



October 2023
Gather - Inspire - Transform



Musings

Rev. Cathy Harrington, Interim Minister

The Gift of Heritage

Our Soul Matters theme invites us to pay attention to the gifts we have received from our heritage. We are not speaking about our relatives in this instance, but about the ancestors who gave us a different gift than our blue eyes or curly hair. As explained in the small group packet this month, “relatives are in our DNA while ancestors live in the whispers of our heart.” They remind us that the future is in our hands now and inspire us to keep their legacy alive for the benefit of future generations.

When I was preaching about Holy Heresy last Sunday, I mentioned that this church is so much more than an old historic building; it is a sacred space that was inspired by our ancestors. The first Unitarian Church building in Buffalo was erected on a lot at Franklin and Eagle Streets. Its cornerstone was laid in 1833. Construction of this church building began in 1904, but both the Unitarians and the Universalists began gathering in 1831, only six years after the American Unitarian Association was formed in America. The Universalist Church of America was founded in 1793, and the American Unitarian Association was founded in 1825. My goodness, the gifts of your heritage are an embarrassment of riches! Your history dates to a time when our ancestors were building the foundations of our faith. Here are just a few: William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Hosea Ballou, Horace Greeley, Abner Kneeland (was convicted and jailed for blasphemy), Theodore Parker, Margaret Fuller, John C. Calhoun, James Luther Adams, John H. Dietrich, and James Freeman Clarke.

Alice Walker said, “To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves.”, and the Deuteronomist wrote, “We drink from wells we did not dig; we eat fruit from orchards we did not plant...”

In gratitude for the gifts of the ancestors whose courage and faith continue to bless us and keep us, may we “marry memory and promise” (Karen Johnston) by being the keepers of their dream.

In faith and love,

Cathy

October Pulpit Preview



Oct 1: “When Roots Run Deep” by Rev. Cathy Harrington

There is an African proverb that says, “When roots run deep, there is no reason to fear the wind.” UUCB’s roots run deep and wide providing safety and comfort during the hurricane winds from the pandemic and its challenges. Gratefully, strong leadership guided the congregation through the storm. It is now time to strengthen our wings and soar!

Oct 8: Growing up UU as a PK, by Bill Parke

There are comparatively few UUs in the world. Even fewer grew up UU. Even less had a UU minister as a parent, oftentimes called a PK or “preacher’s kid.” And it is a rare thing indeed to have a UU PK whose minister-parent grew up in this church, but here we are, with that as the experience of very our own member, Bill Parke. On October 8th we’ll learn from Bill what it was like growing up as the offspring of The Rev. Dr. David B. Parke — a product of UUCB and a UU minister of 17 UU congregations over a period of 50 years. It’s a story that ranges from hard times to happy, and has something to offer for everyone.

Oct 15: Rethinking the Bucket List, by Rev. Cathy Harrington

What is the difference between resume virtues and eulogy virtues, David Brooks asks in his book, *The Road to Character*. What if Erik Erikson’s eight stage of life is not the ultimate but the *penultimate*, a question asked by Lenora Montgomery at my Meadville Lombard Theological School graduation where I received my Doctor of Ministry degree. Kathleen Taylor said in her Ted Talk “Rethinking the Bucket List,” that it is never too late to shed what is false, and it is never too early to find out who we are.


Oct 22: Serving with Grace, by Rev. Cathy Harrington

Erik Walker-Wikstrom’s book, *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as Spiritual Practice* suggests that serving on the board and in other leadership roles can be more than another responsibility or added obligation, what if service can an opportunity for growth and spiritual deepening? The problem is that churches often act like small businesses. Walker suggests that there are two ways of looking at the world; the way of the world and the way of the world’s religions. What if it really doesn’t matter if you win or lose? What if the most important thing really *is* how you play the game?

Oct 29: A Service of Remembrance for All Souls with Rev. Cathy Harrington

This morning we will take time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us in our beautiful sacred space with music, poetry, and ritual. Bring a photo of a loved on you wish to remember to be place on the altar.

Welcome to our new Office Administrator, Jen Cunningham!

 Jen comes to us with over a decade of experience in non-profit fundraising and database administration. She has worked as a Virtual Assistant, where she helped build websites, in addition to managing customer service for other small businesses. She is a mother to a sassy, but loving, Samoyed named Anika. Jen also practices reiki and other energy healing techniques on the side. Her office hours are M-F from 10am-3pm and she can be reached at jcunningham@buffalouu.org.

Religious Education & Faith Development News



Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!

Jess Pond, Director of Religious Education

Hello UUCB!

Religious Education classes are underway!

Register for Religious Education here: <https://forms.gle/4pCR9vikK9fAJgrA9>

Check out the Lifespan Religious Education Calendar here: <https://shorturl.at/mvJKZ>

We can always use more volunteers in RE, especially for the Youth Group. If you're interested in volunteering, please email me at jpond@buffalouu.org.

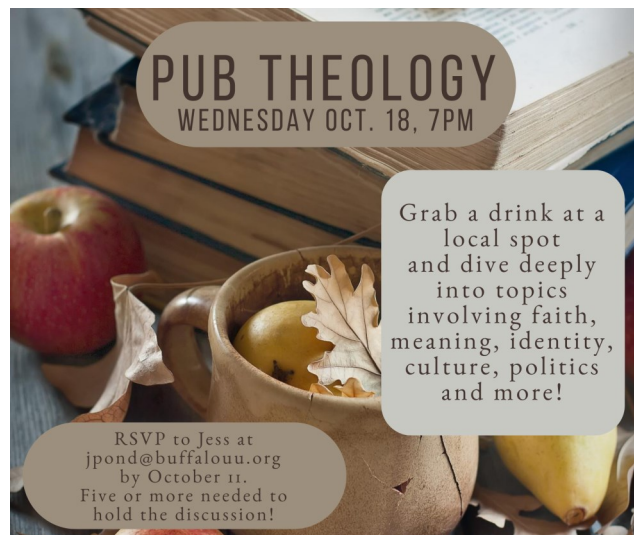
There is so much excitement coming up this month!

October 8	Indigenous Peoples' Day All-RE Program, Alliance Room, 10:45-11:45 Instead of regular RE classes, all ages of children and youth (parents, too!) are invited to join Jess in the Alliance Room after the Story for All Ages for a special RE program.
October 15	SuUpper Sunday, Parish Hall, after service SuUpper Sunday is back! To volunteer to help cook on Saturday the 14 th , or to help serve or clean up on the 15 th , please RSVP to Jess.
October 18	Pub Theology, location TBD, 7:00-9:00 Grab a drink at a local spot and dive into topics of faith, meaning, identity, culture, and more! RSVP to Jess by October 11. Five or more participants are needed to hold the discussion.
October 28	Halloween Party & Potluck, Parish Hall, 5:00-8:00 Come celebrate Halloween with good food, games, and fun!

Bright blessings,

Jess

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Adult Faith Development

UUCB Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon

October 2023 Newsletter

UUCB Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon

“Let Freedom Read,” Banned Book Week Oct 1-7, 2023

We start the year off the first week in October celebrating “Banned Book Week.” This month’s read is fellow UU Kurt Vonnegut’s Cat’s Cradle. In honor of Banned Book Week we have invited “Burning Books to table in our Parish Hall on Sunday, Oct. 1st. There will be selections from our reading list as well as a “radical” selection of adult and children’s books.

Beginning 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.

Sunday, Oct. 29, following the service, we will be presenting the documentary on Vonnegut that also showcases our church.

The remaining picks for 23-24: 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; March, Patricia McCormick, Sold; April, Salman Rushdie, The Satanic Verses; May, Alison Bechdel, Fun Home.

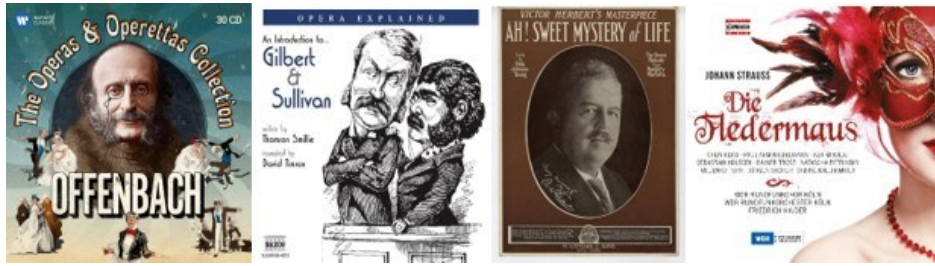
All are welcome. Join us at any time. For more information, contact Mary Lou Hill and Sharon Walker at uucbbbc@buffalouu.org or DRE Jess Pond at jpond@buffalouu.org.



The Buffalo Central Library has a fabulous exhibit featuring Banned Books! And you can take all of those books out!



“Banned Books Week ,October 1-7, celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. For 40 years, the annual event has brought together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship." **Visit the [Buffalo Central Library site](#) for more info.**



TWO HEARTS IN ¾ TIME: THE WORLD OF OPERETTA



MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR

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

14 Meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

September 6 to December 13, 2023

Cost: \$75 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 'Operetta Course' on memo line of check.] For information, call 716-885-2136, or email us at office@buffalouu.org.

TWO HEARTS IN ¾ TIME: THE WORLD OF OPERETTA

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the language of love was theatrically expressed by the operetta. It was the vehicle not just for high romance, but also for social satire & extravagant fantasy. We will salute the great melodic geniuses of the operetta form, including Jacques Offenbach, Arthur Sullivan (with W.S. Gilbert), Johann Strauss II, Victor Herbert and Sigmund Romberg. Each class will leave you with a song in your heart!

Course Syllabus

Session Five (October 4): Vienna's Silver Age – Karl Millöcker, Oscar Straus

Session Six (October 11): Lands of Smiles – Franz Léhar, Emmerich Kálmán

Session Seven (Oct. 18): A Source of Innocent Merriment – The Partnership of Arthur Sullivan and W.S. Gilbert

Session Eight (Oct. 25): If Love Were All – Titans of English Operetta (Noël Coward and Ivor Novello)

Session Nine (November 1): Oh Promise Me – Early American Operetta (John Philip Sousa and Reginald De Koven)

November 8 – No Class Session!!

Session Ten (November 15): Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life – Irish-American Operetta Master: Victor Herbert

Session Eleven (Nov. 22): When I'm Calling You – Rudolf Friml

Session Twelve (Nov. 29): Lover, Come Back to Me – Sigmund Romberg

Session Thirteen (December 6): And This Is My Beloved – Robert Wright and George Forrest

Session Fourteen (December 13): Exit Music – Operetta's Last Gasps (Candide, She Loves Me, A Little Night Music & On the Twentieth Century)

Music Notes

Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



This Sunday October 1st, the Music Ministry will help kick off the stewardship drive with songs centered around the theme of “roots and wings.” To begin the service, the Chamber Choir will sing Michael Harris’s parody rendition of “Tradition” from *Fiddler on the Roof*, appropriately re-titled “Our Mission!” At the Offertory, Shaun Doyle will sing “I Can See It” from *The Fantasticks*, sharing a vision of the bright future ahead. As the Reflection, Taryn Goehrig will sing “Der Lindbaum” (The Linden Tree) - a German art song from Franz Schubert’s cycle *Der Winterreise* (The Winter’s Journey) - which captures both the nostalgia we can feel for the past, as well as the harsh reality that we cannot return to it, but must instead continue journeying onward. Finally, as the Postlude, Christopher Sierzchula will share “Greek Melody” by G.I. Gurdjieff and Thomas De Hartmann, a hopeful tune to send us off into whatever comes next for our congregation.

On Sunday October 8th, Bill Parke will take the pulpit to talk about his experience growing up UU, and the UUCB Choir, Chris, Helen and Paul will share pieces relevant to that that topic and the larger monthly theme of “Heritage.” The choir will begin the service with a jaunty piece by modern UU composer Tom Benjamin, entitled “Alleluia.” At the Offertory, the choir will sing “Ave Maris Stella” (Hail, Star of the Sea), by Unitarian Composer Edvard Grieg. As the Reflection, Helen Lowry and Paul Zanolli will perform “Testimony” by lesbian Canadian singer-songwriter Ferron, a piece that Helen feels captures her feelings about her own UU upbringing. Finally, Chris will send us home with the sounds of another faith-filled piece by G.I. Gurdjieff and Thomas De Hartmann.

On Sunday October 15th, Reverend Cathy will share thoughts on the richness of old age and the Music Ministry will share songs with different perspectives on the sunset of life. The service will begin with “The world feels dusty” - a setting of an Emily Dickenson poem by Aaron Copland that expresses the desire to bring “holy balms” to those in their “dusty” final chapters. At the Offertory, Michael Harris will lead the HoUUse Band in “Take it from an Old Man” from *Waitress*, a song about the valuable wisdom and perspective of those who have seen it all. As the Reflection, Shaun and Taryn will sing “Sunrise, Sunset,” another tune from *Fiddler on the Roof* about the strangeness of time’s passing. Finally, Helen and Paul will share Israel Kamakawiwo’ole’s arrangement of “Somewhere over the Rainbow” and “What A Wonderful World,” illustrating how hope and longing can transform into contentment and insight.

The weekend of October 20th through 22nd will be filled with music. On Friday October 20th, catch the relaunch event of Music Director Jessie Downs’s opera company Sotto Voce at 7:30pm ([tickets available on Eventbrite](#)), with performances by Jessie, soloists Taryn and Helen, choir member Beth White, former UUCB pianist Jon Vogtle, and other fabulous musicians from the larger community. On Saturday October 21st at 2pm, catch this month’s Casual Concert featuring classical guitarist Zane Merritt. Finally, on Sunday October 22nd, Cathy’s sermon on “Serving with Grace” will be accompanied by beautiful music from Chris, the Choir - singing pieces by Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland that speak to our need to invest in the care of our beloved church community, Shaun Doyle – singing a gospel tune about the desire to be a beacon of our values in the world.

The last service of the month on October 29th will be a solemn service of reflection and remembrance in honor of All Souls Day, with music provided by guest pianist James Burgess, the Chamber Choir, and our soloists. James will begin the service with the tender “Rende-vous manque” (Meeting I Missed). At the Offertory, the Chamber Choir will sing “Requiem” by Eliza Gilkyson, originally written for the victims of the 2004 Tsunami. As the Reflection, Jessie, Taryn, and Helen will sing Eva Cassidy’s “I Know You By Heart,” and as the Postlude Shaun will sing the short but sweet “Sometimes” by The Carpenters – both songs that express tender sentiments about those we hold closest to our hearts, now and always.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY FEATURES BILL PARKE ON OCTOBER 19

Bill Parke is our Church Historian, and he does engaging, accurate, investigative work on many topics relating to our church life. Below he describes a fascinating program he has wrought to be presented on Thursday, October 19 at 11:30 AM. Come early for delectable hors d'oeuvres before the program! The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for those yet-to-be members. If you can't stay for lunch, the cost is \$5 to stay for just the program. Reservations will be taken after church on Oct 8 and Oct 15.

We're going to have a great day.....please come and join us!

The Contributions of Unitarian Universalist Women as Only a Man Can Tell It!

British celebrity Rita Ora once said "women love an honest man." So join us at the Women's Society luncheon to hear honest man and UUCB Church Historian Bill Parke share stories of notable women in our very own church history. Find out the answers to questions like: What were among the first purchases made when church women met in 1834 to start the Ladies Unitarian Association? What donation was given to a newly-opened orphan asylum that would be unusual by today's standards? When social conditions left legions of women and their children in poverty after the Civil War, what organization did Universalist Harriet Townsend establish? How did Universalist Alice Moore respond when she saw children living in crowded tenements in 1888? What did Unitarian Elizabeth Williams do when she encountered a destitute family in 1894? Mr. Parke will provide honest answers to these questions and more, as he explores the history of women in our church at our luncheon on October 19.

And now a word from our church historian . . .

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

Church tours were successfully given during summer festivals this year. During the Buffalo Garden Walk and the Elmwood Village ArtFest, volunteers gave free architectural tours of our Sanctuary to 183 visitors! We hope some will try attending our Sunday services. Thanks to Maria Testa, Paulette Notaro, Judy Kieffer, and myself for holding the tours and to Rev. Joan for her support of our purchase of beautiful, new garden signs to promote them.

If you or a group you are in are interested in an architectural tour, or if you would like to volunteer to be a tour guide or assistant, please contact me through the church office or the church's online member directory, IconCMO.

Bill Parke, Church Historian



STEWARDSHIP 2024: *ROOTS and WINGS*

Martha Malkiewicz, Bill Parke, Steve Wixson co-chairs

October is when we ask one another to make a financial pledge to UUCB for 2024. Come join the special gatherings in the Parish Hall on October 1 (Stewardship Kick-off), October 15 (Souper Sunday) and October 29 (Waffle Breakfast).



The year's theme is Roots Hold Me Close, Wings Set Me Free. (from Hymn #123.)

Roots represent our foundation.

Wings represent what we can do in the future. We have grand plans! Social Justice! Religious Education! Music! Community Outreach! Welcoming a new minister!

Twenty five of us will be Welcoming Friends this year. During October we will reach out to each of you to to arrange a Sunday to meet together either before or after church. We will share our stories with one another about what this church means to us and where we see this church going. You will then be asked to fill out a Pledge Card.

Pledging creates our ROOTS for UUCB. Pledging lets the church know the amount of money we will have to pay our bills, to support our staff, to care for the building, to provide for one another. The paying our monthly pledge creates our WINGS that enable us to fulfill the church's mission and promote UU values in the world.

So join in. Meet your Welcoming Friend. Share your ideas. And when it is time, be as generous as you can be to help UUCB soar.

October Share-the-Plate: [Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties](#)



Since 1975, Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, Inc. (NACS) has focused on serving the needs of the Native American population in Erie and Niagara counties living off their Nation territory. NACS has been and remains a key human service provider to all facets of the community. With five offices serving 17 counties of Upstate NY, NACS offers a variety of services under ten different program areas: Academic Achievement, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Community and Cultural Services, Economic Empowerment, Family Preservation and Strengthening, Foster Care, Managed Care Services, Health & Wellness, Youth Services, and Special Initiatives. NACS' aim is to strengthen individuals and families, while building a sense of community in a 'Tradition of Caring'. For more information on NACS, visit: www.nacswny.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), or [Twitter](#).

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, unless it's an Executive Meeting): <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97736244745>. (If attending via Zoom, please email the board in advance)
- To view Current Board of Trustees members click here: [Governance](#).



Announcements, Events and Opportunities, Oh My!

Witness to Injustice: Unraveling Historic Native and U.S. Relations *SAVE THE DATE*



Please join us for Buffalo Nekanehsakt's KAIROS Blanket Exercise for Saturday November 4, 2023 from 12pm to 3pm in UUCB's **Parish Hall** at 695 Elmwood Avenue. Please invite your friends: everyone is welcome!

The KAIROS “Witness to Injustice” training (or, “Blanket Activity”) is a highly participatory, profound examination and journey of learning about the many challenges and traumas that have been inflicted on Indigenous peoples of North America. This very powerful activity provides a stark, eye-opening presentation of these centuries-long factors that continue to impact Indigenous people in the present day. As much of this information is not widely known or taught in most educational systems, participants are invited to listen with open hearts and minds to begin to better understand the multiple factors of historical traumas impacting Native people. Small group discussions will also be held so that participants can share and process their reactions to the activity. Our goal is to help educate our friends and allies about the many dynamics that affect relationships between Native and Non-Native peoples. We invite you to join us on what will be a remarkable journey of storytelling and within a spirit of healing.

There is a sliding scale of \$10-\$30 to support our indigenous facilitators. Our workshop will be similar to the one shown here <https://vimeo.com/129161339> Please [RSVP here](#) or reach out to Hy Carrel at hcarrel@gmail.com or (716) 259-2725.

Social Justice Ministry

Help new refugee arrivals with much needed toiletries

International Institute of Buffalo (who will be our November Share the Plate recipient) has reached out to us with a dire need for supplies for several refugee families expected this fall. They most need: deodorant, shaving cream, toilet paper, and oral thermometers; also razors, shampoo, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and menstrual pads (no tampons). There will be a bin for items in the garden entrance through October 8. If you have questions or want to help in packing and delivering contact marialtesta@gmail.com.

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.



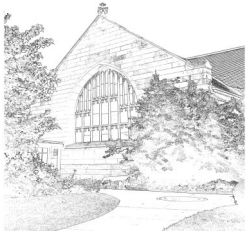
October and December are the last two months at the Western New York Refugee Film Festival! Please see trailers and bookmark the schedule page

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!

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>Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington minister@buffalouu.org</p>	<p>Administrator of Facilities and Communication: Jennifer Cunningham 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>Pastoral Care & Support 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

