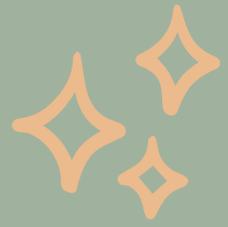


# UUCB Newsletter



March 2024

[www.buffalouu.org](http://www.buffalouu.org)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hello members of UUCB! Members of the Board of Trustees will be submitting highlights of the prior board meeting to the newsletter, with the goal of keeping you informed without needing to peruse the entire meeting meetings.

The newly elected Board of Trustees met in February for three hours. We discussed some introductory things such as the Board covenant, procedures, and our roles in the church. Mary Bisson from the Oversight Committee came to talk about their role and work. They do a lot to help the board stay abreast of UUCB's committee and advisory committees and we appreciate their work! We are a bit unusual as a church to have an oversight committee. We discussed that we need a personnel committee. Are you a member and do you have experience in human resources, supervising staff, or employment law? This may be a fabulous opportunity for you to contribute to the community.

We spent a long time talking about the finances of the church, including the pledge drive and the budget. We had a successful fundraiser with the Lupercalia singles mixer and there's demand in the Buffalo community for more queer-friendly, not-alcohol driven social spaces. If you haven't submitted your 2024 pledge yet, please do so, because there is a gap in the budget right now and we need to know to what extent your financial support will be contributing to the operations of the community.

Board members will be reaching out (or maybe by the publication of this, already have) to members of the congregation to find out who you'd like to see on the ministerial search committee. We will need seven people willing to devote time and heart to this process and who are good stewards of the congregation. Think about it. And let us know.

You also don't have to wait for us to reach out to you - please feel free to contact the board ([board@buffalouu.org](mailto:board@buffalouu.org)) if you want to share your thoughts about people on the ministerial search committee.

We also spent some time talking about our safety policies and procedures. UUCB does have a disruptive behavior policy. The Board takes issues of safety very seriously and recognizes the importance of responding in a thoughtful and proactive manner aligned with our values. With that said, we are also starting to explore if there are other things we should do given the state of the world. Bill Parke (a member of the board) is going to be looking into policies and procedures and Chris Slocum reached out through some of her professional connections to someone at FEMA who explicitly works with houses of worship about safety policies to get more information.

We will be meeting in March. The current agenda includes a discussion of our finances, a ministerial search, a right relationship committee, and conflict of interest policies. If you have a matter for the board, please contact us at [Board@Buffalouu.org](mailto:Board@Buffalouu.org).

-Chris Slocum, *Board President*



## Your voice matters!

Did you know that as an active member of the church, you are well to attend our board meetings? The next board meetings is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th in the Alliance Room or via [Zoom](#). You can send any concerns to [board@buffalouu.org](mailto:board@buffalouu.org).





# Minister's Musings

Dear ones,

We are over the hump, right? Winter, I mean.

I remember living in Alaska, March was the month that everything changed. The daylight was accelerating rapidly, and signs of new life were exploding everywhere. People emerged from their hibernation with renewed energy and restored enthusiasm for life. The snow-capped mountains were greening up for summer as the town prepared for the anticipated rush of tourists. It was a special time we shared without the presence of tourists (it was just us) and the exhaustion of earning a living in a busy tourist community. It was a leisure time to appreciate the miracle of nature uninterrupted and the gift of living in such an awesome place.

And then there was the satisfaction of knowing we had survived another winter.

The eagles that spent most of the winter in town by the middle of March moved out into the wilderness where food supplies were once again readily available. I was told they have been known to make a meal of pets left outdoors when the food supply was scarce. I was very protective of my cat, Little, terrified she would be swooped away in the talons of an eagle. I watched many times as they landed on an unsuspecting animal or fish and soared away with their prey dangling beneath them. Little spent her winter days perched on a windowsill watching with interest as the eagles and the shiny-coated black ravens that would come to feast on the leftover bread from our bakery which we offered to their supplement their winter meal. Little's tail twitched nervously as her hind legs skillfully postured and swayed with that hunter's readiness to pounce in an instant on birds that easily outweighed her triple or more. Silly cat.

Feline windowsill fantasies, I can totally relate, can't you?

And then I was told that they once found the remains of a hiker (a tourist of course) inside the stomach of a bear and his Timex watch was still ticking! Darn it, this was when I began to suspect this Southern girl was being buffaloed.

Moose often resorted to eating the bark off trees in our yards when the snow was really deep, and the winter was long because food was scarce. Since it couldn't possibly be a good thing for the trees, I tried to shoo an intruding moose from our backyard. I stood on the porch and yelled with a tone as fierce as I could muster, "Shoo! Shoo! Ya Boo!" He stopped chewing and with a look that could only be described as annoyed slowly raised his massive head burdened by an impressive rack of broad and tangled horns and snorted at me releasing a huge and ominous sound as volumes of steam spewed from his nostrils. If he was trying to be intimidating, it worked.

I slowly eased myself back into the house with a clear understanding of who was in charge. Bon appetite, I muttered. Where does a moose eat? Anywhere he damn-well pleases!

I'm lucky my husband tells me because this has been an unusually mild winter. So perhaps I'm jumping the gun, but nonetheless spring is on the way. I've seen little green shoots popping through the ground, and I am looking forward to watching the emerging beautiful Buffalo gardens, taking longer walks, outdoor concerts, and the dog park where Zoey can run freely, and longer days.

In faith and love,

Cathy

## See Rev. Cathy Preach!

Rev. Cathy will be speaking on Friday, March 29th for the Good Friday service at St. John's Grace at 51 Colonial Circle. Service is 12-3 pm. Cathy is scheduled to speak around 1:50pm. We hope to see you there!

# Pulpit Previews

## **March 3: Celebrating Black Lives by Rev. Cathy Harrington**

This week we will honor African Americans who have changed the world. We will celebrate Blacks who have enriched America through their art, literature, music, and courageous leadership.

## **March 10: The Barbie Sermon by Julie Taylor**

It's what you've been waiting for—a sermon on the Barbie Movie! Yes, there'll be irrepressible thoughts of death, cellulite, oppression, and transformation. Come for the music, stay for the cognitive dissonance required to be a woman under the patriarchy!

## **March 17: Love at the Center; Article II by Rev. Cathy Harrington**

Article II Principles and Purposes dates back to the merger of the Universalists and the Unitarians in 1961. The last major rewrite of the Principles and Purposes was in 1984.

Since then, our Unitarian Universalist Association has grown in its understanding of systemic oppressions, such as racism, ableism, and heteronormative beliefs. However, many people feel the language of Article II does not reflect these learnings. The Board believes we need an Article II which leads us into the future



## **March 24: The Goat in the Tree and Other Miracles by Rev. Cathy Harrington**

Everyday miracles, that can make life worth living, happen all around us in every moment. There's a wonderful greeting card about the humdrum of life (for those of us that sleep with cats) that says something like, "Some days it's just not worth taking the cat off your face." We've all had days like that! But then, there are those other days. Days when our eyes are open wide and we can see the beauty in even a blade of grass, or days when we make the time to experience the joy of laughing with a friend, old or new, or taking time out to just have fun!

## **March 31: The Road to Emmaus by Rev. Cathy Harrington**

Rev Victoria Weinstein refers to Easter as "the most irrational story out of all the irrational stories in the Bible, but one that we desperately need. The message of Good Friday and Easter are interdependent; we can't have one without the other. Martin Luther King believed that the message of Easter points to a universal awakening to Jesus' message of non-violence as opposed to Rome's kingdom of violence.



Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry!

Jess Pond  
Director of Religious Education  
jpond@buffalouu.org

Religious Education Calendar

Register for Religious Education Classes

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).

## UU Elevator Speech Workshop

UU Elevator Speech guides participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an "elevator speech" because, on an elevator ride when someone asks you "what is Unitarian Universalism?" you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement!



We will meet on Tuesday evenings, 7-8PM, in the Alliance Room. Please email Jess at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org) to register!

March 5 It's Not A Credo

March 26 Writing Your UU Elevator Speech

April 9 Sharing Your UU Elevator Speech



## Game Night Potluck

Saturday March 9

5:00-8:00pm in the Parish Hall



GAMENIGHT

Bring your favorite game and your favorite dish to share!

## PUB THEOLOGY

TUESDAY MARCH 12, 6:30PM

Grab a drink at a local spot and dive deeply into topics involving faith, meaning, identity, culture, politics and more!

McGarrett's  
946 Elmwood Ave  
CASH ONLY

## Spring Equinox Service

March 19 7PM

# I hope you'll join us for some of the activities we have going on this month!

Sunday, March 3

## **Introduction to Sufism, 12:00-1:00**

Harvard and Buff State professor Yunus Kumek will lead this course to examine the practical aspects of Sufism in our everyday life, especially focusing on meditative, philosophical, and psychological practices that have relevance and meaning in personal spiritual journeys. Sufism is generally referred to as Islamic mysticism or Muslim spiritual teachings in popular Western discourses. This session will meet in the Marge Gardner Lounge.

Tuesdays, March 5, March 26 & April 9

## **UU Elevator Speech Workshop, Alliance Room, 7:00-8:00**

This workshop guides participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an "elevator speech" because on an elevator ride when someone asks you "What is Unitarian Universalism?" you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement! Please email Jess at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org) to register.

Saturday, March 9

## **Game Night Potluck, Parish Hall, 5:00-8:00**

Bring your favorite game and your favorite dish to share!

Tuesday, March 12

## **Pub Theology, McGarrett's, 946 Elmwood Ave, 6:30-8:00**

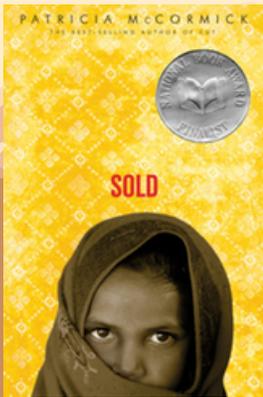
Grab a drink at a local spot and dive into topics of faith, meaning, identity, culture, and more! Please contact Jess at [jpond@buffalouu.org](mailto:jpond@buffalouu.org) to get updates on locations. Please note that McGarrett's is cash only.

Tuesday, March 19

## **Spring Equinox Service, 7:00-8:00**

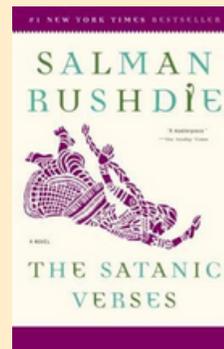
Even beneath the cold, still snow, life is bursting, preparing for the next season. Come welcome Spring! We will be guided by music, readings, and ritual inspired by the Earth-centered traditions that celebrate this time of year.

# UUCB Banned Book Club with Mary Lou and Sharon.



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).

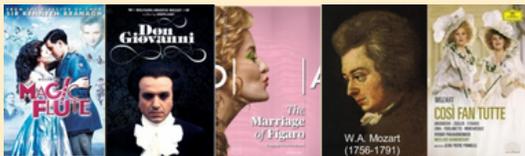
This month we're reading and discussing Patricia McCormick's Sold. We continue in April with Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses and finish the year in May with Alison Bechdel's Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic.



## **ZAUBERMUSIK!**

### **MOZART'S MAGIC MUSICAL THEATRE**

#### **MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR**



From Jan. 10 to April 10, Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Michael Harris will lead a survey course of all of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's operas, from his childhood compositions like Mitridate to his mature masterworks like The Marriage of Figaro and Don Giovanni. The 14 sessions will take place on Zoom.

The cost is \$75 for the full course or \$10 for each session. Send your check made out to UUCB, with 'Mozart Course' on the memo line. Call the Church Office at 716-885-2136 for further information.

#### **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



**On March 3rd**, the UUCB Choir and pianist Christopher Sierzchula will share a variety of pieces that celebrate black musicians. As the Prelude, Chris will play a rag by famous ragtime composer Scott Joplin. As the Offertory, the UUCB choir will sing "I'm Gonna Sing Til the Spirit Moves in My Heart" a spiritual arranged by celebrated composer/arranger Moses Hogan. As the Reflection, Chris will play "Round Midnight" by revolutionary jazz composer Thelonious Monk. A version of "Isn't She Lovely" by the inimitable Stevie Wonder will close out the morning.

**On March 10th**, Julie Taylor will be leading a fun service centered around the Barbie movie. Our UUCB soloists will be supported by our HoUUse Band in sharing some of the movie's most memorable musical numbers originally performed by Lizzo, the Indigo Girls, Billie Eilish, and Ryan Gosling. Saturday, March 16th is the date of this month's Casual Concert, featuring traveling vocalist, instrumentalist, and songwriter Matt Venuti. Note that this event will be held at 4pm rather than the usual 2pm time. Come out to hear something different and to support both a working artist and our own community!

**Thursday, March 14th** is another great Thursday to try out the choir, 7:30-9:45pm. We will likely only spend the first part of rehearsal on the coming week's fun offerings (see information below). All are welcome!

**On March 17th**, Cathy will be discussing the changes to the Seven Principles, with a focus on the importance of centering ourselves in love. As the Prelude, Chris will share the lovely Nocturne Op. 16 No. 4 by Jan Ignace Paderewski. At the Offertory, the UUCB Choir will sing a moving arrangement of Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," a song about helping one another through life's challenges. As the Reflection, the Choir will sing the heartfelt "Ukuthula," a traditional South African song of praise. As the Postlude, Chris will sing and play "Aspirations," a groovy piece about the importance of visioning for the future.

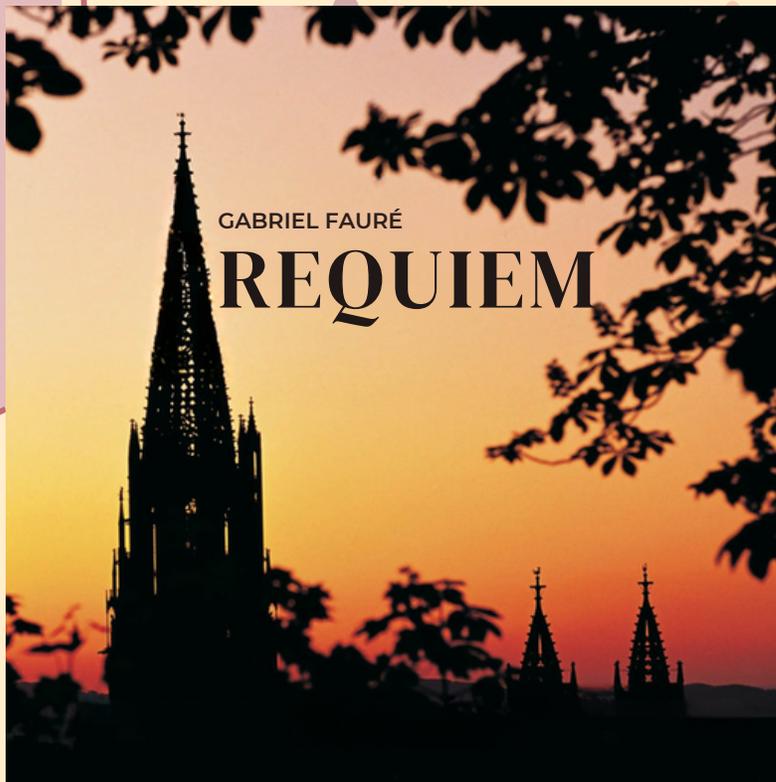
**On March 24th**, Cathy will share thoughts about the miracles that abound in everyday life but often go unnoticed. The service will begin and end with impressionist piano music from Chris and feature musical theatre vocal offerings from Helen Lowry and Taryn Goehrig about enjoying and making the most out of life.

**March 31st** is Easter Sunday, and among other things, this special service will bring with it the sound of our organ and the choir singing from the choir loft. Shaun Doyle will also share a special solo offering about the arrival of spring and Shaun, Michael, and guest vocalist Paul Zanolli will present a haunting vocal trio from Godspell.

# Music Events

## Music Sunday

Looking ahead to the first weekend in April, Sunday, **April 8th** will be Spring Music Sunday, featuring the UUCB Choir and organ in a performance of Gabriel Faure's Requiem. Stay tuned to the e-blasts and website for more information about this event and look out for our fundraising letter in early March. We cannot keep our Music Weekend tradition going without your generous support, for which we are so very grateful!



## Casual Concerts

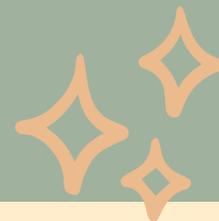
**Matt Venuti**

**Saturday, March 16th 2024 at 4pm**

Matt Venuti is a multi-instrumentalist/singer-songwriter and modern-day touring troubadour known for his captivating acoustic and electronic instruments and songs "from the heart of the road". He's also an award-winning recording/music video artist and soundtrack composer/video editor.



# Events at UUCB



## BUFFALO ECSTATIC DANCE

All are welcome to join Buffalo Ecstatic Dance for an all-ages self-led dance at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall on Sundays March 3, 10, 17 and 24. Ecstatic Dance involves a brief opening to set guidelines and check-in, followed by a 60-75 minute playlist that starts off slow, builds and comes back down. It concludes with a sharing circle. This is a practice of free-form movement and authentic self-expression in a shared safe space.

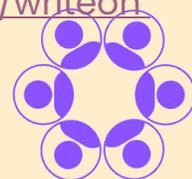
Here is a poem that Hy wrote at a recent Ecstatic Dance:

*Sprites dancing in this Parish Hall  
Each light sparkling, a glowing shimmering ball.  
Colorful shirts, pants and dresses  
Billowing, flowing, like countless caresses.  
As flames amid oxygen burn brighter and brighter,  
Our dancers' hearts shine, becoming lighter and lighter.  
Hearts open, emitting laughter, tears, howls, wails,  
Smiles, hugs, gusts of air in our sails!*



## KIND FOOLS' WRITE ON!

facilitated by Hy Carrel from 6:00pm to 8:30pm on Tuesday March 12, 2024, in the Alliance Room. What to expect? Community Canvases' Kind Fools intuitive writing workshop includes a check-in, a brief body-awareness meditation, two free-writing opportunities, and a chance to share our writing and to receive only positive encouragement. This is an opportunity to get in touch with your truth and to witness people with diverse perspectives and experiences. More details and RSVP at <https://kindfools.org/writeon>

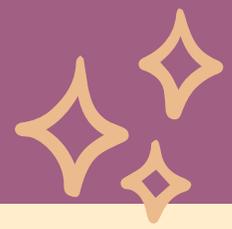


## RACIAL HEALING CIRCLE LED BY NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES - SHARE-THE-PLATE PARTNER FROM OCTOBER 2023

On February 19th, native facilitators Pete Hill and Simone Shuster led a 16-person Racial Healing Circle in the Parish Hall. It began with the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and making beaded bracelets. We listened deeply to each other, as we shared experiences of having felt unseen or misunderstood. We came to a better understanding of each other, together.



# Events at UUCB



## WOMEN'S SOCIETY WELCOMES CASIMIRO D. RODRIGUEZ SR, PRESIDENT OF THE HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WNY

The Women's Society is thrilled to welcome Casimiro D. Rodriguez Sr, President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY. Cas's bio is astonishing....and as long as your leg! Born the 12th of 13 children, he earned a BA in American Government from UB, & studied management at General Motors Institute. He worked at GM and retired with 34 years of service, then turned his attention to advocacy for Buffalo's Latino Community working in education, health care, social, and economic equality.

We would be happy just to hear about his LIFE, but lots of questions emerge from his work. Brian Higgins credits the Hispanic community for his first win when he entered politics 18 years ago. Does the Hispanic community wield such power now? Is it solid or splintered? and how does a mom feed 13 children?

Please make a reservation of \$20/\$25 on March 10 or March 17, and come and enjoy the day with us!

Credible rumors are suggesting that the Women's Society programs and the excellence of their mid-day meals will be awarded 1/2 a Michelin star in the coming weeks. Well deserved! Keep watch!

## 🌸 SPRING FLOWER SALE 🌸

Please order your spring flowers to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Easter and then your home. The bulbs can be planted out in your garden too. Please email your order by MARCH 6 to [aburkeharris@gmail.com](mailto:aburkeharris@gmail.com). Pick up will be Easter Sunday March 31. Payment will be due that day-check, cash or Paypal. Lilies with 6-10 buds \$20; tulips 6" pot with 7 bulbs, assorted colors \$15; daffodils 6" pot with 6 bulbs \$15; hyacinths 6" pot with 3 bulbs, assorted colors \$15.



## LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

We are reaching out to our generous community to ask for your help in acquiring essential materials for our church. We have created an **Amazon wish list** that includes items needed across all our departments. Your support would greatly enhance our ability to serve our congregation and community effectively. Your support would significantly enhance our ability to serve our congregation and community effectively.



# SHARE THE PLATE

## pride Center of Western New York

Pride Center of Western New York, Inc. (PCWNY) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. The mission of the Pride Center is to work with the community to make Western New York a safe, healthy, and satisfying place for LGBTQ+ people to live, work and establish their families.

### TRANSGENDER YOUTH PROGRAM

The Pride Center's Transgender Youth Program offers services for transgender, gender expansive, and non-binary (TGNB) youth ages 5-17, and their parents, caregivers, and family members:

- Drop-in services and activities in a safe space to socialize and get connected
- Groups for transgender, nonbinary, gender expansive, and questioning youth
- Groups for parents and caregivers of transgender, nonbinary, gender expansive, and questioning youth
- One-on-one and family support
- Legal name and gender marker change support
- Linkage and referrals to affirming medical, mental health, sexual health, legal, and other services and care



For more information visit: [www.pridecenterwny.org/WhoWereHereFor/Youth](http://www.pridecenterwny.org/WhoWereHereFor/Youth)



### Our Mommie Village - Share-the-Plate partner from January 2024

On behalf of Mommie Village and the families we serve in Buffalo, New York, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your support. Your donations have made a profound impact on the lives of mothers and babies in our community.

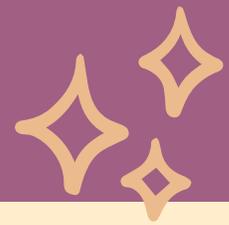
Thanks to your kindness, we've been able to provide essential assistance to four families, ensuring they have the resources they need during this crucial time. Additionally, your contribution has allowed us to offer support to a mother through her postpartum journey by funding a postpartum

doula for a week. Your generosity has made a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

We are profoundly grateful for the love and support you've shown us. Your generosity embodies the spirit of community and compassion, and we are honored to have your support as we continue our mission to support mothers and families in need.

With heartfelt thanks, Shyana Broughton Founder, Mommie Village

# Events at UUCB



## HOME AGAIN ...AGAIN!

### JOIN US ON MARCH 3RD FOR A CELEBRATION AND KICKOFF



February 12, 2022 was Move-In Day for the Afghan family that UUCB adopted. More than eighty volunteers from our beloved community came together to furnish and stock an entire apartment for Rafi and Najeeba, two young parents (aged 29 and 33) and their six children – Marwa, Sona, Zuhra, Matiullah, Nasibullah, and Husna, aged one to twelve. Creating a cozy home for them – offering them a sense of security after such a long and arduous – and courageous – journey, was a wonderful way for us to put our values into practice and build community within and outside of our church walls.

And we have the opportunity to do it again! We hope to adopt another family this Spring! **Join us after service on March 3rd for food and fun as we enjoy a slideshow of how it all came together – thanks to the loving contributions of so many of you.**

Refugee families arrive with little to no resources for establishing households during their first few months of resettlement. They need everything. We will have a list of choices for you to purchase and donate, from dishes to bedding to cleaning products! You will have the chance to sign up for an item (or 2 or 3) to purchase – You can also sign up to do last-minute shopping and preparations and to help on move-in day (probably late April or May).

Please contact Maria Testa ([marialtesta@gmail.com](mailto:marialtesta@gmail.com)) or Juli Van Woert at [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com) if you are interested but are unable to join us on March 3rd. We will keep you informed of the next steps. **There is a role for everyone.**

***In times like these, when the need is so great, we cannot do everything, but we can do something.***

Please join us.

**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 online 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 at [JVW61@aol.com](mailto:JVW61@aol.com) and Andrea Burke-Harris at [aburkeharris@gmail.com](mailto:aburkeharris@gmail.com).

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



# ROOTS/SHORASHIM/JUDUR

- Seeking Unity Among Diversity -  
COMMUNITY EVENT

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

**6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
724 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209

*Learn from leaders of an Israeli-Palestinian grassroots initiative on how we can also build understanding and bring transformation to our community. Register today!*

Presentation from speakers and time for Q&A.  
  
Refreshments will be available.

**REGISTER AT**  
[bit.ly/2024RootsEvent](https://bit.ly/2024RootsEvent)



jewish family services | wny



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - BUFFALO



# THE WESTAR INSTITUTE RETURNS TO BUFFALO!

WITH DR. CELENE LILLIE  
DEAN, WESTAR ACADEMY

## MARCH 9 & 10, 2024



The occupation of ancient Judea and Galilee by the Roman Empire had an unimaginable impact not only on Jesus and the movement surrounding him, but on the writing of the Gospels as well. It is impossible to understand the teachings of Jesus and the investments of those who wrote his story without understanding the Judean War, the sack of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Second Temple, and the events leading up to them. Together, we will explore the ways in which Roman occupation, violence, and ideology influenced both Jesus's teachings and the way in which they were remembered through the Gospels.



A LECTURE WITH Q&A

*"The Judean War  
and the  
Sack of Jerusalem"*

TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
(MAIN SANCTUARY)

MARCH 9 • 3:30PM



A CONVERSATION

*"Jesus in Context:  
Exploring the Gospels"*

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(CASE LIBRARY)

MARCH 10 • 9:00AM



A SERMON

*"The Loving-Kindness  
of Strangers: The Good  
Samaritan in Context"*

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(MAIN SANCTUARY)

MARCH 10 • 10:30AM

Celene Lillie is Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder; an Adjunct Professor at the University of Oklahoma and The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology; and Dean of the Westar Academy. She received both her M.Div. and Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary. Her work focuses the New Testament, the Nag Hammadi Codices, and other early literature of the Jesus movement. She is author of *The Rape of Eve: The Transformation of Roman Ideology in Three Early Retellings of Genesis*, and Director of Translations for *A New New Testament* (edited by Hal Taussig).

**FREE & Open to the Public!**

Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church and Trinity Episcopal Church.

For more information, contact Jerry Kelly at 716-839-9533 or [Gerald@geraldkelly.com](mailto:Gerald@geraldkelly.com).



**MPAC-WNY CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO**

**THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
"THE TENT OF ABRAHAM"**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Corresponding to Ramadan 10, 1445  
5:45PM**

**Muslim Community Center (Islamic Center) 745 Heim Road,  
Amherst 14068**

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Join us for an evening of friendship and conversation about our shared values as we "break the fast" together. Enjoy an ethnic dinner with your friends and neighbors, provided by MPAC-WNY, as a token of appreciation and friendship to the WNY religious and faith communities.

Theme for the Evening: "Faith, Food, and Future"

Before dinner, we will have a panel discussion with questions based on the Theme posed to panelists. An interactive session will follow. Details on page 2

In keeping with MPAC's tradition of sharing the spirit of Ramadan, non-perishable food items and cash donations will be collected for distribution in our community.

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**You can make your tax-deductible contributions to  
MPAC Foundation for "Tent of Abraham"**

**You can mail the donation to: MPAC-WNY 6343 Transit Rd.  
Depew, NY 14043**

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**Please confirm your participation with the total number at:  
[wny@mpac.org](mailto:wny@mpac.org)**

# Ongoing Activities

## **Pulpit Flowers**

Please consider sponsoring pulpit flowers for next year. See the poster in the Parish Hall for availability. 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).

## **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.

## **Pastoral Care & Support Ministry Team**

We are the Ministry Team that sends cards to members/friends who are experiencing 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 families but enjoy receiving cards from UUCB. If you would enjoy being part of the team or would like more information contact Ginny Vaughan at [wixsonsg@gmail.com](mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com).

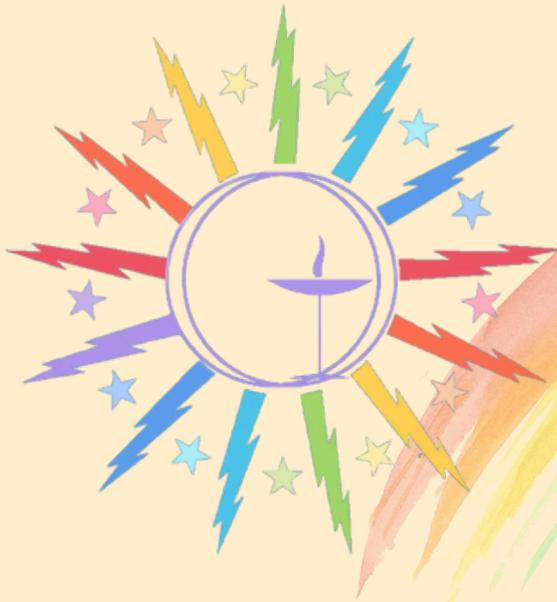
## **Gathering of Grievors**

There is a Gathering of Grievors that meets regularly on the second Sunday of the month. We meet in the Marge Gardner Room (next to the 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.

## **WBFO Promotion**

If you think promoting UUCB through spot announcements on WBFO was a good idea, here's your chance to put your money where your opinions are. Last year, our promotions of Dido and Aeneas and Prayers for Peace ushered 100s of people into our space. Over the next month, we hope to run a new ad promoting both UUCB more generally and our musical offerings more specifically - highlighting the upcoming performances of Mozart's The Magic Flute. In addition to hosting the performances of the opera, we are also working in conjunction with Sotto Voce to extend the church's educational outreach by holding a free open dress rehearsal for local high school students. We hope that these ads will draw many people to our website and into our building to see that we are truly "the church of what's happening now." Mark your donations "WBFO Promotion" and all of WBFO's listening audience will hear what this church has to offer, thanks to your generosity.

**Check out the UUCB Calendar here for more at  
[www.buffalouu.org/calendar](http://www.buffalouu.org/calendar)**



*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)

### Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Cathy Harrington  
[charrington@buffalouu.org](mailto:charrington@buffalouu.org)

### Office Manager

Jen Cunningham  
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### Director of Religious Education

Jess Pond  
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### Music Director

Dr. Jessie Downs  
[jdowns@buffalouu.org](mailto:jdowns@buffalouu.org)

### Gatekeeper

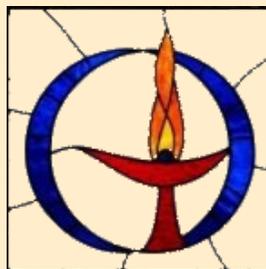
Sara Kirkland  
[office@buffalouu.org](mailto:office@buffalouu.org)

### Finance Administrator

Donna Sentz  
[donnasentz@buffalouu.org](mailto:donnasentz@buffalouu.org)

### Pastoral Care & Support Network

Ginny Vaughn  
716-768-1077  
[wixsonsg@gmail.com](mailto:wixsonsg@gmail.com)



### Organist/Accompanist

Chris Sierzchula

A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places