



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

January 2024

*Gather-Inspire-Transform*



## **Musings**

Rev. Cathy Harrington, Interim Minister

### **What does it mean to be a people of Liberating Love?**

Happy New Year, Beloveds!

2024 promises to be a busy and exciting year for UUCB. On January 14, we will be welcoming new members into our beloved community, and we will take time to reflect on the meaning of membership and to appreciate the gifts we share as members of UUCB. There will be many opportunities for you to gather in groups to share your hopes and dreams for the future.

What does it mean to be a people of “liberating love?” My favorite quote about love has always been, “Love is like the five loaves and two fishes; it doesn’t start to multiply until you give it away.” This is derived from the meaning of bible miracle story of five thousand people being fed with five loaves of bread and two fishes. It is a story about generosity and sharing. It is a story about the power of love. As a child, I was taught in Christian Science Sunday School that God is Love. The only other definition of God that I have found better or equal is from Unitarian theologian, James Luther Adams who defined God as “community-forming power.”

UUCB was awarded \$250,000 from the National Fund for Sacred Places because this church has been a transforming power both in the Buffalo community as well as in the lives of its members. Social justice and the power of love is embedded in the DNA of this church’s history, but you don’t have to look back any further than the past few months for examples of how this church shares its gifts of love, music, money, and hope with the community!



As you can see from the above graphic, the proposed revision to Article II places LOVE at its core. In January, we will explore the meaning of “Liberating Love,” and on February 4, we will take a closer look at Article II and explore the proposed changes that begin with love:

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

I can’t think of a better way to begin the New Year than exploring the gifts of this beloved community and the transformative power of love.

In faith and love,  
Cathy



## **Pulpit Preview - Liberating Love**

### **January 7: Seeking Repair, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich**

Exploring the challenges of reconciliation and reparation.

### **January 14: Our Chosen Faith, Rev Cathy Harrington**

Welcoming our newest members with joy, humor, and stories from our UU history.

### **January 21: Letting Go, Rev. Cathy Harrington**

The poet Mary Oliver has the best advice for entering the New Year:

To live in this world  
you must be able to do three things:  
to love what is mortal;  
to hold it  
against your bones knowing  
your own life depends on it;  
and, when the time comes to let it go,  
to let it go.

### **January 28: A History of Racial Injustice, Rev Cathy Harrington**

The Equal Justice Initiative publishes a calendar every year that chronicles racial injustice from 1619 to the present day. To create a future of racial justice, we must be willing to confront the past.



## Religious Education & Faith Development News



Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!

Jess Pond, Director of Religious Education

Hello UUCB!

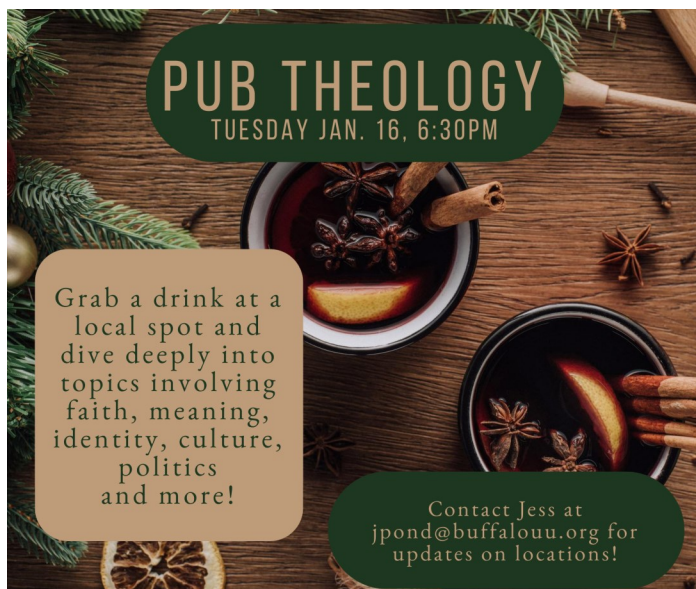
Register for Religious Education here: <https://forms.gle/4pCR9yikK9fAJgrA9>

Check out the Lifespan Religious Education Calendar here: <https://shorturl.at/hpyV5>

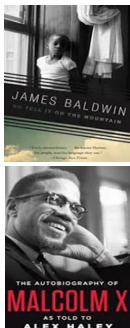
We can always use more volunteers in RE, especially for the Youth Group. If you're interested in volunteering, please email me at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org).

We have lots of excitement coming in the new year!

Saturday, January 6	Bulletin Board Decorating Party, Parish Hall, 1:00-3:00 The RE community has been invited to decorate the monthly worship theme bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the month of January! The theme for January is "Liberating Love". Come help decorate the bulletin board and show what "Liberating Love" means to you!
Sunday, January 14	MLK Jr. Day Program, Alliance Room, 10:45-11:45 On this Sunday, all children and youth will come together in the Alliance Room during usual RE class time to engage in a special program about Martin Luther King Jr. and anti-racism.
Saturday, January 14	SuUpper Sunday, Parish Hall, after service Second Sundays are SuUpper Sundays! If your children or youth would like to volunteer to setup, serve soup, or cleanup, please let Jess know at <a href="mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org">jpond@buffalouu.org</a> .
Tuesday, January 16	Pub Theology, location TBD, 6:30-8:00 Grab a drink at a local spot and dive into topics of faith, meaning, identity, culture, and more! Please contact Jess at <a href="mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org">jpond@buffalouu.org</a> to get updates on locations.



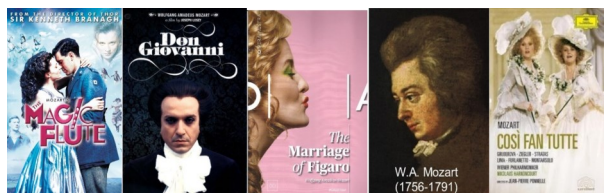
## Adult Faith Development



### Happy New Year from the UUCB Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon.

In January 2024 we'll be reading James Baldwin's Go Tell It On The Mountain. February will be Alex Hailey and Malcolm X's The Autobiography of Malcolm X. March: Patricia McCormick, Sold. April: Salman Rushdie, The Satanic Verses. In May, we finish of the year with Alison Bechdel's Fun Home.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Marge Gardner Room, 7:00-8:30pm. All are welcome. Join us at any time. For more information, contact Mary Lou Hill and Sharon Walker at [uucbbbc@buffalouu.org](mailto:uucbbbc@buffalouu.org) or DRE Jess Pond at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org).



## **ZAUBERMUSIK! MOZART'S MAGIC MUSICAL THEATRE MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR**

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

14 Meetings; Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., January 10 to April 10, 2024

Cost: \$75 for course, or \$10 per session

The course will look at all of W.A. Mozart's operas, and will meet at the UUCB Parish Hall, with the option of holding class on Zoom. To register, send you check (made payable to UUCB) to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; 695 Elmwood Ave.; Buffalo, NY 14222. [Put 'Mozart Course' on memo line of check.] For information, call 716-885-2136, or email: [office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org).

### Course Syllabus

Session One (January 10: Precocious Beginnings – *Die Schuldigkeit des erste Gebots* (1766-7)) and *Apollo et Hyacinthus* (1767)

Session Two (January 17): Early *Opéra Buffa* – *La finta semplice* (1769) and *La finta giardiniera* (1774-5)

Session Three (January 24): Early *Opéra Seria* – *Mitridate, re di Ponto* (1770), *Lucio Silla* (1772)

Session Four (January 31): Shepherds and Serenades – *Ascanio in Alba* (1771).and *Il re pastore* (1775)

Session Five (February 7): Mozart and Metastasio – *Il sogno di Scipione* (1772)

Session Six (February 14): The German Mozart – *Bastien und Bastienne* (1768) *Thamos, König in Ägypten* (1773, 1779), *Der Schauspieldirektor* (1786)

Session Seven (February 21): Masonic Fairy Tale – *Die Zauberflöte* (1791)

Session Eight (February 28): *Opéra Seria* Triumphant – *Idomeneo, re di Creta* (1780-81)

Session Nine (March 6): Metastasio Transformed – *La clemenza di Tito* (1791)

Session Ten (March 13): Toward a National German Opera – *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (1782)

Session Eleven (March 20): The Incomplete Mozart – *Zaide* (1779-80), *L'oca di Cairo* (1783), *Lo sposo deluso* (1783-4)

Session Twelve (March 27): Marrying the Comic and the Serious – *Le nozze di Figaro* (1785-6)

Session Thirteen (April 3): The Legendary Seducer Punished – *Don Giovanni* (1787)

Session Fourteen (April 10): Betting on the Battle of the Sexes – *Così fan tutte* (1789-90)

## Music Notes

### Dr. Jessie Downs, Music Director



January is a month of rest for our hard-working Music Ministry, but our Sunday services will nevertheless continue to brim with meaningful music – classical, jazz, rock, folk, and music theatre selections performed by our talented staff and volunteers.

**On January 7<sup>th</sup>**, UUCB congregant Bruce Pfeffer will provide piano music for Rabbi Jonathan’s service, playing four lovely solo selections by 19<sup>th</sup> Century French virtuoso pianist Charles-Valentin Alkan.

**On January 14<sup>th</sup>**, UUCB staff pianist Christopher Sierzchula will share two solo pieces from his repertoire as the Prelude and Postlude. For the Offertory, Michael Harris will sing the tune “Sweet Beginning” from the jazzy musical *The Roar of the Greasepaint* as a special welcome to our new members. At the Reflection, Jessie Downs, Taryn Goehrig, and Helen Lowry will sing “One Voice” by *The Wailin’ Jennys* - an anthem expressing the power of building community - with Paul Zanolli on guitar.

**On Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>**, our Casual Concert series welcomes singer-songwriter Tyler Westcott. Westcott is said to “breathe new life into roots music spanning multiple genres and decades.” He also creates new music inspired by the old. Armed with his trusty guitar, banjo, and harmonica, he has a knack for describing the human condition with humor and joy, often in timely and topical songs reflecting the current state of the world. Come out to support a super talented local artist at “pay-what-you-can” pricing!

**On January 21<sup>st</sup>**, Reverend Cathy will lead a sermon entitled *Letting Go*, and the UUCB Staff Musicians will share a variety of music centered around this theme. As the Prelude, Chris will sing and play Billy Joel’s heart wrenching “And So it Goes.” As the Offertory, Jessie, Taryn, and Helen will sing another arrangement by *The Wailin’ Jennys*, this time of the traditional Celtic tune “The Parting Glass.” As the Reflection, Shaun and Helen will reprise the stunning duet “How Could I Ever Know?” from the musical version of *The Secret Garden* – a song that portrays a grieved husband calling out to his departed wife. Finally, Taryn will sing the optimistic journeying song “By My Side” from *Godspell* with the other soloists on supporting vocals.

**On January 28<sup>th</sup>**, the UUCB Choir will come back from a well-deserved break to share excerpts from Johannes Brahms’s *Liebeslieder-Waltzer* and *Neue Liebeslieder* song cycles, accompanied by Bruce Pfeffer and Martha Malkiewicz on piano 4-hands.





## Announcements, Events and Opportunities, Oh My!

### Historic Home Owners Tax Credit Work Shop January 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00 in the Sanctuary

Preservation Buffalo Niagara, Preservation Studios and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo are co-sponsoring a free workshop on the New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Credit. The workshop is open to the public and participants will be walked through the user-friendly application, intended to be prepared and submitted by the homeowners, themselves. Owner-occupied homes in the City of Buffalo that are on the National Register, either individually designated or as contributing to a National Register Historic District, are eligible for the 20% Tax Credit. Future workshops will be held on February 8th, March 14th, and April 11th more information to follow soon! [Click here to RSVP for our January 10th Workshop](#). For more info [CLICK HERE](#).

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Sean Kirst

### Women's Society Luncheon and Speaker Sean Kirst, January 18th

We can't think of *anybody* who has better stories to tell than a veteran newsman! Following that truism, we have asked veteran newsman Sean Kirst to share some of his stories with us at the Women's Society meeting on January 18. Sean Kirst is a metro columnist with The Buffalo News, which he joined in 2016. Next April will mark 50 years since he began working as a paid journalist in Upstate New York. He has now written for newspapers in Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Niagara Falls and Dunkirk, where he was born. He is a recipient of the national Ernie Pyle Award, given to one American journalist annually for writing about the hopes, struggles and dreams of everyday people. He has written three books and his work has appeared in most major American newspapers. We hope you will join us! **Lunch costs \$20/\$25, and reservations are taken on the two Sundays before the meeting. Women's Society meetings score 98% on Rotten Tomatoes!!**

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### An Evening of Wine, Dessert & Story

Friday, January 19th, 2024 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM



As the final event of the 2023 Fun & Fellowship Auction, end your week in the Alliance Room Bistro with an evening of wines, home-made desserts, and readings by a selection of UUCB's memoirists. Memoir comes from the French word *mémoire*, which means memory. In our Memoir groups, each author explores experiences, emotions, and events from their lives. Their lived memories have been contoured over years of personal growth and reflection, and each writer will share a story or two with you. "Memoir is the gritty stuff, the little shards that may not fit together perfectly because life doesn't, either." Listen, savor, laugh and share in this experience while indulging in a delectable array of desserts. Perhaps you, too, will be inspired to write your story.

**Space is limited. Stop by the Auction Table to reserve your seat: Buy Now - \$25**

## Greetings from the Board!

We are reviving our monthly missives from the Board to our Congregation. It has been too long! This is such an exciting time in our Church! Reverend Cathy has proven to be such a welcome presence in our Sanctuary and is thoroughly engaged with the work of the Church. She has consistently offered us encouragement and guidance during this time of transition. **The Board is also working closely with the Resource Enhancement task force to develop the structure and the leadership needed for the upcoming Capital Campaign.** Once the Chairs are all in place for the Campaign those folks will begin to fill in their teams. **The Board is also working to develop the Ministerial Search Committee.** We are very excited to begin working with this transition team and supporting them in this vitally important task. **Three new Board members will be elected at the Winter Congregational meeting on January 28th.** Please plan to attend to participate in our Church Governance. And thanks to all of those members who attended and voted in our special Congregational meeting in early December in order to amend some of our by-laws. Your vote and your voice make this Congregation work!

### How to be in touch with your Board of Trustees:

- To reach the Board, email [board@buffalouu.org](mailto:board@buffalouu.org).
- Attend Board meetings (3rd Wed at 7pm in the Alliance Room or via Zoom, 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](#).



## Here Comes the Sun UUCB Fun & Fellowship Auction (In-person and On-Line) Sunday, April 21st

**We've set the date:** The auction will be both on-line and in-person. The in-person event will be on **Sunday, April 21st** before and after church. Stay tuned for details.

**Be a Donor:** Deadline for donations is **Sunday, April 7th**

**Be a "Creative Force":** Share your ideas for how to make the 2024 Auction a success! Contact the Auction Team through Juli Van Woert [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com) and Andrea Burke-Harris [aburkeharris@gmail.com](mailto:aburkeharris@gmail.com).

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

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## Pulpit Flowers



Please consider sponsoring pulpit flowers for next year. At this point, all Sundays in 2024 are available. Flowers cost \$50, and you can take them home to enjoy, or choose to donate the flowers to a local hospital. If possible, please return the plastic pot to Ted Bieniek, the head usher, or to me at a Sunday service. The florist can re-use the pot, and we can help save the planet. Please email **Sandra Bissontz** at [smp1127@yahoo.com](mailto:smp1127@yahoo.com)

## January Share-the-Plate: [Our Mommie Village](#)



Our Mommie Village is based on the belief that every mother deserves a robust village. Shyana Broughton, the visionary force behind Our Mommie Village is both the founder and a catalyst for empowerment in the world of motherhood. As a doula, she has been a steadfast companion during births, a guiding light through breastfeeding, and a pillar of support in the postpartum period.

Our Mommie Village has grown from humble beginnings into a vibrant community hub, offering doula services, breastfeeding consultations, healthy lifestyle encouragement through weekly lunches, bi-weekly Village meet-ups, and extended postpartum care lasting up to a year. support for black mothers and their families in Buffalo, New York.

It truly takes a village to raise a mother. In this village where women uplift each other through the challenges and joys of motherhood, Our Mommie Village stands as a beacon, ready to help raise them all.



### Message from Lou Firestone of Family Promise ...

Lou sends her thanks to all the volunteers and church members who contributed to the holiday giving tree. Your generosity made Christmas special for the six families in shelter this Christmas. We could not do what we do without you!



### WBFO Promotion - Let's keep this ball rolling!

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.



The **UAIM (Universal Access & Inclusion Ministry)** team is planning a workshop in 2024 on [Neurodiversity](#). We would like to have a panel discussion composed of people who identify as being neurodiverse. If you would like to be on the panel, please contact Ginny Vaughan at

[wixsong@gmail.com](mailto:wixsong@gmail.com).

### Pastoral Care & Support Ministry Team

We are the Ministry Team who send cards to members/friend who are experiencing a Joy, Concern or Sorrow. We also write cards twice a year to members/friends who cannot attend service or social events for various reasons. Some of our members have moved to be closer to their family but enjoy receiving cards from UUCB. If you would enjoy being part of the team or would like more information contact Ginny Vaughan at [wixsong@gmail.com](mailto:wixsong@gmail.com).



## Gathering of Grievers

There is a Gathering of Grievers that meets regularly the second Sunday of the month. We meet in the Marge Gardner Room (next to kitchen) at noon. We welcome anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one because we know that grief needs to be shared. For more info, contact Bonnie Collins at 716-867-9628.

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## Tuesday Morning Coffee Klatch



Paul Zanolli hosts a Tuesday Morning Coffee Klatch each week from 10am to 11am. Coffee and tea are available at the church. No program, no agenda, just a time to get together with good company.

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## 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!**

### **A reminder: Rev. Joan's Identity can still be Abused!**

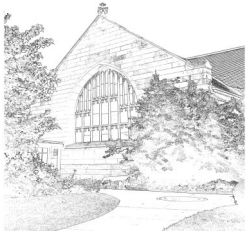
Be very cautious about any emails you may receive from Rev. Joan Montagnes (or any version of her name). Many emails that look like they are from Rev. Joan are not! If you do not trust the email, please do not respond. Instead, move to your spam/junk folder and report it to your email provider.



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



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo,  
695 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, New York 14222  
716-885-2136, [www.buffalouu.org](http://www.buffalouu.org)

<p><b>Interim Minister:</b> Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington <a href="mailto:minister@buffalouu.org">minister@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Administrator of Facilities and Communication:</b> Jennifer Cunningham <a href="mailto:office@buffalouu.org">office@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Director of Religious Education:</b> Jessica Pond <a href="mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org">jpond@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Music Director:</b> Dr. Jessie Downs <a href="mailto:jdowns@buffalouu.org">jdowns@buffalouu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Pastoral Care &amp; Support Network:</b> Ginny Vaughan 716-768-1077 <a href="mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com">wixsonsg@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Gatekeeper:</b> Sara Kirkland <a href="mailto:office@buffalouu.org">office@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Administrator for Finance:</b> Donna Sentz <a href="mailto:donnasentz@buffalouu.org">donnasentz@buffalouu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Organist/ Accompanist:</b> Chris Sierzchula</p>
<p><b>Nursery Care Coordinator:</b> TBH</p>		<p><b>Monthly Newsletter</b> (submissions due by the 15th) <a href="mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org">newsletter@buffalouu.org</a></p> <p><b>Weekly Announcements (E-Blast)</b> (submissions due by NOON Wednesday) <a href="mailto:announcements@buffalouu.org">announcements@buffalouu.org</a></p>	



**A chalice alit since 1831**  
A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places

