

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

June 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 Shelley Baxter, Pam Smith and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

June 4: "Dare We Begin Again?"

As the "church year" is coming to a close, our speaker will reflect on answering the question of... Has organized religion outlived its usefulness? Some of the conclusions will hopefully give all some food for thought and action.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour: Marge Gillies

Usher: Kathy McCunn

June 11: "Rabbitt on the Moon"

How did the moon get a rabbit's face? We'll explore some theories from a couple different religions.

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

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Teresa Labuszewski

Usher: Marge Gillies

June 18: "How important is friendship, anyway?"

Since COVID, America has been experiencing an epidemic of loneliness. Why is this? There are plenty of people around, yet we don't seem to be making friends the way we used to. Cicero said, "A friend is a second self." Friends provide a community and a sense of belonging. Think back on your own life -- sometimes friends are a burden, but most of the time they are a blessing that gets you through the tough times. Can we attack the loneliness epidemic one friend at a time?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour: Board

Usher: Wally Lamb

Summer Programs

Summer programs begin June 25. If you are interested in speaking or know someone who would like to talk for a summer program, email Erica ericadkopp@gmail.com or text/call 716-343-0361

Our People

Bonnie Soley's daughter recently passed away with breast cancer. Her husband Bill Soley, a former Board President, passed away last Friday. His service is on July 29th, his 89th birthday. His wife, Bonnie would appreciate cards or calls.

Bonnie Soley

610 HA

PO BOX 875

Carrizozo, NM 88301

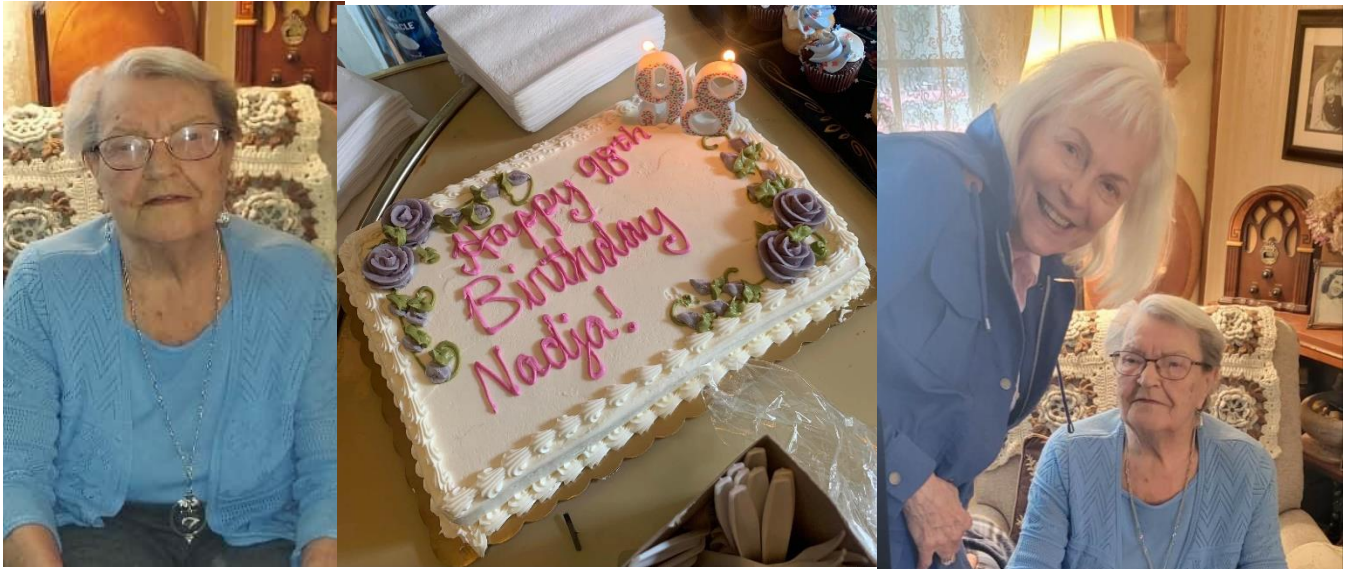
Telephone 716:316-5863

Coffee Hour and Usher

Email Erica the days/weeks or months you will **not** be able to usher or host coffee hour next year. Email: ericadkopp@gmail.com

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Nadja



Nadja celebrated her 98th birthday home with Shelley. Many people came to visit! Food and wine, it was a great celebration

Nadja's stories continues:

Two of Nadja's brothers went into the woods to fight off the Nazi's. One was captured and sent to Parkenstan where he was told to steal from the people and he was never seen again. Her other brother refused to follow orders and was killed. On June 22, 1941, Nazi forces invaded Belarus

Jews hid in the forest. Several partisan groups hid in the Belarussian woods during World War II, actively working to attack Nazi units and aid the Allied forces from within Nazi-occupied Belarus.

Nadja's youngest brother Mesha (Micheal) was taken to Germany and never seen again. That left Nadja and her mother Elaina on the farm. Her sister was married, has a baby and lives in the town of Lenin. As the Nazi's are moving towards their farm the SS (Russians) came into their farm house and told them to get down as they were shooting out their windows at the (German) Nazi's. The Nazi's took the town of Lenin.

Nadja remembers they put their horses in her church.

They made an area a ghetto for the Jews.

<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/lenin/len047.html>

<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/lenin/len135.html>

<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/lenin/lenin.html>

<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/lenin/Len011.html>

Nadja remembers hearing the popping noise of the guns shooting the Jews into a large hole dug near her farm. Nazi also took her father's brother tied his hands and beat him and marched him back and forth then put him in the hole with the Jews and shot them.

Later she was told to stay away from that area, but as a 14 year old girl she walked by the grave site. She said it oozed of blood and the smell!
....and then the Nazi's came for the Polish people.

The Nazi's put their horses in her church.

UUA

Helpers, Teachers, Angels

By [Sue Ferguson](#)

May 24, 2023

“It is impossible to see the angel unless you first have a notion of it.”

—James Hillman

Trust is critical to progress on a spiritual path but it doesn't come easily for some of us. I learned a little bit about it while I was living in Japan. Returning to Japan from a work trip to the States was often a harrowing, twenty-four hour ordeal, but on this trip I had missed my usual bus ride from Tokyo to my home and needed to take the train. It was almost midnight when I got to mammoth Shinjuku station, and the last train was about to leave.

Navigating a foreign metro train station can be daunting, but this time my fatigue must have given me a deer-in-the-headlights look because as I was gazing at the confusing train board, a man came up to me and asked, in perfect English, where I was going. When I told him that I needed the Odakyu Line he immediately grabbed my rather large suitcase and began heading off into the depths of the station.



Was this a good idea, I wondered. Can I trust him? In my exhaustion, I followed the stranger to the correct train—where he rushed forward without me. I've lost my suitcase for sure, I thought to myself, but kept going and realized that he had rushed in order to secure a seat for me and a place for my suitcase on that practically full last train. With a slight bow he backed off the train. That was the last I saw of him.

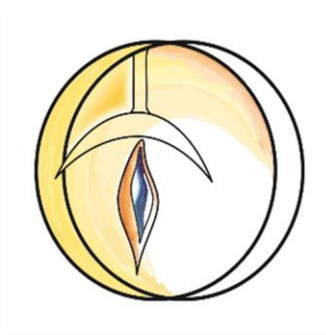
His act of kindness and compassion left a lasting impression on me. To this day I think of that stranger as an angel effortlessly moving me along the path I needed to follow at a time when I might not have been able to do it for myself. The memory reminds me that if I'm not cultivating an open heart and watching for the helpers, the teachers, and the angels, I may miss them when I need them the most.

Prayer: Spirit of life, keep my heart open to the help I am offered, and move me to become the angel others may need.



Sue Ferguson (she/her) has been a member of Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins, CO since 1983. She has served in a variety of lay leadership roles, most recently chairing a successful capital campaign for a new sanctuary. She loves facilitating Wellspring and helping shelter families who are experiencing homelessness. She has two amazing grown children and three equally amazing grandchildren.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/helpers-teachers-angels>



Return Service Requested
June 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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uuniagara@gmail.com with the subject "Powerline"*