

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

November 2016

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

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

In this issue

Sunday Programs P 2

Minister's Message P 3

President's Corner P 3-4

Announcements P 5-6

Reflections P 7

Meditation P 8

Community P 9-10

Calendar P 11



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 Marge Gillies, Betsy Diachun, and Susan Frawley.

Sunday Services 11:00am

November 6: "THE RED MENACE"

Topic: As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of how Native Americans nourished the European settlers with native foods like corn, squash and beans. Then we remember how our mythological Pilgrim ancestors failed to teach the mythical Natives about enlightened European political ideals. But this is a myth. We will be exploring the historical roots of Democracy as practiced by the Iroquois tribe, and how they tried to teach Democracy and Communal Equality to the settlers. Did they succeed? Our own "Democracy" crisis this November stands as a testament to America's inability to learn from the Natives.

John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host

November 13: "The Sure Route to Happiness."

What are the things that give us lasting happiness? Why is it important to pursue happiness? We'll explore these questions and talk about happiness and spirituality in this talk

Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour Host: Susan Diachun

November 20: "Songs of Thanksgiving"

Reveling in the many songs in our UU tradition that focus of thanks and giving. This is a music Sunday filled with song, sentiment, and sacred words.

Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host: Pat Velky

November 27: "Tell Me Your Authority"

How would you respond if questioned on the foundation of your religious conviction?

Don Reidell

Coffee Hour Host: Marie Howard

Minster's Message

Greetings to all on this rainy fall day.

The weather is changing and so too are our feelings and emotions. The harvest season brings a time of closure and preparation for rest. We reap in the abundance of the spring planting and the summer growing to enjoy now a plethora of food sources to sustain us through the winter months. Fall is my favorite season. While for some it brings sadness at the passing of summer light and fun, I think of this as the budding of autumnal leaves and colors. I love pumpkins, gourds and the movement of bright long nights to early star viewing. I also find my feelings changing in anticipation and excitement of this time of dramatic and vivid change. Spring brings leaves and grass of green. Fall brings colors of so many dimensions it is impossible to name them all. Though a time of decline and some say, death of plants and flowers, I see life at its fullest moment. Perhaps it is the onset of death that brings the greatest awareness of the fullness of life. I would like us not to have to take it to that fullest example and instead, revel in the magic of seasonal change, color, temperate and opportunity to glean all the gifts that the season of fall wafts upon us. Collect some leaves, walk in them while they are crunchy, smell the air, eat an apple, carve a pumpkin, look at the stars, wear a warm sweater outside, and smile. Gifts abound in the smallest of moments and gestures. Don't miss the ones given by nature. And if you want a community that appreciates and supports the love of nature and seasons as a sacred ritual, stop on into church and pray awhile.

Blessed be, Sue

President's Corner: Marge Gillies

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is my absolute favorite holiday as it is focused upon gratitude. Thankfulness. Having just returned from nearly month in Provincetown, I am so grateful that I was able to make the trip again, at my age, with no problems. Just in the 9 ½ hour span of time, I experienced all kinds of weather- high winds, drizzle, pouring rain and snow. I also had a chance to think and to dream and to enjoy my experience.

In that drive I thought of you and I wanted to tell you, in person, just how much you mean to me. For the things you do and for the person you are and are becoming. For those board members that are willing to meet monthly to wrestle with whatever crisis we are facing. For all of our speakers and minsters. For our musician. For those who sit on important committees or programs such as the Book Discussion Group, Building and

Grounds, Caring, Finance, Music, Stewardship and Membership, Worship, and Ministerial Committees. For every person who brings a joy or a sorrow to celebrate or to share or support your grief or concern. For all those who bring food for coffee hour. For all those special skills or interests that you possess that widens our learning. For those who contribute to the financial well-being of the church. For those who can no longer come to the First Unitarian Universalist Church but who are with us in spirit as we are with them.

The church is always better when you are a part of us, whether you can come to church or are homebound. If you have not been unable to attend so far, please join us for Sunday services listed in the [Powerline](#) or for special events. There's an opportunity to enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church on Thursday, November 24th at 2 pm. Call the church to reserve. Please join the gathering and bring a dish to pass.

With a warm and grateful heart,
Marge Gillies

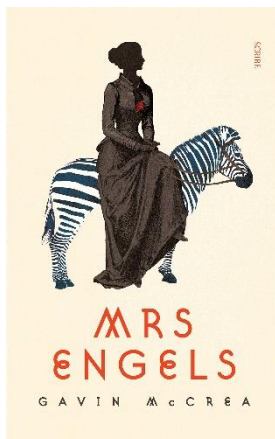


Photo: Erica Kopp

UU Announcements

ATTENTION:

Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet November 15th at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing the novel *Mrs. Engels* by Gavin McCrea. Mrs. Engels is the illiterate Irish "wife" of Frederick Engels who co-wrote the Communist Manifesto with Karl Marx. It should be an interesting exchange of ideas. Everyone is welcome so come and add your opinions and thoughts

Our group tends to talk about ideas presented in our books so it is not necessary to have read the book to attend and share your opinions (although it helps). Everyone is welcome so join us for a chat.

Judy Bongiovanni Lewiston, NY USA

THANKSGIVING DINNER

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Thursday, November 24, when we will have a Thanksgiving dinner at church. People can congregate from 2 PM on. We'll prepare everything and play board games until around 4 PM when we'll eat. We will decide on the dishes people will bring as soon as we have an idea of how many will attend.

It will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Please sign up asap or call the church – 285-8381 if you want your name added to the list.

Outreach

We have been told that Heart, Love and Soul has trouble keeping toilet paper in stock. So we are going to present a different idea for our Christmas giving tree. We will have a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1 PM to make decorations for our tree. Stay tuned! Our tree will grow each Sunday in December, a reverse advent calendar!

In early November, after the election, keep yourselves open to putting a bit of kindness into people's lives.

Stewardship and Finance Committee

On Sunday, Oct. 23, Holly Mergenhagen, from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo [CFGFB] presented the idea of setting up a legacy fund (i.e. an endowment) for the church. The Niagara Area Foundation [NAF] is a division of the CFGFB specifically set up to empower Niagara County non-profits through financial gifts. A Community Foundation acts as a pass through for the agencies. By pooling our money together we can get better investment opportunities thus, a bigger bang for our buck.

The Finance Committee has been talking about this as a way in which people could give money from their estate, or before, to ensure that a Unitarian Universalist presence remains in Niagara Falls. Holly left printed material which will be shared with any interested party. This differs from an annual donation in that this money is invested and left to grow until the congregation determines a need; thus making it last longer and to be there when needed.

If we set up a legacy fund with the NAF, we set the rules so that it can be removed at any time and put elsewhere if that is the wish of the congregation. Speak to the treasurer, Peter Diachun, if you have questions, concerns or wish to vote on setting up such a fund.

Keep your fingers crossed!

We may have our musical accompaniment solved! Yippee!!

Robbie Burns Dinner

The Riverside United Presbyterian Church will once again be holding their fundraiser at the Frontier Fire Hall on Williams Rd. The Robbie Burns Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 14. It is a fun time with Scottish food and humor. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call Margaret Smith at 283-0528, to reserve tickets or with any questions.

Attention all artists “Do you have a painting, photograph, a poem, or a brief reflection to share for the online version of the Powerline. It’s really easy to do and free. Just email your submission to the Powerline at the church address: uuniagara@gmail.com

Visual artwork is the property of the artist. For reproduction, please inquire with the artist by their email contact below.

Reflections

THE LAST LEAF

By David M. Horst

Once, many grey autumns ago, I came upon a tree. The tree, a poplar, had dropped all of its leaves but for one, just one. Exactly one leaf remained near the topmost part of the tree, fluttering in the breeze like a little reddish-brown flag. All of the other leaves lay about the ground or had blown away.

I stopped and looked and marveled at the sight. I wondered what the odds might be that I was the one person who happened to arrive at that one tree at that one moment when but one leaf remained. What were the odds?

I felt an instant kinship with the one leaf. I admired its stubbornness. I spoke quietly to it, “Hang on. Never give up. Don’t let go!”

I gazed at the last leaf for a time, though I did not stay to witness its falling. I did not want to witness its falling. The leaf was not ready to let go and drop silently to the ground, and neither was I—though I knew we both would, in time, let go.

I praised the last leaf on that autumn day many years ago, when I was still young. I walked on and slowly, imperceptibly, a sense of calm came over me. A sense of acceptance. A sense of peace.

The exuberance of summer is gone. Grand plans and high hopes give way to chilly reality. We loved as best we could, we’ve reaped as much as we could, we’ve traveled life’s journey as far as we could. We count our blessings and our losses. All leaves must fall.

The circle of the year comes round. Our hemisphere tilts away from the sun. Green turns to gold. Life returns to the soil. Animals retreat. The nights grow long. The natural world lies fallow. The season of letting go comes as it always comes. Winter begins.

Meditation

A THANKSGIVING BLESSING

A Thanksgiving Blessing

By Naomi King

Let us join our hands and hearts in gratitude on this wondrous day where we have the abundance of our lives before us. We remember this day of bounty all of those who do not have enough, who are afraid, who are lonely, and who suffer. We wish for the abundance of this world to be shared, for fear to become love, for the lonely to feel welcomed, and for the suffering to know rest and joy. For the labors, the love, the care that gave us the delights of this and every day, we say "thanks!" For the nourishment of our spirit, the challenges that strengthen us, and the friends we have on the journey, we sing "thanks!" For all that is our lives, for these good gifts, we whisper, "thanks!" Overflowing with gratitude, let us shout, "thanks!" Amen.



Photo: Erica Kopp

Community



Niagara Falls Literacy Zone

CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR

This one-day event brings together local employers, career training opportunities, service providers, outreach professionals, and community agencies. Join us and learn what services are available right here in your neighborhood!

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Trott Access Center

Floor 2R

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

FREE! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



LEARN MORE ABOUT:

Training Programs

- Culinary
- Home Health Aide
- Customer Service
- Hospitality

Family Services

Career Readiness

Computer Classes

Health & Safety

Financial Literacy

Hiring Managers on Site

Giveaways!

Free Lunch!

O/N BOCES

Trott Access Center
1001 11th Street, Floor 2R
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
NiagaraFallsLiteracyZone.com

(716) 278-8599

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



639 Main Street,
Niagara Falls, NY 14032 - 2566
P.O. Box 2566
(716) 282-8381

E-mail uuniagara@gmail.com
<http://firstuunf.org>
Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 36 yrs 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

*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to
ericakopp@yahoo.com with the subject "Powerline"*



November 2016
 Return Service Requested
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 PO Box 2566
 639 Main Street
 First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

UU Niagara Activities November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 John Rex 11am - "Mending the	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 John Snodgrass 8am - Recycle	7	8	9	10	11 at Temple Beth El:	12
13 Donna Evans -	14	15 7pm - Book Group @	16	17	18	19
20 Susan Frawley 8am - Recycle 12:30pm - Board	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 Don Reidell	28	29	30	1	2	3