

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

639 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
716-285-8381

October 2019

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

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The Powerline is a monthly publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. It is free online to anyone who wishes to subscribe- members, friends, and anyone else anywhere in the country and beyond.

It's a simple one step process: Just email your request to [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com) or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Peter Diachun, Erica Kopp, and Betsy Diachun.

## Sunday Programs

### **October 6:** "What mountain are you on?"

David Brooks has written a book focusing on what he calls the "first mountain" and "second mountain" stages of life. The first mountain is the part of our lives where we begin a career and do everything society expects of us. The second mountain is where our values change and, as Brooks says: "what's important is no longer the self, it is your relation to other people and to the world around you. It is about giving yourself away."

How can we apply first mountain/second mountain values to our own lives, the life of our church, and the life of our faith? What is the difference between happiness and joy -- and how do we make sure we find true joy in our lives?

**Donna Evans-Deyermond**

*Coffee hour host: Susan Diachun*

*Usher: Erica Kopp*

### **October 13:** "STORIES FOR THE SEASONS"

A look at how stories about love and loss - Comedy and Tragedy - come from rituals celebrating seasonal cycles of spring and winter.

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee hour host: Shelley Baxter*

*Usher: Betsy Daichun*

### **Adult religious education discussion**

#### **12:30PM -1:30PM Introducing Islam**

Religion is about answers - but what are the questions? What were some of the historical, social, and economic factors in Arabia that caused so many people to feel connected with the teachings of the Qur'an? Recommended Reading: Islam - the Straight Path + Muhammad Prophet of God

<http://www.firstuunf.org/john-snodgrass.html>

**October 20:** “Hopeful Harvest”. We are in the season of drawing forth the goodness planted with hope and expectation. It’s not just crops, but our community and our church that are in a time of harvesting. Belonging in community is about offering the best of your energy and gifts. Today we will explore and honor our abundant harvest of beloved community

**Susan Frawley**

*Coffee hour host: Andrea Galipeau*

*Usher: Peter Diachun*

**October 27:** “Our Legacy and Our Vision”

A firm foundation and future to build on.

**Don Reidell**

*Coffee hour hosts: Linda Hurley*

*Usher: Andrea Galipeau*

### **President’s Report**

This Church Year an emphasis will be placed on getting more Members involved with the work of the Church in order to make it more sustainable and less dependent on a few people. We need to put this into practice right now.

There are 2 new web pages being developed on our website. I ask every Member and Friend to read both of these new pages. They have information you should know about our Church. They can be seen on our website:

[firstuunf.org](http://firstuunf.org) > under the menu bar > Others” > John Snodgrass and White Privilege,

or directly on the links:

[firstuunf.org/John-Snodgrass/](http://firstuunf.org/John-Snodgrass/) and [firstuunf.org/White-Privilege/](http://firstuunf.org/White-Privilege/)

Both of these are “works in progress”. Your help is needed to improve them. At Erica’s insistence, we use Weebly.com as our website host because they make developing and editing our website as simple and easy as possible. We even pay a higher fee for Weebly to get this. Anyone who can use a word processor can edit our website. It is really that easy. Publishing any changes made requires pushing only one button.

We need help in editing, composing, improving, and just plain proofreading all the texts on the website, especially the new ones. I am slow and it takes a lot of time and energy for me to compose text. Erica, by her own admission, hates to write and does it poorly. We welcome any help we can get.

We also need help with the graphics and design of the website and its pages. In this case I have almost no aptitude, and I hate this work. Erica is better by far, but she could use help making and keeping not only the website, but also our Facebook, Powerline, and even our weekly updates and lists looking fresh, sharp, and interesting.

We had planned to have the responsibility for our Sunday speakers delegated to different members each month. It has become clear that this system was not working, and an alternative has not been developed. We still need to find a way for this function which is vital to our Church today and its future be done well, without one or two people taking all the burden. Suggestions and volunteers are requested.

There are other areas of our Church which need to be spread among members. These include the Church accounting, maintenance of the building and grounds, and the operation of the Church’s systems. These are all being worked on and will be discussed in the future.

It is my commitment this year to get as much of this done as possible. Please be willing to help. To volunteer contact me.

Peter (716) 754-2830 or [peter.diachun@gmail.com](mailto:peter.diachun@gmail.com)

## Our People

Remember to call or send a note to our members who are unable to attend church at the moment. They would all appreciate some kind of communication from you! It just takes a moment to make someone smile - and you feel good about it too!

## Local Church News

SATURDAY, Oct. 26, from 4 to 7 PM we will enjoy Linda Hurley's hospitality in Wilson. You will be able to go on an old fashioned hay ride, and/or sit around a bonfire eating burnt marshmallows, s'mores, and doughnuts, while drinking cider (hot or cold). I'll put a sign up sheet in the Narthex today so that Linda has some idea how many will be able to join us. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Dress for the weather.

3024 Wilson Cambria Rd, (Rte. 425) Wilson, NY 14172 On the corner of 425 and Braley Rds. Driveway is on south side of house on 425. Barn has copper metal roof. EXACTLY 1 mile north of Wilson water tower. Parking in driveway should be fine, but we can also park behind the barn if it's dry.

If you sign up to go to our mini Fall Festival at Linda's, please indicate if you'd like to carpool from the church. Or if you have a car and wouldn't mind driving others from the church. We'll see that everyone, who needs a ride gets one.

**Book Group** will continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month from 5 to 6 at the church. We'll try to get the title out to everyone. All are invited to join us; even if you haven't read the book. Discussions frequently turn to general topics, brought out in the book.

We just finished "White Fragility", a book about white privileges that we don't even realize we have. We will continue to discuss race, racism, and white privilege. We have not scheduled a specific book. Everyone is encouraged to read a book, an article, or watch a program.

## UUA

Know When to Tango

By Katie Romano Griffin

September 18, 2019

“Tango is a social dance, a dance of the people. What would be the point of having lessons with teachers if we all taught the same? That is the charm of tango: with each person you find a different character and style.”

—Miguel Zotto

When I find myself struggling with a person or group, I sometimes consider isolating myself from them altogether. That’s when I retreat to a space where I can hear tango music.

In an instant I’m eight years old again. I can smell the hot Café Bustelo percolating in the tiny pot on my grandmother’s stove while she plays cards with my grandfather and his childhood best friend from Argentina. Music starts to play while my aunts and uncle move the furniture so they can dance. In mere moments the living room becomes transformed into a space of expression, celebration, and connection.

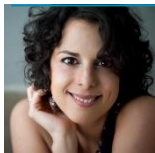
My mother and uncle are clearly the most skilled dancers. They settle into an easy rhythm together, floating across the old terrazzo flooring, the card players occasionally pausing to watch them. Order turns to chaos as everyone takes turns practicing steps on their own, and then we engage with other family members. We each bring our own skills, abilities, strengths, and weaknesses to Tango, but always we seek to balance feeling our way through the relationship of the dance with each new partner—and with respect and love for the person and the music’s rhythm.

The Tango of my youth was not as inclusive as my sweet memory would lead me to believe, but I can smile at that memory and know that the spirit of Tango extends beyond my eight-year-old understanding to a more inclusive dance: one that makes space for a theology of a better world, on a dance floor of mutual respect, with people of all genders, sexual orientations, abilities, races, and ethnicities.

When I meditate on this inclusive Tango of the people I ask myself, “This person or group that I am struggling with: am I wrestling with a different character or style... or is something else happening here? Do we have an agreement of respect, or is one of us trying to dominate what they don’t understand? Is one of us more skilled, and therefore needs to meet the other partner where they are and help them move to new places? Or does one of us need to engage with other learning partners before we can even attempt to be in relationship?”

### Prayer

May I always remember that Tango, like life, is a dance of the people. It’s meant to be shared, not practiced in isolation. May the rhythm of the Tango expand my spirit and remind me to seek to be in relationship with my fellow dancers in life, while also being mindful that it’s okay to say no those who, in the moment, do not wish to work through the challenges of the dance with love and respect. May it be so. Amen.



Rev. Katie Romano Griffin serves as an Associate Minister at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in the DC Metro area. She has a grandparent who came to the U.S. from Argentina and dreams of traveling there to visit family and to study the connection between past President Domingo Sarmiento and...

For more information contact [braverwiser@uua.org](mailto:braverwiser@uua.org). <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/know-when-tango>

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
Facilities available for Wedding Services,  
Receptions, and Celebrations



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E-mail [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com)  
<http://firstuunf.org>  
Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 40 years ago. We are a friendly group that welcomes newcomers to our activities, game nights, dances, picnics, restaurants and much more....come join us! (Ages ranging 50 to 80 years old now, but all welcome) Call for more info 716-550-1232. Find us on facebook: Singles Social Club

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*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to  
[uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com) with the subject "Powerline*



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