

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

April 2016

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

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

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## **Annual Meeting**

*Annual Meeting will be May 22, 2016*

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](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com) or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Bonnie Soley, Kris Parsons, Bill Parsons, Shari Burke, Shelley Baxter, Van Dee Van Deusen and Connie Garver, plus all the board members of the First UU Church of Niagara.

## Sunday Services 11:00am

### **April 3: “Who Are These Doubters? The Demography of Unbelief” Tom Flynn**

You've seen the various religion polls and the reported percentages of unbelievers – and the polls vary widely. Which surveys are reliable? Which are skewed? In a lavishly illustrated presentation, Tom Flynn explores how sociologists and pollsters have measured religious belief and unbelief from the mid-twentieth century to today, complete with all the controversies and scandals. What do polls on religion really mean (for example, how many of those "no religious preference" people are really atheists?).

Tom Flynn biography

Tom Flynn is executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism and editor of its magazine, *Free Inquiry*, the nation's largest-circulation secular humanist journal. He is an outspoken secular humanist activist. He cofounded the newsletter *Secular Humanist Bulletin* and designed the museum at the birthplace of 19<sup>th</sup> century agnostic orator Robert Green Ingersoll in Dresden, New York. He is co-founder of the Freethought Trail. He has written or edited four published books: a 1993 polemic, *The Trouble With Christmas*, two irreverent science fiction novels, and (as editor) *The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief*. Most recently, he is executive producer of the Council for Secular Humanism's new four-part video miniseries, *American Freethought*.

### **April 10: “Funday Sunday”**

When is the last time you experienced magic in church? I don't mean deep spiritual response, I mean slight of hand and fun in heart. On this day of covenanting to raise the funds of the church, our worship will raise the fun of worship...Come ready to laugh and enjoy worship of the heart and belly laugh.

Rev. Susan Frawley

### **April 17: “Don't Be Too Quick to “Unfriend” Someone”**

In the age of Facebook, we are all familiar with the term “unfriending”. But what really warrants this drastic step? Can good friends hold differing political and religious views? We'll explore what matters, and what doesn't when it comes to friendship.

Peter House

### **April 24: “Missed Opportunities”**

Much too often in our lives we seem immune to life's offering

Rev. Don Reidell

## President's Message

### Our 639 Main Street Building

Our building is at the same time our most valuable physical asset and our greatest liability.



It was built in 1921, 95 years ago, by this Congregation which had just been established a few years earlier. It has continuously served us as our physical home since then. It continues to be a focal point of the Congregation and the community.

The annual cost of this physical house, including utilities, is the largest single cost to the Congregation taking about one third of our total expenses. Furthermore the building is a constant demand for members' attention and work. It constantly gives us exposure to major unexpected financial cost. We try to control these risks through maintenance and insurance, but sometimes they catch up with us. Last month one of our four furnaces had to be replaced for an unbudgeted cost of \$2000. Earlier this year our roof was threatened by a persistent intrusion of raccoons. We had to install an electric fence around the roof to repel these intruders.

There is no possibility of selling our building at a substantial price because of the very low value of property in Niagara Falls.

For these reasons we are stuck with our 95 year old building which might be our greatest blessing.

Peter

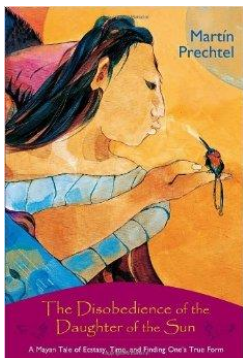
# UU Announcements

## YOU'VE GOT MAIL

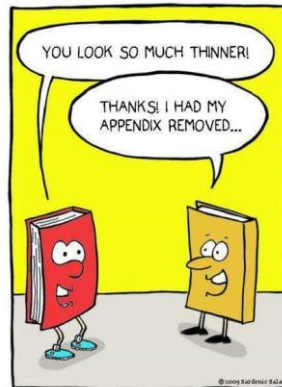
...announcing the annual canvassing date: April 10, after church. There will be Karaoke, Koffee, Komedy, and Kanva\$\$ing! Hope to see you there.



## Book Discussion Group



We will be discussing *The Disobedience of the Daughter of the Sun* by Martin Prechtel. We will be meeting April 26, 2016 at 7pm in Unity Hall



## Our People

Reinhild Vadla is in Room 140 at Our Lady of Peace recovering from a stroke. She welcomes visitors and/or mail.

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](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com)

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

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# Reflections

“On this Earth, though far and near, without love, there is only fear.” Pearl S. Buck

## In The Early Morning Light

*“In the early morning light  
The buds announce their arrival  
Bearing gifts-  
My spring shroud of sadness  
And  
The tiny lead seed  
That burrows into  
The pit  
Of my stomach  
And  
Prepares  
To germinate.”*

Shari Burke ([shariannburke@gmail.com](mailto:shariannburke@gmail.com))

Shari and Bill Burke now live in Ireland. When they moved to Niagara Falls a few years ago, they came to First UU and conducted a listening process with members of our church. We wish them well in their new home in Ireland.



Photo by Kris Parsons

Pluviophile - “a lover of rain, someone who finds joy and peace of mind during rainy days.”

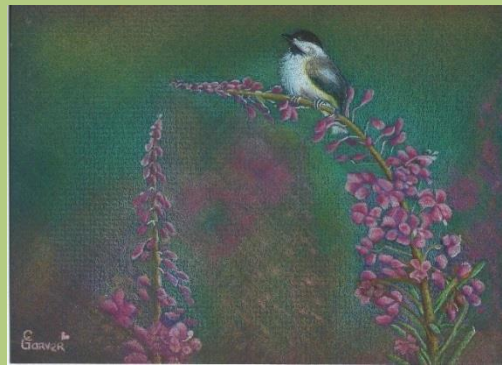
## Visual Arts



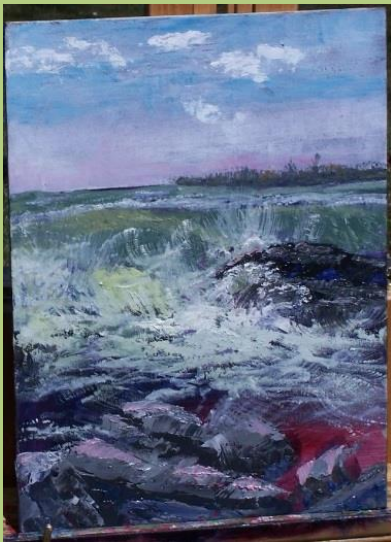
Rabbit in Sweater, National Gallery of Ireland



Bill Parsons, artist



Connie Garver, artist



Van Dee Van Deusen, artist



Bonnie Soley, artist



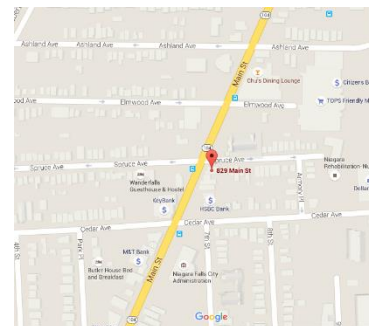
# Community

Saturday, April 16, ROMEO AND JULIET at NCCC at 7:30 PM with a modern take on Shakespeare's play - still using his lovely language but set in modern times with cross-gender casting - for mature audiences. Tickets are \$10 - \$5 for Seniors.

[http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/academics/amt/performing\\_arts.php?section=academics](http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/academics/amt/performing_arts.php?section=academics)



Sunday, April 17 - BREAKFAST at 9:30 before church. Support a new neighborhood business at Home Style Cafe, 829 Main St. at the corner of Main and Spruce, next to the Armory.



Saturday, April 30 - BACK YARD CLEAN UP at the church starting at 9:30.

Let's make our landscape look beautiful and healthy.

Contact Betsy Diachun with questions or for further details. 754-2830

[ediachun@gmail.com](mailto:ediachun@gmail.com)



LaSalle PRIDE, LaSalle Yacht Club,  
Niagara Tradition Home Beer & Wine Supplies,  
& Mayor Paul Dyster present:

## Niagara Falls

# BOOMIDAYS!

Sat., April 30, 6 PM – 10 PM

Open House at the LaSalle Yacht Club



## Jazzline Band

Jennie Jones, Dennis Warne, Jenny May & Joe Ferrara

### Food Service Dancing Exhibits

A canoe party led by Cavalier LaSalle & Father Hennepin will arrive at 6:30 PM

55 Donation welcomed to benefit: Community Mission, St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank, Tesla at Niagara Museum, Niagara Falls Historic Preservation Society, St. John de LaSalle Boy Scout Troop 841, and NY Fireman Toys for Christmas Fund in memory of Chris Kusela.

LaSalle PRIDE 425-4005 or email [jgravesNBS@aol.com](mailto:jgravesNBS@aol.com)



## Gay & Lesbian Youth Services presents DIVERSITY PROM



for WNY LGBTQ youth ages 14-20

Friday, June 10, 2016 • 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.  
\$10 per person

Acbury Hall/Babeville  
341 Delaware Avenue near Tupper in Buffalo, 14202

For information call 855.0221



VOL  
UN  
TEER

ReNU Niagara Presents:  
The Second Annual  
**LiveNF  
Volunteer Fair**  
With Special Guest:  
Congressman Brian Higgins

Thursday, April 7th 2016  
4:00-7:00 PM  
@ The Niagara Arts and  
Cultural Center(NACC)  
1201 Pine Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

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





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 639 Main Street  
 PO Box 2566  
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## UU Niagara Activities - April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Recycle	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Tom Flynn	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Recycle Susan Frawley	11	12	13	14	15	16 7:30pm - Romeo and
17 Peter House 9:30am - Breakfast 12:30pm - Board	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Don Reidsell Recycle	25	26 7pm - Book Club	27	28	29	30 9:30am - Back Yard