

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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

May 2016

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 or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Kris Parsons, Ylli Haruni, Marge Gillies, Betsy Diachun, Peter Diachun and Connie Garver.

Sunday Services 11:00am

May 1: "Considering Communion," with Rev. Theresa Kime

Coming from the Christian tradition, as we Unitarian Universalists do, the ritual of communion was a part of our communal spiritual practice for much of our history. It continues to be important in some UU congregations and to those belonging to the UU Christian Fellowship. Today we'll explore some of our UU history and understandings around this important celebration, and a communion service, in the UU tradition, will be offered for those who wish to participate.

May 8:

John Mayer

May 15: "Arise from sleep"

Springtime has flowers and plants and us arising from our winter slumber. Once we arise, what will we bloom? A faith formation discussion on growth.

Susan Frawley

May 22: "Wounds and Band-aids"

Gaian teacher and scholar of Buddhism Joanna Macy wrote that "The heart that breaks open can contain the whole world." But wounds are sometimes ugly, and we want to protect them, to cover them up. So what could be healing about showing the wounds? How can we get to the place where our wounds enable us to "contain the whole world"?

Formerly an English Professor at Canisius College, Rita is entering her second year as a seminary student at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo since 2004. Starting in September, she will serve First Unitarian of Rochester and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua as an intern minister. She lives in Buffalo with her husband and their cats; her grown children live nearby.

Rita Capezzi

May 29: Who Was Mary?

Who was Mary Magdalene and why is she important today? Why should we care about the *Gospel of Mary* and what it says. Recent research has a lot to say about her and how Christianity took a turn from what was intended.

Judy Bongiovanni Lewiston, NY USA

President's Message

We are concluding the annual financial pledge drive which is now clearly going to provide for another year of adequate funding to continue our operation. This is almost extraordinary. We are too small in number. We have too large a building which is probably in the wrong location for our best chance for a future. We can not, however, afford to find a new home or location.

This Niagara Congregation has a 100 year history of being resourceful in finding ways to continue in the face of seemingly impossible obstacles. Fund raising from outside sources has often allowed us to continue.

Our latest and present challenge is our reduced and declining size. Conducting a pledge drive to adequately fund our continuation for another year was very important. We are even contemplating establishing a legacy fund which could provide long range continuation of our Congregation into the indefinite future.

As important as this successful pledge drive was, it is equally important to note that it was done in a pleasant, fun, and actually enjoyable fashion. We even avoided the arduous and distasteful activity of pressing and persuading individuals to stretch their pledging.

The Stewardship committee did a great job. Thanks to all of them! Thanks to each pledging and contributing Member and Friend!

We will be here for another exciting year of programs, social action, caring for each other, personal growth, and fun.

Peter



Sonny and Cher singing for the pledge drive Karaoke, alias Betsy and Peter Diachun)

UU Announcements

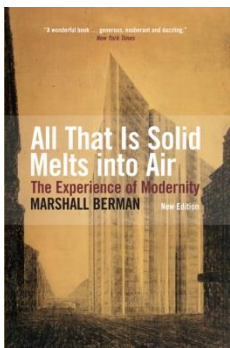
SOCIAL ACTION: If you are going to buy the meat which TOPS MARKET offers frequently with 5 or 6 free items, and you don't use the free items, consider donating them to someone, or some agency. I never thought to take the things I don't use but now I plan to, and to give them to someone. They don't cost me anything and could be put to good use.

Our People

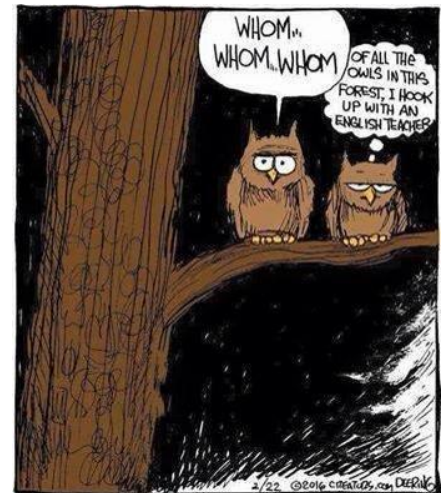
Reinhild Vadla is home from the hospital. She has a new phone number: 727-1926.

Marge signed First UU for the Niagara Beautification Commission 'Beautify Niagara', Sat. May 7th. "Volunteers needed for clean up in front of the church and along Main Street from Fourth Street to Pine Ave. Bring your own gloves and tools." See Marge for more information.

Book Discussion Group



This month we will be discussing the ideas in *All That is Solid Melts into Air* by Darragh Mckeeon. Both sweeping and intimate, this novel about the effects of the Chernobyl disaster on individuals and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Come and share your opinions. We will be meeting May 17, 2016 at 7pm in Unity Hall



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.

Connie Garver conniegarverart@yahoo.com

Ylli Haruni <http://www.ylliharunifineart.com/>

Reflections

John Denver- Healing Time On Earth

"It's About Time"

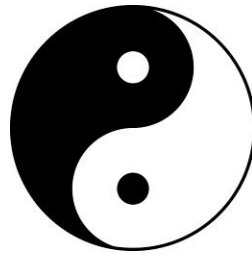
There's a full moon over India and Gandhi lives again.
Who's to say you have to lose for someone else to win?
In the eyes of all the people, the look is much the same,
for the first is just the last one when you play a deadly game.
It's about time we realize it, we're all in this together.
It's about time we find out, it's all of us or none.
It's about time we recognize it, these changes in the weather.
It's about time, it's about changes, and it's about time.

There's a light in the Vatican window for all the world to see
and a voice cries in the wilderness and sometimes he speaks for me.
I suppose I love him most of all when he kneels to kiss the land,
with his lips upon our mother's breast, he makes his strongest stand.
It's about time we start to see it, the earth is our only home.
It's about time we start to face it, we can't make it here all alone.
It's about time we start to listen to the voices in the wind,
it's about time and it's about changes and it's about time.

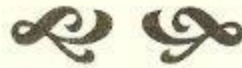
There's a man who is my brother, I just don't know his name.
But I know his home and family because I know we feel the same.
And it hurts me when he's hungry and when his children cry.
I too am a father, and that little one is mine.
It's about time we begin it, to turn the world around.
It's about time we start to make it, the dream we've always known.
It's about time we start to live it, the family of man.
It's about time, it's about changes and it's about time.
It's about peace and it's about plenty and it's about time,
It's about you and me together and it's about time." - John Denver



**"We travel, some of us forever, to seek other places,
other lives, other souls." – Anais Nin**



Practicing the Art of Patience



“We live in a culture that supports acting more than waiting. Waiting for the right time to act takes patience. If you are waiting for a doctor’s appointment, a bus, or a light to change on your way somewhere; notice if you are becoming impatient, and catch yourself if you are thinking that things are taking too long. Instead, experiment with sinking deeper into the present moment.

Take a few breaths to slow yourself down and harmonize yourself with the way things are actually flowing. Take time to practice stillness by waiting patiently. Enjoy the tranquility of stillness, which is one of the gifts of patience. By cultivating the art of patience, you will have more skill with which to harmonize with the Tao and go with the flow.”

(Wisdom Walk, p.181)

Visual Arts



"Village of Williamsville" oil
on canvas 20"x16"
Niagara Painter Ylli Haruni



Connie Garver, Spring is Really Here



Three Great Horned Owls
Montana 2015
Photo by Kris Parson

Community

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



THE ONCE & FUTURE CHURCH or "Chicken Little Goes to Church"

Have you heard???

- The Church is in decline!
- Nobody goes to church anymore!
- The 'millennial' generation just doesn't care about religion!
- Everything the elder generation has built up is bound for ruin!

Or not.

- Get the facts and find out how we can be the solution!
- Learn about the trends in American religious life – and how they impact UU's.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016 9:30am – 4:00pm

\$5 at door includes lunch! RSVP by 5/18/2016

Registration link: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/s1xg7vqy0m5sqy4/>

Downloadable Flyer: <http://tinyurl.com/jqwfa52>

HOSTED BY:

UU Church of Amherst

6320 Main St.

Williamsville, NY

www.uuamherst.org

SUMMER IS
COMING!

If you'd like to be a service leader for our casual discussions please contact Peter Diachun. Choose a subject of interest to you. Lots of help available.

Niagara Beautification Commission



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
TEN YEARS OF
BEAUTIFY NIAGARA



COMMUNITY KICK OFF
MAY 7, 2016 AT 8:00 A.M.

SENECA NIAGARA RESORT & CASINO -

UNDER THE ARCH IN FRONT OF CASINO ENTRANCE

Join us in our campaign for a "Beautiful Niagara". Kick off will include a continental breakfast compliments of SENECA NIAGARA RESORT & CASINO. Volunteers will be provided gloves and bags & assigned an area to clean up if they have not chosen one in advance.

The event will be held rain or shine (Maid of the Mist raincoats will be provided in the event of inclement weather - while supplies last)

Individuals welcome....Organizations welcome....Students welcome....

Seniors welcome....Supervised children welcome.

EVERYONE WELCOME

CALL ReNU NIAGARA TO SIGN UP 205-0287

*Picnic at John Duke Senior Center for Volunteers
at noon - 1201 Hyde Park Blvd. - Rain or Shine*

HISTORIC TOURS

www.nfhps.org

You Can Walk through History

Wednesday at 6:00 pm
Sunday at 3:00 pm

Niagara Visitor Center
10 Rainbow Blvd., Niagara Falls NY



Your tour will be led by
a NFHPS certified guide

Stories of natives & settlers, tourists,
freedom seekers, industry & inventors

Factories & Mansions
Electricity & Conservation



TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Join us for light yoga, standing or sitting (no floor).

Good for stretching and balance.

Tuesday's before TOPS

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meeting.

Starts 5:30PM for 30 minutes. No cost.

Instructed by Shelley Baxter Collins.



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



Friday, May 6
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Woodland Wildflower Walk
Wilson Tuscarora State Park

Spring is in the air! Mother Nature awaits you with her annual display of wildflowers! Stroll through woods filled with old growth trees, listen for the birds overhead, and behold the beauty seen only this time of the year! End your evening with a Lake Ontario sunset! What a great start to your weekend. *For information and registration call (716) 282-5154.*



Saturday, May 14



Saturday, May 14
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Basics of Birding
DeVeaux Woods State Park

You see a bird but you have no clue what it is! Come join us and learn the basics of bird identification and equipment needed to get you started on this fun-filled hobby! A short walk in the park will be included. Appropriate for families with children ages 8 and up. *For information and registration call (716) 282-5154.*

(716) 549-1050.



Sunday, May 15
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Pet Friendly Walk
Niagara Falls State Park

Join a park naturalist with your furry friend and explore the history and beauty of this park. Dogs must be on leash and under your control at all times while on the walk. *For information and registration call (716) 282-5154. Parking fees apply.*



Saturday, May 21
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Gorge Hiking Series: Rim Trail
Devil's Hole State Park

Join us for a casual walk along the scenic Niagara Gorge. We will discuss the natural history of the area along the way. *For information and registration call (716) 282-5154.*

**5th Annual
I Love My Park Day!
Saturday, May 7, 2016**

Show State Parks some love by volunteering at any of our participating Niagara Region State Parks!
Visit Parks & Trails New York website:
www.ptny.org/ilovemypark for more information and online registration. This event is being organized in partnership between Parks & Trails New York and NYS Parks. Below is a list of parks that our parks programs staff will be participating in.

Evangola State Park

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please join us at Evangola State Park where we will be cleaning up the beach and parklands along with other improvement projects.

Golden Hill State Park

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please come and join the Friends of Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse in celebrating I Love My Park Day. For more information please call the Golden Hill State Park office at (716) 795-3885.

Whirlpool State Park

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please join us at Whirlpool State Park where we will be cleaning up parklands along the Niagara Gorge with other improvement projects.

Wilson Tuscarora State Park

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join a park naturalist in beautifying Wilson Tuscarora State Park. Come join the fun!



"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*



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

UU Niagara Activities - May 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 1 Terry Kime | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 I love my Park Day 8am - Beautiful |
| 8 John Mayer Recycle | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Susan Frawley 12:30pm - Board | 16 | 17 7pm - Book Group @ | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Recycle Rita Capezzi 12pm - Annual | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Judy Bongiovanni | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |