Charlene has been a Worship Associate and member of UUCB for ten years. Charlene loves being involved in the Church!

July 30: Can't Smile without You, Shaun Doyle

If you've ever wondered why you love sad music, find comfort in a rainy day or react intensely to art, music and nature, then you probably identify with the bittersweet state of mind. Learn how sorrow and longing make us whole while Shaun tells us more about this phenomenon through singing the bittersweet hits of Barry Manilow!

Shaun Doyle is a worship associate who started singing with the church choir 20 years ago this August. Shaun has also written sermons, been part of the welcome committee, was a visiting steward with the stewardship drive and taught RE this past year. He and his husband Eric have two little boys, Jackson and Frankie, who were both dedicated at the UUCB.

Aug 6: Hard Times, Rev. Fran Manly and Doug Yeomans

What shall we do when our world seems to be breaking up around us? When democracy, truth, civility, justice, and respect are all threatened, and there seems little or nothing any of us can do to change things. Where do we find hope? How do we stay centered enough to do the little we can? Doug and Fran will wrestle with these questions in words and music. Maybe we'll even find some answers.

Rev. Fran Manly is a retired UU minister now active in this church as a Worship Associate and in the choir. She has served churches in Niagara Falls and Hamburg and preaches occasionally at the small UU churches in Western NY.

Singer, Songwriter, and Guitarist Doug Yeomans, a member of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, is a popular guest

musician here and in other congregations. He and Fran and have been creating services together since 2010. Check him out at <https://dougyeomansmusic.com/home>

Aug 13: Differentiation, Diversity, Division, Rev. Rita Capezzi

At present, the world is blessed with two kinds of elephants and 248 kinds of woodpeckers, just two glorious examples of the differentiation nature provides. And we human beings manifest diversity as well, in our beings, bodies, experiences, and histories. Why do we so often resist this natural multiplicity and instead sow division amongst us? Why do we turn away from the pain, oppression, and injustice division causes?

Rev. Dr. Rita Capezzi has recently returned to Buffalo, where for 25 years she lived, worked, and raised two children, after serving five joyful years as minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato (MN). She currently serves the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga (ON) as Interim Minister. Rev. Rita is grateful to be preaching at her home congregation, which, along with her internship congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua, ordained her in 2018.

Aug 20: The Essence of Presence, Hy Carrel

Be present with ourselves. Be present with each other. Too often we become busy in our daily lives and ignore what is going on around us. How do we pay attention and tap into the essence of what fuels our community? Bringing community-driven art into our neighborhoods reminds us of the humanity of each person living alongside us and helps to shift our perspectives.

Hy trained for 5 years with Faithful Fools before moving back to Buffalo and serving in homeless outreach and housing for the next 3 years. Hy now serves as Director of Programs at Community Canvases, an arts nonprofit that builds community in WNY. Over the winter, Hy started Kind Fools, a community organization that brings healing via deep listening, as a program of Community Canvases.

Aug 27: Being in Relationship, The UUCB Respectful Relationship Team

Respectful relationship is about facilitating community. It does not happen by mistake. We will discuss the practices we learned over twelve weeks through the UU Institute and share our vision for the church moving forward.

The Respectful Relationship Team is currently:

Sharon Walker: Restorative Practice Circle Keeper and long-time congregational member,

Liz Parke: Covenant Group Facilitator and long-time congregational member

Ginny Vaughan: Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry Team chair, Pastoral Care and Support Ministry Team chair, and long-time congregational member

Stephen Wixson: Member of the Justice Ministry Team and long-time congregational member

Christine Slocum: Interim Member of the Board of Trustees, Justice Ministry Team member



Religious Education & Faith Development News



Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!

Jess Pond, Director of Religious Education

Hello UUCB!

Join me for four weeks of fun, interactive religious education this July with Camp Element! Camp Element will take place during usual RE time, 10:30-11:30 on Sundays – 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30. July 9 we'll be exploring Earth and decorating our own flowerpots. July 16, we'll make wooden bead wind chimes and play with bubbles to talk about Wind. On July 23, we'll talk about Fire Communion practices and how the Sun is related to Fire as we paint our own suncatchers. And wear your bathing suits for July 30 to end off the four weeks playing with Water! Parents are welcome to participate.

Have you ever wanted to teach a religious education class, volunteer in the nursery, or join an adult faith development ministry team? Now is your chance! We will need at least twenty volunteer teachers, youth advisors, and a few additional nursery volunteers in the upcoming year, as our religious education program and attendance continue to grow!

We especially need a few more trained volunteers to be able to bring back the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program for three age groups: grades 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9. The training is a total of 20 hours, and costs for the training are covered by UUCB. Registration for an online training for the high school levels opens on July 17, and for the elementary school levels opens on August 21. Parents can't teach their own children in OWL, but let's create the village that teaches each other's kids!

I am also working on forming two ministry teams for next year: Adult Faith Development, and Religious Education for children, youth, and parents. Would you like to see more faith development programming for adults? Talk to me about joining the Adult Faith Development Ministry Team! Would you like to help with special programming for kids and parents, including potlucks and party planning? Talk to me about the Religious Education Ministry Team!

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or thoughts about Religious Education for any age group at jpond@buffalouu.org.

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 IS OPEN! 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!

Adult Education Offerings


SHAW GOOD TO BE BACK! – A PREVIEW (AND REVIEW) OF THE 2023 SHAW FESTIVAL

“Curtain up! Light the lights!” Now that the pandemic is receding, it's a great time to return to the Shaw Festival, and this course is your handy guide to its upcoming season. Anchored by the classic show-biz musical *Gypsy*, the playbill features two premieres of legends: the Hindu epic *Mahabharata* and the C.S. Lewis Narnian tale *Prince Caspian*. Bernard Shaw is represented by the witty comedies *The Apple Cart* and *Village Wooing*, plus his Irish compatriot J.M. Synge by *The Playboy of the Western World*. Novelists James Baldwin (*The Amen Corner*) and Edith Wharton (*Shadow of a Doubt*) provide gripping drama, while Tom Stoppard (*On the Razzle*) and Noël Coward (*Blithe Spirit*) leave 'em laughing. In short, let Shaw entertain you, and you'll have a real good time, yessir!

Course Syllabus

- Session One (May 10): *Karma, Dharma and the Gods – Mahabharata* (2023) by Philip Akin and Miriam Fernandes, after the Sanskrit epic poem
- Session Two (May 17): *Shaw Returns to Narnia – Prince Caspian* (2023) by Damian Atkins, based on the C.S. Lewis novel.
- Session Three (May 24): *A Spree in Vienna – On the Razzle* (1981) by Tom Stoppard, based on a farce by Johann Nestroy.
- Session Four (May 31): *The Ultimate Stage Mother – Gypsy* (1959) by Arthur Laurents, Julie Styne and Stephen Sondheim, after the memoir by Gypsy Rose Lee.
- Session Five (June 7): *Getting His Irish Up – The Playboy of the Western World* (1907), by John Millington Synge.
- Session Six (June 14): *Love from A to Z – Village Wooing* (1933) by Bernard Shaw; In the *Spiegeltent* (*A Game of Love and Chance* and *Mother, Daughter*)
- Session Seven (June 21): *Governing the King – The Apple Cart* (1928) by Bernard Shaw
- Session Eight (June 28): *Putting the Irish Down – The Clearing* (1993) by Helen Edmundson
- NO CLASS ON JULY 5**
- Session Nine (July 12): *Unsettled Minister – The Amen Corner* (1954) by James Baldwin
- Session Ten (July 19): *Woman with a Past – The Shadow of a Doubt* (1901) by Edith Wharton.
- Session Eleven (July 26): *Ghost of a Chance – Blithe Spirit* (1941) by Noël Coward

SHAW GOOD TO BE BACK!
A Preview (and Review) of the
2023 SHAW FESTIVAL



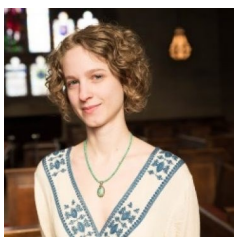
Michael Harris, instructor

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222
11 meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
May 10 to July 26, 2023
Cost: \$70 for 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 Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14222. [Put 'Shaw Fest 2023' on memo line of check.] For information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at office@buffalouu.org.

Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



Service Music this July will be provided by a combination of Music Staff, guests, and volunteers. There will also be another exciting installment in our ongoing Casual Concert series.

On Sunday July 2nd, Eve Holberg will be leading a service combining spoken and sung poetry. As the Prelude, UUCB Choir volunteer Jim Jarvis will sing and play “One Too Many Mornings” by that great musical poet Bob Dylan. At the Offertory, UUCB Choir volunteer Leslie Boldt will sing the French art song “Extase” by Henri DuParc, accompanied by UUCB Pianist Chris Sierzchula. As the Reflection, Jim and Leslie will combine forces for “Suzanne” by another poetic soul, Leonard Cohen. As the Postlude, Music Director Jessie Downs and Chris will share Billy Joel’s introspective “Summer, Highland Falls.”

On Sunday July 9th, Bass Soloist Michael Harris and guest pianist Nick Emmanuel will offer up musical selections that speak to UUCB’s musical heritage. As the Prelude, Nick will play J.S. Bach’s Partita No. 1 as an allusion to UUCB’s long tradition of Bach-centric Music Sundays. As the Offertory, Michael will sing a song of his own creation - “Wisdom in the Windows,” which speaks to just how special our sacred space has been and continues to be. As the Postlude, Nick will share an excerpt from Jessie’s “Variations” for solo piano.

This month’s Casual Concert will feature performance artist Little Cake on Saturday July 15th at 2pm in the sanctuary. Little Cake is the stage name of Ana Vafai, who creates songs, teaches music, and builds community in Buffalo NY. Little Cake is praised for her unique, engaging stage presence, and her musical arrangements. Her compositions have been known to overwhelm audiences with joy, emotion and whimsy, earning her the award for “Best Local Music Act” by the Buffalo Spree in 2017. Join us for Ana’s special solo performance at UUCB! It’s sure to be a hoot!

On Sunday July 16th, Michael Harris will again be the featured vocalist, this time with Chris Sierzchula on the keys. Together, they will share excerpts by the jazz pop band Pink Martini. These whimsical numbers will help illustrate Julie Taylor’s sermon about the magic of taking walks. As the Prelude, Michael and Chris will perform “Sympathique,” a jaunty number sung in French. The cutesy yet inspirational “Hang on Little Tomato” will serve as the Offertory and include a special musical surprise. The Schumann-inspired “Butterfly Song” will be the Reflection, which will then be echoed by an excerpt from the song’s source materials - “Papillons” by Robert Schumann – as the Postlude.

On Sunday July 23rd, Jessie and Chris will share some synth-y selections based on Charlene Montgomery’s theme of “Breaking Free.” Of course, Jessie will take this opportunity to sing “I Want to Break Free” by John Deacon, bassist of Queen. She will also share another rock favorite “Break on Through” by The Doors, and Chris will play a piece or two from his own repertory.

Finally, on Sunday July 30th, guest speaker Shaun Doyle will also serve as our guest singer, sharing special music alongside returning guest pianist Nick Emmanuel. Together they will share bittersweet songs by Barry Manilow and reflections on their emotional impact on our lives.





Save the Date! Join us July 9th as we bid a fond farewell to our beloved Rev. Joan!

We are sending our beloved Reverend Joan off with a big celebration on Sunday July 9th after our Church Services! Let's make this party special! There will be an opportunity to speak at the celebration as well as other roles for setting up and cleaning up. We will have a Peter Sloan card to sign and a message book for your well wishes. We will need folks to bring desserts and salads. (Subs will be provided). We are still looking for more photos of Joan during her tenure as our Minister. Email photos to bae812@gmail.com or bring print photos to church and give them to Sandra Van Every or Bridget Evans. Thanks to everyone so far! There are lots of ways to participate! Sign up sheets and more info will be available in the Parish Hall 6/11, 6/25 and 7/2. Let's show Joan how much she has meant to OUR Congregation over these 8 years of service and fellowship!



“Let Freedom Read,” Banned Book Week 2023

UUCB Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon



The club is now on summer break but we will be returning the first week in October celebrating “Banned Book Week” for 2023. Our picks for 23-24 based on our members’ suggestions: Oct., Kurt Vonnegut, Cat’s Cradle; Nov., Jodi Picoult, Nineteen Minutes; Dec., break; Jan. 2024, James Baldwin, Go Tell It On The Mountain; Feb., Alex Hailey and Malcolm X, The Autobiography of Malcolm X; Patricia McCormick, Sold; Salman Rushdie, The Satanic Verses; May, Alison Bechdel, Fun Home.

Starting Wed., Oct., 4, we will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Marge Gardner Room, from 7:00 pm-8:30pm.

“Burning Books” is graciously giving “banned book club members” a discount on our monthly reads. Just let the staff know that you are a part of the UU Church Banned Book Club. Another source [thrift-books.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com) which is reported to be a great source for “cheap” books.

All are welcome and you can join us at any time. For more information, contact Mary Lou Hill and Sharon Walker at uucbbbc@buffalouu.org or DRE Jess Pond at jpond@buffalouu.org.

Welcome to our new Interim Minister Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington!



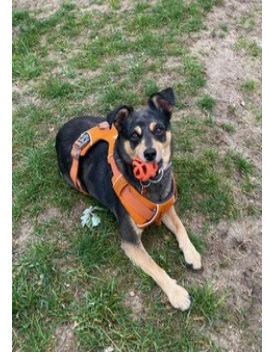
Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington is an Accredited Interim Minister who has successfully served UU congregations through their time of transition in Michigan, Florida, Tennessee and North Carolina. She also served as a settled minister for nine years.

She is no stranger to cold and snowy winters: Her home base is Ludington, Mich., and she owned a bakery/cafe in Seward, Alaska.

Cathy will be moving to Buffalo from Asheville, N.C., with her 6-year-old dog, Zoey, while her husband, Jim, patiently holds down the fort in their Ludington home. He is fully supportive of her call

to ministry.

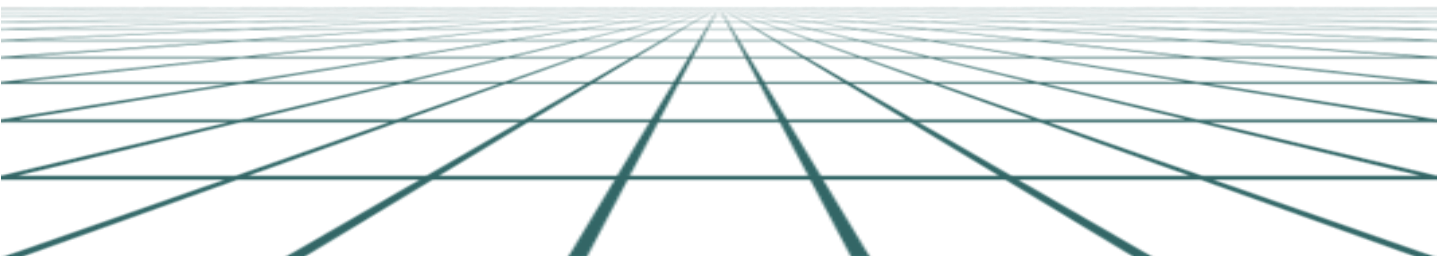
Prior to becoming a minister, Cathy was an award-winning hairdresser for 25 years and owned Miller's Daughter Bakery/Cafe in Seward, Alaska, which is where she recognized that her call to feed people was a call to ministry. She drove the Al-Can Highway to Berkeley, Calif., where she spent five years (including a one-year internship in Austin, Texas) to study at Starr King School for the Ministry.



While in seminary and beyond, Cathy's ministry has been deeply informed and creatively shaped by her involvement with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco.

She believes that transitional ministry should be joyful and fun as well as a time of deep discernment and exploration.

Since ordination, Cathy has dreamed of serving a church that "looks like a church" and is thrilled to be coming to UUCB.



July Share-the-Plate: [The Buffalo Peace House](#)



The Buffalo Peace House provides safe, clean housing, food and other necessary services to asylum seekers in Western New York. For over ten years the Peace House has been working closely with other service aligned agencies in the area to serve the many vulnerable individuals who arrive here regularly.

Located in Hamburg, we strive to provide a home-like, welcoming atmosphere where asylees can feel settled and safe during what is often a years-long process of navigating the complex legal process. While waiting for their legal status to be resolved, asylees cannot work and are not eligible for government benefits. The Peace House strives to ensure that residents most basic needs are met and coordinates with other agencies to arrange access to legal and medical care.



Respectful (Right) Relations Team and our Church Covenant

At the beginning of the year Reverend Joan and Board leadership heard about a training that is put on by the UUA and is called "Tending Covenant: Training for Right Relationship Teams". Five members of the congregation (Sharon Walker, Ginny Vaughan, Chris Slocum, Liz Parke, Steve Wixson) are currently taking this training and would like to give you a sense of our experience. While this work is called "Right "Relationship training, we would like to consider our team as a Respectful Relationship team and we will use that term going forward.

The purpose of Respectful Relationship teams is to provide congregational members with a place to deal with conflicts that might arise between individuals. We are learning that in order to function as a caring and respectful congregation we need to know how to hold each other in covenant. We need to be a congregation that understands and tries to live by its values.

We have learned some specific techniques around the restorative practices/ listening circle concept. Our role is not to solve problems but to allow each individual to be heard in fact and emotions. We are neither responsible to the Board or to the Minister.

What we have learned the most, or become much more aware of, is that UUCB does not have a real Congregational Covenant. We recite our vision statement at the beginning of Service, that does not give us specifics on how we want to be in this religious community. We are a sacred organization made up of imperfect human beings. It is our hope that working with our interim minister, the board, and the larger congregational community we can create a document that not only identifies our values but gives us specifics about how we can treat each other in community. As a Respectful Relations team we will help to hold this community in covenant. Our team will be offering the Worship Service on August 27. If you have questions about our work, please contact any of us.

Respectfully - *Sharon Walker, Ginny Vaughan, Chris Slocum, Liz Parke and Steve Wixson*



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.

We are asking those who purchase flowers 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. 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 .

Announcements, Events and Opportunities, Oh My!

Justice Ministry News!

As you have probably heard, there will be asylum-seekers settling in Buffalo because other communities are refusing to welcome them. The members of the Justice Ministry invite you to join the community-wide effort to embrace these new Buffalonians. Asylum-seekers are often excluded from mainstream resources for help and so it is very important that the community help them through mutual aid. That is where we come in!

Our former Share The Plate partner - Justice for Migrant Families - is organizing a clothing and other goods drive for our new neighbors. More information is below. Donations can be dropped off at Burning Books (420 Connecticut St) or Trinity Church (371 Delaware Ave). Please note that UUCB is not a collection site.

They are asking for:

- Socks
- Underwear
- Shorts
- Children's summer clothes and fun
- Children's toiletries
- Grocery gift cards
- Money

Email EmilyRose@JFMFWNY.org with questions.

URGENT!

**DONATIONS
NEEDED!**

**AS WE PREPARE TO WELCOME NEW
MIGRANTS ARRIVING IN BUFFALO
AND WNY, JFMF IS PUTTING OUT
AN URGENT CALL FOR:**

- **SOCKS**
- **UNDERWEAR**
- **SHORTS**
- **CHILDREN'S SUMMER CLOTHES +
FUN**
- **CHILDREN'S TOILETRIES**
- **GROCERY CARDS**
- **MONETARY DONATIONS**

**ALL ADULT SIZES
AND GENDERS
NEEDED**

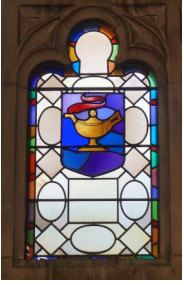
**HAVE EVEN MORE TO OFFER? FILL OUT THIS FORM AT bit.ly/jfmf2023
OR DONATE DIRECTLY AT bit.ly/donatejfmf**

**TRINITY CHURCH
371 DELAWARE AVENUE,
BUFFALO NY 14202
TUESDAYS AND
THURSDAYS 10-3PM**

**BURNING BOOKS
420 CONNECTICUT ST.
BUFFALO NY 14213
MONDAY-SUNDAY 11-
6PM**

**OR EMAIL:
EMILYROSE@JFMFWNY.ORG OR
JENNIFER@JFMFWNY.ORG**

Help celebrate our church architecture and history, become a UUCB tour guide or assistant!



Opportunities are coming up this Summer and Fall for us to invite visitors into experiencing the beauty of our Sanctuary, including the Buffalo Garden Walk (Sat 7/29 - Sun 7/30), Elmwood Village Arts Fest (Sat 8/26 - Sun 8/27), and more. If you are interested in training as a UUCB tour guide or assistant and becoming part of our volunteer team, reach out to Bill Parke in person at church or contact him through his listing in the UUCB Online Directory by July 9th (to learn more about the UUCB online directory, contact the Church Office at office@buffalouu.org). Our church is a Local Landmark, on the National Register of Historic Places, and is in a National Register District. Be a part of sharing the experience of it with others, and help us widen our circle!

WBFO Promotion

If you think promoting UUCB through spot announcements WBFO was a good idea, here's your chance to put your money where your opinions are. Mark your donations "WBFO Promotion" and all of WBFO's listening audience will hear what this church has to offer, thanks to your generosity. Have a listen to the [June 26th WBFO broadcast](#), in case you missed it!



Volunteers Sought for Steele Memorial Reception July 8

Just a few kind souls are needed to help with a small memorial reception for Kevin Steele set for 2pm Saturday, July 8, following his interment in the memorial garden at 1pm. He was the son of Susan Steele, a long standing member of our church. You could pour coffee from the magnificent silver service, seated, for 30 minutes, make sweet or savory snacks, ladle lemonade, plate goodies, or help with cleanup. See Nancy Wilkins or Lucy Sloan at coffee hour, or email nlaurienwilkins@yahoo.com. The families are always astounded by our beautiful display, and our gracious UUCB kindness.



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). **Three films remaining: September, October, December!**

Collage Club at UUCB!



Buffalo Collage Club 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. 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 from 7pm to 8:30pm.** See you there!



Winning Auction Bids are now at \$12,100 - 86% of our goal
Space is available for these future events

E-mail muka61@aol.com to reserve your space

AUGUST

Fri 8/4 @ 7:00 PM 4-Hand Piano Concert and Desserts –

Donated by: Martha Malkiewicz & Bruce Pfeffer

min bid \$40 buy now \$60

Sat 8/5 @ 7:00 PM Campfire Sing-Along and Smores

Donated by: Kary & Katherine Gillette-Cockerill

min bid \$ 5 buy now \$10

Sat 8/12 @10:00 AM Hike to the Eternal Flame

Donated by: John Petrocelli

min bid \$10 buy now \$15

OCTOBER

Sat 10/7 @ 2:00 PM Sound Bath Journey

Donated by: Andrea Burke-Harris & Gregg Harris

min bid \$20 buy now \$40

Words from the Board

Sometimes when I am biking home from work, the wind will be blowing towards me. Prevailing winds would be at my back. When the wind blows the "wrong" way, it's usually strong, like it's pushing me backwards. At the end of the day, I'm tired, eager for the destination, and it feels like a fight at every pedal.

Yet, if I gave up, I'd be stuck on the side of the road. There isn't an easier way home. The only way is through, and so far I've always made it home.

Transitions can feel like that too. Weathering the change has moments like pushing through the wind storm. But if you stop, you're stuck. Only by pushing through the difficulty do we get to where we need to be.

May we enter this time of ministerial transition with the openness to see what it brings and the tenacity to stick through its challenges. There will undoubtedly be moments where the wind feels like it's blowing the wrong way, when we feel the tug towards the familiar instead of the present. May we bring patience and curiosity. May we continue to embrace each other in this faith community during this change.

Thank you to the Interim Search Committee for all of the work (it was A LOT of work!) you all did to support us through this transition. The Interim Search Committee includes Doug Sherman, Rachel Clark, Tom Petrocelli, and Kathy Kubala. Thank you so much.

Thank you Rev. Joan for eight years of ministering to our church community! We will miss you and we appreciate all you have done for us. We wish you a restful and joyous retirement! - Christine Slocum

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](#).

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 a letter from our minister 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

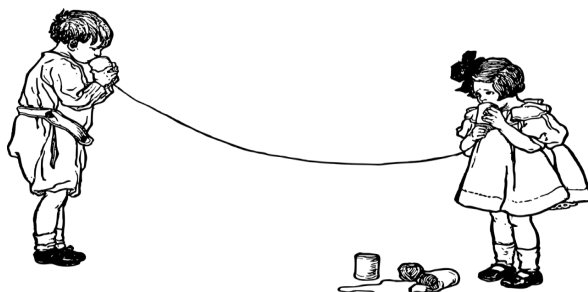
OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

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,
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716-885-2136, www.buffalouu.org

Minister: Rev. Joan Montagnes minister@buffalouu.org	Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Kaylan Ruiz office@buffalouu.org	Director of Religious Education: Jessica Pond jpond@buffalouu.org	Music Director: Dr. Jessie Downs jdowns@buffalouu.org
Care Network: Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 wixsonsg@gmail.com	Gatekeeper: Sara Kirkland office@buffalouu.org	Administrator for Finance: Donna Sentz donnasentz@buffalouu.org	Organist/ Accompanist: Chris Sierzchula
Nursery Care Coordinator: TBH		<p style="text-align: center;">Monthly Newsletter (submissions due by the 15th) newsletter@buffalouu.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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

