

April 2015 **POWERLINE**  
Universalist Church of Niagara  
**Sunday Services (11:00am)**

First Unitarian



**April 5:** “Why Would an Atheist Go to Church?”

Since an atheist does not believe there is a god or an afterlife, it seems he or she would not have any reason to go to church. Yet our Unitarian Universalist churches have a substantial number of active members who are atheists. Why?

—Peter Diachun

**April 12:** “Finding our way to our Generous Hearts”

This Sunday we'll explore the topic of generosity. What might help us to support a strong connection?

—Rev. Theresa Kime.

**April 19:** “Hope in the Holocausts”

This day in 1945 saw the Warsaw Uprising, a valiant attempt to secure freedom; if not life. We also converge with Earth Day, the splendid hope for survival for not only the human race but Planet Earth. Someone has said, “Hope is all you have when you have no hope.” We must succeed in reviving humanity and our planet. Why? Because of our Children! Please read Maurice Sendak's book, *Brundibar* in preparation for our service together. Thank you!

—Minister Steve Aschmann

**April 26:** “Seeing is Believing”

We say, “Seeing is Believing”, but is the “seeing” the truth?

—Rev Donald Reidell

## **TABOO TOPICS**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of our Taboo Topics Discussion will be held on Wednesday, April 1, from 6 PM to 8 PM. The topic this month is Hospice and Palliative Care. This is to give equal discussion to ways in which to handle dying. (Last month we discussed Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide.)

There will be two volunteers with us from Hospice/Palliative Care us to present a program and lead the discussion. We had 16 people in attendance last month with all contributing to the discussion. Come join us and contribute your thoughts and feelings. This is an outreach to the community so be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors. There will be light refreshments.

## **Up, Up and Away!**

You will soon be receiving letters and pledge cards for our annual Canvass. On Sunday, April 12, Rev. Terry Kime will be back to preach and we hope to collect the cards during the festivities at Coffee Hour. You may all remember the fun last year when Julius Caesar joined us – expect more hilarity this year. If you have questions or concerns you may speak with a member of the Stewardship committee: Teresa Labuszewski, Marge Gillies, Patty Lisk or Betsy Diachun.

## **Annual Meeting**

Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 24,2015 at 12:30pm

## **Website**

Have a look at the new website <http://firstuunf.org/>

It still needs some changes. Please email Erica with any thoughts or suggestions:  
ericakopp@yahoo.com

## **Library**

I have a large collection of classic lp records and cds and a video library of over 3000 videos of classic movies and tv shows and concerts. I am 83, do not plan on dying soon but i have no one to leave this great library to. If you are truly interested or know someone who is call me at 716-743-4059 and we can discuss it.

Arnie Shafer

## **Speakers**

Everyone should have seen the request below for speaker preferences. We have received responses from some Members. Thank you! We need to hear from everyone who has a preference. This is your chance to have an important influence on our speaker selection.

All Members and Friends of 1<sup>st</sup> UU Church of Niagara:

Our Sunday Morning Programs are a most important part of our Church. Now that we are functioning without even a part time minister, the complete responsibility of producing high quality programs falls upon the Congregation. This year the Sunday Morning Program Committee has scheduled a variety of speakers. We are now starting to schedule speakers for next year. The full participation from those who attend, or would attend, on Sunday mornings is needed. Which specific speakers do you like best and least? What kind of speakers do you want us to try to find? The importance of your input can not be overemphasized. You can strongly influence and control the speakers we have. Members of the Committee and of the Board will listen to your preferences and requests. Decisions about next year's speakers will depend on what is heard.

Speak with or write to Bill Lisk, Teresa Labuszeski, Paul Brundage, Steve Wittkowsky, Peter Diachun, Betsy Diachun, Marge Gillies, or Erica Kopp.

To refresh you memory a list of our speakers this year is provided.

9/7/2014	Water Communion	2/1/2015	Drorah Setel
9/14/2014	Jerry Kent	2/8/2015	Martin Moleski
9/21/2014	Destin Radder	2/15/2015	CANCELLED
9/28/2014	Don Reidell	2/22/2015	Don Reidell
10/5/2014	Rev.Ron Skowronski	3/1/2015	Don Reidell
10/12/2014	Will Crago	3/8/2015	Rev. Ron Skowronski
10/19/2014	John Mayer	3/15/2015	Rev. John Rex
10/26/2014	Don Reidell	3/22/2015	Don Reidell
11/2/2014	Don Reidell	3/29/2015	Victoria Ingram
11/9/2014	Tom Flynn	4/5/2015	Peter Diachun
11/16/2014	John Mayer	4/12/2015	Terry Kime
11/23/2014	Don Reidell	4/19/2015	Steve Aschmann
11/30/2014	Joseph Rautenstrauch	4/26/2015	Don Reidell
12/7/2014	Tim Madigan	5/3/2015	Don Reidell
12/14/2014	John Mayer	5/10/2015	Will Crago
12/21/2014	Sunnie Thomas	5/17/2015	Darcey Laine
12/28/2014	Don Reidell	5/24/2015	Don Reidell
1/4/2015	Renee Ruchotzke	5/31/2015	Donna Evans-Deyemond
1/11/2015	John Mayer	6/7/2015	Jenny Hill & Paul Bradford
1/18/2015	Frances Manley & Doug	6/14/2015	Terry Kime
1/25/2015	Don Reidell	6/21/2015	Flower Communion

## Speakers



## Book Club Wednesday April 29:

At 7PM the book club will meet to discuss the book, Letters of Note, regardless if you have read it all. Come and join the lively discussions.



## **District Assembly Fund Raiser**

Below is an announcement which went out to all who might be attending the District Assembly this year. If you can help with this let Peter Diachun know. [754-2830 or [peter.diachun@gmail.com](mailto:peter.diachun@gmail.com)]

March 27-28, 2015 are the dates set for the District Assembly in Niagara Falls, NY. The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is offering a special Niagara Experience for participants. At the close of the District Assembly programming at 5:00 PM Saturday March 28, those registered for the UUNEX2015 may convene at the First UU Niagara Church for a cocktail hour with an open bar followed by a pork tenderloin banquet with a grilled portabella mushroom vegetarian alternative. After the banquet, tours of the lights over the Falls will be led by Church members for those who are interested.

On Sunday morning our guests will be fed scrumptious brunch before our 11 AM Sunday Church service.

If there is interest church members will be available to take people to attractions within the county: The Aquarium; Old Fort Niagara, and evidence of Underground Railroad activities in the area.

Cost is \$75 per person for the entire UUNEX2015. This price includes meals, tour guides and lots of story telling. Guests will be expected to stay over an additional night at their hotels at their own expense. The Church is located a short distance from the Convention Center where the DA will be held and close to the major hotels. It is approximately 1 mile from the Falls themselves.

## **Facebook and Website**

USERS: Remember to like us on Facebook: Just go to Facebook and type in First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. We'd also like you to go to our Website frequently. We are looking for ways to update and improve it and are open to suggestions. See Erica Kopp. Our address is: [firstuunf.org](http://firstuunf.org)

## **TOPS CARDS**

A new supply of TOPS cards is available. Contact Erica ([ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com)) or Betsy ([ediachun@gmail.com](mailto:ediachun@gmail.com)) to purchase. Help the church finances while shopping as you normally would.

## **Heating the Church in Winter**

We are now in the heating season. There are two important actions all members must understand.

1. Anyone using the Church building must be aware that it will be cold unless a request is made to bring up the heat at least 24 hours ahead. It takes at least that long to heat the auditorium. Unity hall heats up in about 6-8 hours. If you want any part of the building heated you must let Peter or Erica know at least a full day before so it can be reprogrammed to meet your needs. It can be programmed up to 6 days in advance. The Founders' Room (Office) is an exception. It automatically senses activity and will be up to temperature in about 10 minutes after someone enters. You can use the Founders' Room any time with out any prior arrangement for heat.
2. In order to conserve heat, all the inside doors which now have spring closures on them must be kept closed except when people are going through. Please do not prop them open. Treat these doors as you would an outside door—that is closed during the heating season.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The church is listed as a charity on Ebay. Anyone can sell items on Ebay giving 10-100% of the proceeds directly to the church. Ebay discounts the seller's fees at the percent of the donation. There is also an option to make a direct donation. Proceeds are directly deposited in the Church's checking account. So far we've raised \$200 from the first few of Jeanne Aydelotte's Hummels. We also have a beautiful ornament from Patty Lisk listed. Sometime - will be listing a number of items donated by Mamie Simonson and Judi Bongiovanni. Ebayers in the church can check out:

<http://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/first-unitarian-universalist-church-of-niagara/58459/>

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



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
 639 Main Street  
 PO Box 2566  
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
 Return Service Requested  
 April 2015

### UU Niagara Activities – April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Rev. Victoria Ingram	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Peter Diachun	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Terry Kime	13	14	15 Taxes 7pm - Book Group @	16	17	18
19 Rev. Steve Aschman 12:30pm - Board	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Don Reidell	27	28	29	30	1	2