

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

In this issue

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**January 2017**


*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

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My  
Unitarian Universalist  
values call me to  
**== RESIST ==**

ableism • attacks on democracy • racism • bullying  
antisemitism • vote suppression • environmental harm  
mistreatment of immigrants • corporate personhood  
homophobia • Islamophobia • transphobia  
pseudo-science • authoritarianism • the patriarchy



Learn about the free faith for the resistance at [uua.org](http://uua.org). Let's talk about it!

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 Marge Gillies, Betsy Diachun, Judy Bongiovanni, and Susan Frawlev.

## **Sunday Services 11:00am**

**January 1:** No Services

**January 8:** Sermon: IN (what) GOD (do) WE TRUST (?)

Description: On our dollar bills, in our Declaration of Independence and pledge to the flag, the United States proclaims a trust in "God." ...But what god? Is this a "Christian Nation"? And if so - is it a Christian Nation in thought? Word? Deed? We'll be disentangling this difficult topic and looking for the god of American Civil Religion (Hint: a lower-case "g" might be more appropriate).

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee Hour Host: Susan Diachun*

*Usher: Marge Gillies*

**January 15:** "Do Unto Others"

The Real Story of the Golden Rule

**Peter Diachun**

*Coffee Hour Host: Linda Hurley*

*Usher: Wally Lamb*

**January 22:** "Me, Myself, and I: A New Year's Resolution."

A new year for the renewal of the self. And the advice I shall impart to you, I intend to take.

**Don Reidell**

*Coffee Hour Host: Rich Jagow*

*Usher: Erica Kopp*

**January 29:** "Tending Our Spiritual Gardens

These are scary times: How do we cultivate the right kinds of comfort (and discomfort) to help us get through? In her fascinating book "My Stroke of Insight" Jill Bolte Taylor likens our minds to gardens. What are we cultivating? What are the weeds to look out for? In this season of winter rest, perhaps we can plant seeds that will yield a nourishing harvest.

**Robert LaVallee**

*Coffee Hour Host: Patty and Bill Lisk*

*Usher: Linda Hurley*

## **Minister's Message**

Greetings and Salutations. The air is cold and crisp and every day is one to ponder what will happen? Will it snow? Will schools be closed? Will there be a sale at Tops? Will human rights be obstructed in the new government? So many possibilities of what can be. It can bring a plethora of feelings and reactions. But hear me dear ones, there is always hope. Hope for better times, for ice free driving, for double coupon days. Hope guides us everyday. Within our hope is also our action. An election may have named someone to an office; but it did not take away our voice, our energy or our ability to speak out and hold accountable those who would violate our freedoms. It is the legacy of Unitarian Universalists to speak truth to power and to be on the side of love. UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, shared this with the UU Ministers Association and gave permission for it to be shared with all. I include it because he so eloquently says what I want to say to you. Know that our action "BE KIND" has been added to the UUA site listed below. May we continue to be a church, a faith, a power for love and justice for all. Blessed be, Sue

*Dear Colleagues,*

*These are tough times. We are living in the midst of historic cultural turmoil. Long festering resentments are being unleashed, posing immediate threats to the most marginalized in our society and presenting long term danger to our natural environment.*

*People are understandably anxious. I hear reports of a spike in attendance at worship services across the country. I can only imagine the pastoral demands you are facing—at a time when we ministers are in as much need of support as our congregants.*

*Thank you. Thank you for your courage, your perseverance, your faithfulness.*

*I believe we are entering dangerous times. I expect that the new administration will unleash human rights abuses aimed at migrants and Muslims shortly after it takes office. In the longer term, other marginalized groups (women, the poor, people of color, transgender people, etc.) will be in danger. We are already seeing an increase in violent acts by people who see the election as validation of their hate.*

*Among the dangers we face is the temptation to "normalize" the situation. I pray that the incoming administration will prove to be more humane than its rhetoric and many of its most ardent supporters. I see no evidence that this is the case. None. It is irresponsible folly to act as though we are in a normal transition between administrations.*

*We must prepare to provide sanctuary and resist.*

*First, we must provide sanctuary in the broadest and richest sense of the term. We begin with offering safe places for reflection and healing for our congregants and for those coming to seek spiritual community. But these times demand more. We must provide sanctuary to those most vulnerable. In particular, migrants (primarily from Mexico and Central America) may well face mass deportation. In addition, Muslims have been targeted.*

*Second, we must prepare to resist human rights violations in active ways. We must make it much harder to deport, register, discriminate and despoil.*

*In the past most of our work for justice and compassion has been positive. We have been advocates for marriage equality, racial justice, civil rights, immigration reform and environmental justice. To use a sports metaphor, we have played offense. We joined with others to advance an agenda. Today we must prepare to “play defense.” We will have to respond quickly to acts of the government. We will have to react rather than act. We will need to be agile and fast.*

*As always, the key will be to work together. We have shown our ability to do this from resisting the human rights violations of Joe Arpaio in Arizona to joining in the resistance at Standing Rock. We are effective when our congregations and ministers work together at the local level, combined with support from regional and national staff. We make a difference when we form strong partnerships with other faith groups and secular organizations. At the national level, we are working to form partnerships with other faith groups and other UU organizations. My office is working with Multicultural Growth and Witness staff and with our field staff. The UUA, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and our shared College of Social Justice are working together closely. I have had a number of meetings with my counterparts in other faiths. Don Southworth, Executive Director for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and I are holding a series of listening meetings with ministers across the country.*

*I invite you to visit the “[Show the Love](https://www.uua.org/action/show-love)” hub on UUA.org for resources. I encourage you to see what colleagues are doing and to share what you are doing on [www.uua.org/action/show-love](https://www.uua.org/action/show-love).*

*In the coming weeks you will hear more as we work together to support you. For now, I want each of you to know that you are not alone. Together we are strong. Together we inspire one another. Together we can do this. We need one another.*

*Thank you again for all you do.*

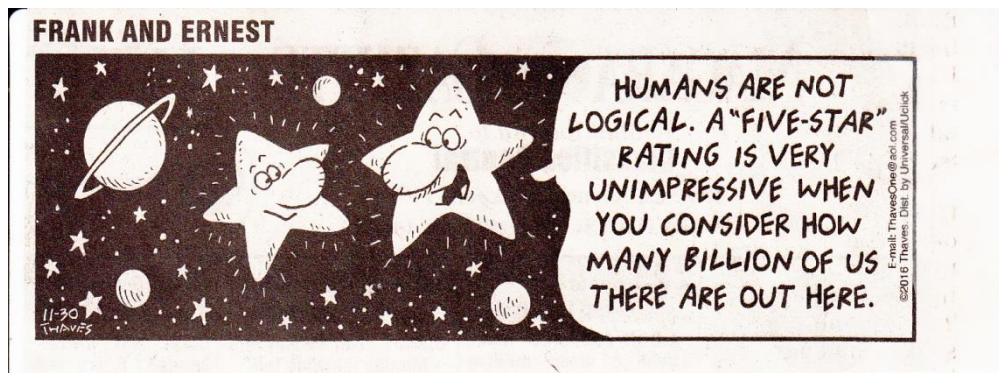
*Love will guide us. Hope will sustain us. Ultimately we shall prevail.*

*Faithfully,*

*Peter Morales*

*President of the Unitarian Universalist Association*





### **President's Corner: Marge Gillies**

Happy New Year to each and every one!

As the old year fades into memory, our thoughts and prayers go out to the Aydelotte and Vadla families and they have lost their loved ones, Jeanne Aydelotte and Reinhild Vadla. We will always remember these dear ladies for all the ways they have contributed to our church. We are better people for having known them.

With the New Year comes hope for the future. While for many, the political future in 2017 seems ominous and murky, it is so comforting to be part of our church family. First UU is literally a sanctuary for us during good times and bad. Our church is known for its work in the greater community, whether it is knitting gloves and hats, building houses as a part of Habitat for Humanity, supporting the work of Pints For Progress, the Niagara Beautification Commission, or purchasing toilet paper for the poor at Heart, Love and Soul Food Pantry. (See the article in the Niagara Gazette for more information on this story.) Indeed, this outreach is central to our mission to "Learn, Love, and Build a Better World." For our church to support the community at large, it is necessary to secure the financial future of our church. The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of three committees of the church and a Congregational Special Meeting, was to craft the parameters for a Legacy Fund. A Legacy Fund provides a vehicle for tax deductible charitable donations. A portion of monies accrued could be invested to build upon the fund balance. Once this important work is completed, I will call for another Special Congregational Meeting to affirm the process. This initiative is a major step to provide for the sustainability of our church.

Wishing you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

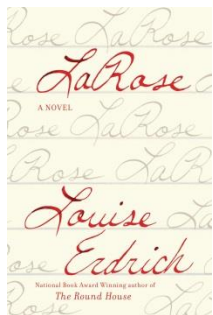
*Marge Gillies*

*Photo: Erica Kopp*



# UU Announcements

## Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet January 17 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *LaRose* by Louise Erdrich.

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.

## RIGHT RELATIONS WORKSHOP

Join Rev. Lori Staubitz and neighbor congregations for an interactive, fun, and informative day of discovery as we learn how to limit destructive drama, handle difficult situations, and think outside the box. Congregations are encouraged to send teams of at least 3; the more the merrier! People can call our office 634-3010 to register. The fee is just collected at the door. <http://www.uuamherst.org/right-relations-workshop/>

Saturday, January 14, 2017

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst

6320 Main St. Williamsville, NY 14221

Fee: \$10 payable at the door (includes snacks and lunch)

## Heart and Soul

*On Sunday, Jan. 8, Sister Beth from Heart, Love and Soul, will be attending our service to receive our gift of needed toilet paper for the food pantry which helps countless numbers of homeless and destitute people in Niagara Falls. Come celebrate the generosity of our congregation and bring a roll of toilet paper!*

FUUN chose to create a toilet paper tree to help Heart, Love and Soul supply necessities to those in need. Sister Beth, who runs the agency was very pleased to receive such a wonderful bounty. We had fun in the creating and the giving. We continued the theme by decorating our standard tree with ornaments made from toilet paper rolls and garlands of t.p. What will we do for next year?



# Reflections

## FOR ALL OUR LOSSES

For those we miss.  
For things long gone.  
For those who or what we last held in our arms,  
in our hands and in our hearts —  
we pray.

We pray for memories to stay strong  
Memories of words and warmth,  
of actions and stillness.

We pray for Love shared and lived,  
Love to remain with us and with them,  
for that to become enough.

We pray for the courage to put our feet  
on the floor when we wake.  
To move through the day as if we cared.

Oh, Love, that holds us all:  
hold on to me while I hold on to what I have lost.  
Amen.

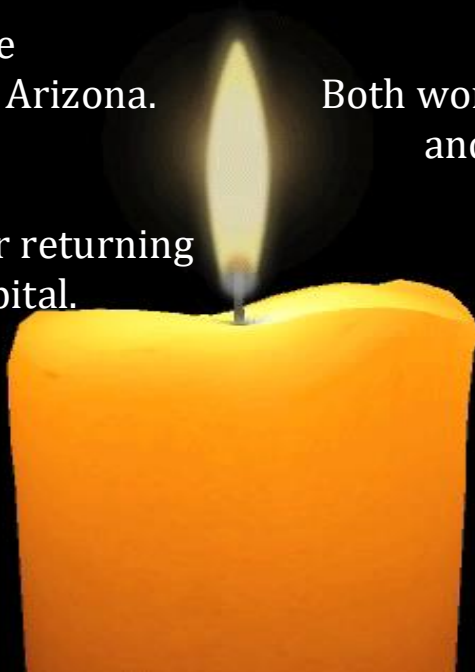
Patricia Shelden

It is with deep sorrow that we notify you of the deaths  
of two of our beloved members:

Jeanne Aydelotte  
died on December 23 in Arizona.

Both women had been in ill health  
and are now at peace.  
Blessed Be!

Reinhild Vadla  
died on December 24 after returning  
home from the hospital.



# Meditation

There is, it seems,  
something tenderly  
appropriate in the death  
of the very aged. When  
the duties of life have all  
been done; when the sun  
touches the horizon;  
when the purple twilight  
falls upon the past, the  
present, and the future;  
when memory with dim  
eyes can no longer easily  
spell the blurred and  
faded records of the  
vanished days—then  
death comes like a strain  
of music. The road has  
been long, the journey  
difficult, and the traveler  
stops at the welcoming  
inn.



— *Robert Ingersoll*



# Community

Tops card available at church!



## Sewing Machines Needed

I am starting up a program for women newly in recovery. I desperately need donated sewing machines (5). If you know of anyone who could donate one I would be forever grateful. I am donating my time and many sewing accessories but still need machines. Thank you.

Doreen Stephens

bookladynow@gmail.com

## First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara Facilities available for Wedding Services, Receptions, and Celebrations



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(716) 282-8381

E-mail [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com)

<http://firstuunf.org>

Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 36 years 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

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*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  
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 Return Service Requested  
 January 2017

## UU Niagara Activities January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Sunday Program 8am - Recycle	2	3	4	5 W 2	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 5:30pm - Pride	13	14
15 8am - Recycle 12:30pm - Board	16	17 7pm - Book Group	18	19 6pm - Drumming	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 8am - Recycle	30	31	1	2	3	4