

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

May 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, Shelley Baxter, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

May 7: "What a Paine... Thomas Paine that is!"

Was he an American Patriot or was he a Philosopher/Theologian?
Our speaker will hope to shed light upon this most interesting of questions. This promises to be an interesting and stimulating reflection.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Usher: Paul Brundage

May 14: John Snodgrass

Adult Education Class May 14, 12:30 - 1:30

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Susan Diachun

Usher: Pam Smith

May 21: "Is it Woo-wooism or Spirituality?"

There are many ways to look at spirituality that are not connected with formal religion. Some new age practices that are considered spiritual draw people in, but they can also be a little sketchy. We want to keep ourselves open to spiritual experiences, but we also want to walk safely on the sidewalk so that we miss the cracks that can trip us up. Spiritual life, like regular life, should offer us new opportunities, but we still need a solid foundation of religious experience to help us see the differences between "Woo-wooism" and new life affirming spiritual practices that will serve us well for the future.

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour: Board

Usher:

May 28: "I Like Where I Live"

Often when we travel, we come away with an appreciation of where we live. The same can happen when we visit different churches. When we take time to experience different rituals or orders of service, it can help to affirm our appreciation of our church home where we live. We will talk about why I like where I live.

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Usher: Diane McNamara

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/



President's Report

We are now coming into May we are looking forward to a new year with new board members and of course the other part of our year ends July 31st beginning a new fiscal year.

I'm looking forward as I'm sure many of you do, the summer break talks in place of our regular services. I'm not sure what I'll be talking about this summer but it will be something about our universe. It should be very exciting!

At our recent board meeting, we discussed having an annual dinner. It will be May 24, 2023. (See article in the Powerline)

April 30th is our date for our Pledge Drive near the end of our 2022-2023 term on the board.

May 21st is our date for the Annual Meeting.

A big thank you to Erica for putting together our Adult Easter Egg Hunt! It was a really great time!

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

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

It seems as if my term as your President went very fast. As my term nears its end, I look forward to continued service to our church, its people, and our community. Thank you.

President of UU Board - Paul Brundage

Annual Meeting

Congregational Annual Meeting will be May 21, 2023 after service.

Nadja

Shelley and Nadja enjoyed Easter by having Borscht Beet Soup. Nadja instructed Shelley they needed cooked beets, potatoes, and polish sausage. Thicken the juices with flour. Drop in whole boiled eggs before serving. Nadja said Shelley did a perfect job! Nadja's mother always made this for the family on the farm.

Nadja's mother Elaina would make a large barrel of donuts to sale at Easter service to help support their Catholic Church in Lenin, Belarus.

Nadja family did not have money to buy clothes. Nadja took milk to a Jewish woman in trade for dresses. Nadja also sewed on buttons for her in trade of clothes.



At the beginning of WWII the SS soldiers of the Russian army were preparing to defend Belarus from Nazi Germany. Nadja's father Pavil (Paul) and her sister Natallia (Natalie) and her husband a policeman were invited to see Joseph Stalin. Shortly after the Russians sent them to Siberia in retaliation for their actions. Natallia (Natalie) two children and her husband. Nadja's father was taken away to be killed.



Her brothers left to go fight, they were taken into the Russian military.

Nadja family now consisted of her mother Elaina and her sister Colonja (Paula) along with husband and little girl. Because it was so brutal in Siberia, Nadja's mother would send dried bread to Natalia when ever she could.

The Nazis are approaching Lenin, Belarus.

Church Dinner

Church Dinner

Wednesday May 24
LaSalle Yacht Club
73 S 68th St, Niagara Falls, NY

Cash Bar 5PM – 6 PM

Dinner 6PM

RSVP to Pam 716-870-4751
by Friday, May 19.



Tatler Events

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

Saving What We Can

By [Lynn Gardner](#)

April 26, 2023

“This can still happen anywhere. Not everything is lost.”

–Naomi Shihab Nye, in “Gate A-4”

On a chilly winter morning, my beloved and I took our small, shy dog for a walk to a nearby park. The morning light, frozen pond, and snow were all lovely. On the way home we walked past a neighborhood pizza place that has two apartments above it. There was a red-headed house finch fluttering around one of the upstairs windows.

Then we noticed another bird on the inside, trying to get out. One pane of a double-hung window had been left open in the attic, and the little bird had managed to get into the opening and was now stuck inside the house. We watched the birds trying to reach each other through the glass.



I went around to the back of the building, found three doorbells, and tried the one at the top. A bearded and tattooed man came to the door and looked through the glass at me. I explained that there was a bird trapped inside and was hoping someone would help it. "I'll check on it," he said.

We stood out on the sidewalk and watched as he appeared in the window. He studied the situation for a moment, then jostled the window open, propped it with a piece of wood, and lifted the screen as well. The little bird fluttered around inside. The man found a piece of cloth, and carefully guided the bird out the window. It flew into the bright air, across the street, where it landed on a branch.

I felt amazingly happy and cheered and wept. It had been a month with a lot of loss for people we care about. And on that morning, we got to help save one small bird. *Not everything is lost*. So here's to small joys, and saving what we can.

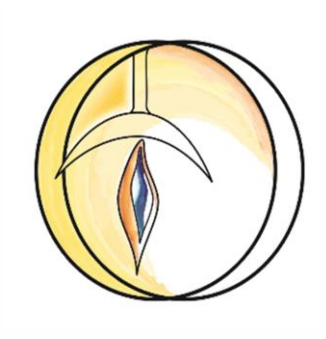
Prayer: Source of Possibilities, as we move through the world, may we be open to times when our presence, actions, or words may make a difference. In our times of need, may we each be saved by hope, connection, and love.

[Lynn Gardner](#) (they/them/she/her) serves as co-minister in Schenectady, NY. Prior to ministry, she ran a multicultural in-home day care program, and is grateful to continue to serve families with young children in a multi-generational congregation. She finds inspiration through participating in vibrant worship, collaborating for justice, and is humbled by the power of trust, vulnerability, and courage.



She enjoys hiking and kayaking with her partner in life and ministry, Rev. Wendy Bartel, and their small, shy dog, Luna. Lynn loves to share time and good food with family and friends, read entertaining novels, practice yoga, drink coffee, and putter in the garden.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/saving-what-we-can>



Return Service Requested
May 2023

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



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