

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

April 2023

639 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
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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 or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Paul Brundage, Pam Smith, Shelley Baxter, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

April 2: An Easter Reflection - Resurrection, the UU Way

The Easter Season has evolved to mean many different things to many different people. In his Easter Reflection, our speaker will concentrate on reframing the old theological construct of Resurrection and give it a meaningfully different perspective.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour: Erica Kopp

Usher: Patty Lisk

April 9: Good Medicine

In the modern world, the word “Medicine” generally means synthesized chemical pills with Greek names in plastic bottles. But indigenous cultures use the word “Medicine” more broadly, it can mean a song, a story, an embrace, or a spiritual gathering. We'll look at some of the ways in which a ritual can be medicinal.

j. Snodgrass is a Religious Studies teacher, a playwright and author whose books include “Supernatural Shakespeare,” “Sun Dance,” and some sermon anthologies called “Chaos.” He lives with Elizabeth and their four children in Buffalo.

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Erica Kopp

Usher:

****Adult Easter Egg Hunt at Coffee Hour. 21 years old to participate******

Adult Education Class April 9, 12:30 - 1:30

April 16: Gimme Some Truth



We like to believe all people are connected, but what happens to that connection when people seem to be irrevocably divided by how we know, well, anything, and what we know, or think we know, to be true? Buffalo Music Hall of Famer Doug Yeomans joins Rev. Frances Manly to explore our world of truth and lies in song, story, and reflection.

We all know the truth. more connects us than separates us. But in times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another, as if we were one single tribe.” —King T’Challa, the Black Panther.

Speaker: Rev Frances Manly and Doug Yeomans

Coffee Hour: Patty and Bill Lisk

Usher:

April 23: Guest Speaker

Speaker: Julie Taylor

Coffee Hour: Stephen Wittkowsky

Usher: Bill Lisk

April 30: Interactive Sermon with John Snodgrass

Adult Education Class April 30, 12:30 – 1:30

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: April Potluck

Usher: Susan Daichun

President's Report

We are now coming into April and looks like from the forecast, March will go out like a Lion. Yes, the days are getting longer and longer by the day.

At our recent board meeting, we discussed having an annual dinner here at our church. We talked about possibly having it catered and or pot luck. There's a possibility we could go out to a restaurant for dinner instead of a potluck or catered in an informal setting for the enjoyment of the congregation.

April 30th is our tentative date for our Pledge Drive near the end of our 2022-2023 term on the board. May 21st I the date for the Annual Meeting.

Let's not forget Easter is coming soon. Good Friday is April 7th with our Adult Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Sounds like fun on Easter Sunday!

Our finances have a gain of \$1,302.02 because of Pledges coming in and Tops Gift Card Sales.

Bill has worked on our computer system and previous ZOOM audio problem. Audio problem solved and our lap top computer was updated to Windows-11 and Bill also backed up our laptop hard drive as well. Thank you Bill.

We are getting closer to the end of our current board and will need new board members by the end of May.

These are just a few of the things we need to do and in the next few months, we will go forward with these current changes and the ones to come.

President of UU Board - Paul Brundage

Annual Meeting

Congregational Annual Meeting will be May 21, 2023 after service

Potlucks

We will have potluck at the end of each month. There is plenty of food -- everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

Premier Production of Full Length Play by j Snodgrass

Premier Production of Full Length Play Rust & Redemption: Requiem for a Buffalo Grunge Band By j. Snodgrass

Synopsis: A song by Buffalo grunge band Sidewalk Nickel is finally getting a major release! But it's been almost twenty years since the band's bitter breakup. Now the surviving members and the dead guitarist's daughter must gather to divide the songwriting credit. Meeting at a bar, the broken band must settle its past in order to secure its legacy. And for this they must resolve their relationships with an absent father and long-lost friend.

American Repertory Theatre of WNY (545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222)
Thursdays to Saturdays, April 21-May 13
Information at www.artofwny.org/



Nadja



Nadja is living with Shelley and she will be 98 years old in May.

When Nadja was a child the family farm had a one room house that was heated by a rock fireplace. They had a wood burning stove where her mother would make 5 - 7 loaves of bread a week twice a week.

The farm provided what they needed, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, bets, onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, peanuts and wheat. Nadja's father took the whet to town to have it ground into flour. They also had apple and peach trees.

Sunflower seeds were dried in the sun and then baked in the oven. The seeds were put into a barrel 2 feet tall. They would offer guests sunflower seeds and peanuts. Nadja's family would crush some peanuts for cheesecake pie crusts.

The animals had their own sheds: horses, cows, pigs, chickens, sheep, and geese. Nadja's father made a wagon and plow for the 2 horses to pull. He made a sleigh for wintertime. The horses would pull the entire family. The snow would get to the height of Nadja's neck. Her father also made snow skis from specific trees that would bend in the oven. He made Nadja ice skates from wood and wire. She would skate on the frozen pond across the farm with other children from the community.

Nadja's mother boiled water to wash their clothes. They cut wool from their sheep to make thread to knit socks. Both boys and girls learned to knit. If boys wanted socks, they had to make their own.



Nadja would walk to church barefoot to keep her favorite pair of shoes clean. The children usually went swimming in the river after church to cool off in the summertime. The family went to the river a few times a week to bathe.

One day her sister Olga got swept up in a fast current. The other children tried to save her. Unfortunately, she had drowned. They were able to retrieve Olga's body to bury her in the church cemetery. At the time of Olga's death, Nadja's mother was pregnant with Reggie who died at 2 years old with scarlet fever. Reggie was buried at the same cemetery as Olga

Tatler Events

April 23, 2023 Brunch at 1pm



May, Cinco de Mayo



Please join the Tatler Club for
CINCO de MAYO HAPPY HOUR
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 ✨ **5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM**
Tatler Historic Mansion 6 Fourth Street Niagara Falls, NY

 **Exclusive Musical Guest: JAMIE HOLKA** 

MUNCH, DRINK, AND CELEBRATE WITH
APPETIZERS, BEER, WINE, MARGARITAS

Donation is \$40 per person in advance and \$50 at the door.
Please mail your check to:
Tatler Inc., 6 Fourth Street, NF, NY 14303.



Photo Booth Included!

UUA

How Can I "Be Love"?

By [DeEtte Waleed](#)

March 29, 2023

“When day comes, we ask ourselves,
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?”

—Amanda Gorman, “The Hill We Climb”

“How long, O Great Mystery, how long?” I ask as I turn off the news of yet another act of senseless violence ending the lives of innocent people. As a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, I am filled with anger and fear but also compassion—and questioning.

I’m curious about these shooters. What happened in their young lives that they had to seek the attention of the world by shooting others? What has caused them to seek “fame” in such a violent way? What causes a person to kill people they don’t know in order to be accepted, to be recognized?



How many mothers’ tears does it take to heal our wounds? Not only the tears of Black mothers and Native mothers, but the tears of white mothers too? Will it make a difference that the tears are now coming from blue eyes?

Amanda Gorman reminds us that there is always “light in this never-ending shade;” that love can be our legacy “if only we’re brave enough to be it.” How can I *be love* instead of being anger and fear? It’s easy to love my grandchildren when they agree with me. When they don’t, I say my truth and then shut my mouth—even when that’s hard. So how often do I need to say, “violence is not the answer,” or “don’t kill,” when the shootings keep repeating?

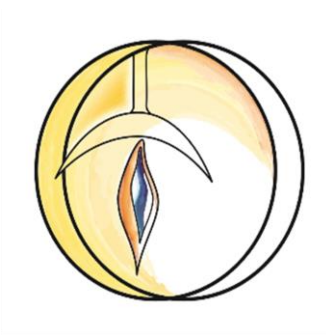
I’m not sure I know how to *be love* towards someone who seems so far from me, but I know I want to try. Instead of putting more fear and anger into the world, I can close my mouth and send love-energy to all parents of difficult children, including those who are hardest to love. Like any change in my life, I can only do it one small act, one small thought at a time. I can only pray it will be enough.

Prayer: Mamma God, wrap us and all our children in your arms of love. Give us the courage to be love even when we are afraid. Blessed be.



[DeEtte Waleed](#) (she/her) is an educator and peacebuilder. She worked with Mennonite Central Committee in Zambia, developing conflict resolution programs for refugees, and taught courses titled "Are We Too Violent?" and "Gender and Violence" at Portland State University. She has worked with UU and UCC churches in Portland, Oregon and Atlanta, Georgia. She is married to Jala Waleed. They now live in Atlanta

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/how-can-i-be-love>



Return Service Requested
April 2023

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



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