

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

February 2017

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

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

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**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
Only Light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out Hate;  
Only love can do that.”**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

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 Frawley.

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

### **February 5: "HEROES"**

In our culture we are taught that history moves forward by the power and charisma of heroes, brave people who take on legendary proportions as we pass their stories to our children. But there is danger in forgetting that every historical "hero" represents a peoples' movement, from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King to Donald Trump. We'll be looking at American heroes and asking - who are the REAL heroes of American history, and how can we express our own heroism in this turbulent time?

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee Hour Host: Erica Kopp*

*Usher: Betsy Diachun*

### **February 12: "Walking together: spiritual companionship"**

A growing number of people are participating in forms of spiritual direction. But what is spiritual direction? And what can theologically diverse UUs get out of it? Come hear some answers and maybe even get a little taste of spiritual direction.

**Robert Lavalley**

*Coffee Hour Host: Joy and Norm Rowlinson*

*Usher: Teresa Labuszewski*

### **February 19: "False Prophets"**

In a time of distress, fear and uncertainty; it is common to cling to hope in any form. Prophetic voices often appear or reemerge to offer guidance and direction. Discerning what the root of the prophet is and just what we are being sold is the focus of this sermon. Finding love, community and faith in a seeming world of charlatans and snake oil sales people is the goal. Oh, and to have fun at church too. See you on Sunday.

**Susan Frawley**

*Coffee Hour Host: Van Dee*

*Usher: Patty Lisk*

### **February 26: "Lincoln's Faith."**

I suppose that at best, all one can say about the faith of Lincoln.

**Don Reidell**

*Coffee Hour Host: Teresa Labuszewski*

*Usher: Stephen Wittkowski*

## **Minister's Message**

Greetings All.

As I write this , I am still in Chicago doing my studies. It has been bitter cold and unseasonably warm. Contrasts and constants. I miss you all so terribly much. I have come to love the bedrock church (as my daughter refers to it) and being away feels like such a disconnect. But there will be a reuniting soon. I thought of you all and the struggles this past year has brought when I drove by the McCormick Center last Tuesday night. President Barack Obama was preparing to give his goodbye to the nation. Chicago had all its colors out. Bridges had red, white and blue lights twinkling in the night sky. Soldiers field was lit up in all its glory. Blue lights from Chicago's finest directed traffic and reroutes. There was electricity in the air, literally; as there was thunder snow and green lighting buzzing the city scape. I thought about how hard the changes will be for us as a people, a faith , a congregation. I so wished I could be in Niagara Falls; perhaps watching all together on our big church tv, to view this moment in history and this marking of an era. I loved how President Obama used our first principle as a quote for how to treat and regard one another in these next years. Did you know his grandmother was a UU and helped found the Honolulu church? Mr. Obama attended RE there. It was in that moment of pride and of hope that I saw clearly how our message of love and dignity will be so important in the next years. Not just to say, but to do. Soon, we will have refugees coming to the city. Children in great need. I am always reminded of Matthew 25 " I was hungry and you gave me food, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was a stranger and you took me in". This month we can honor the challenge of our beloved Barack Obama and UU principles by reaching out and feeding, clothing and taking in the stranger while upholding their dignity and worth. When, I return I will be joining many of you who have already begun this noble cause and we will be bringing opportunities and connections to the church. Until our reconnect; Be well, Be strong, Be UU every day.

Blessings and affection, Sue

## President's Corner: Marge Gillies

On behalf of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara, I wish you a very "Happy Valentine's Day." In this trying times and cold, damp, windy days, Love will guide us. Seeking the truth in love is part of our mission at First UU and Unitarian Universalism.

Throngs of people assembled for the Women's March on Washington last week. Not a single arrest was reported. Folks, of all genders seemed to care about each other as they expressed their concerns on signs, in songs, slogans, and social media.

They insist that they are not going away after the march. Marchers expect to be called upon at any time to continue getting their messages out about the environment; support for Planned Parenthood and abortion rights; running for public office, writing to legislators as effectively and often as they can and so on.

A group called "**Indivisible Niagara**" will meet at First UU on February 1, 2017 at 6:30 pm to discuss what might be done. Groups of activists will reinforce our democratic principles. The Sixth Principle of our Unitarian Universalist faith is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and society at large." We exercise this democratic process in our church proper as well as in the larger society. We cannot afford to be silent anymore!

There is a **Special Congregational Meeting this Sunday, January 29** after the service to **vote on the establishment of a Legacy Fund**. Part of the democratic process is participation. Please make every effort to attend.

*Photo: Erica Kopp*  
In peace and love,  
Marge Gillies



PHOTO BY LIAN BUNNY  
Circling the toilet paper tree – made of tissue donated by the parishioners of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara – are Sister Beth Brosmer, executive director of Heart, Love and Soul; Marge Gillies, president of the church; and Betsy Diachun, member of the church board. The toilet paper is a much needed personal item, much appreciated by the clients of Heart, Love and Soul, which is a soup kitchen and food pantry.

## **'TP' tree donated to food pantry**

**DONATION:** Much-needed 'personal items' are collected by the UU church for Falls needy.

BY LIAN BUNNY  
features@niagara-gazette.com

In the past, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara members have adopted families, and donated hand-knitted mittens and scarves during the holiday season. This year, they decided to also donate something a little different, but just as important to

those in need — toilet paper. Rolls of toilet paper, shaped into a tree, were collected from church and community members, and then donated on Wednesday to Heart, Love and Soul, a Niagara Falls-based food pantry and soup kitchen.

Marge Gillies, president of the church, said some newest members of the congregation came up with the idea to collect toilet paper for those in need.

"If a person is on social services, the money that they get for food is only for food," Gillies said. "So there's no money or very little left for supplies like toilet paper."

Sister Beth Brosmer, executive director of Heart, Love and Soul, said she was delighted by the donation and what it will mean for the recipients.

"People feel better when they can retain their dignity and have what they need," she said. "I think when people can be heard, not only through the ears but by the heart, it makes an enormous difference."

The toilet paper will be distributed through the group "Necessary Store," where people who use the food pantry can go to select two or three personal items each month.

PET OF THE WEEK APPEARS ON PAGE 5A

## **FUUN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

(This will be a regular column in the Powerline)

*Thanks to **Adrienne Navaroli**, FUUN musician, for the last twenty years of music and song!*

*Hooray! **Barbara Hathaway** no longer needs to be on oxygen. Wishing her continued good health.*

*Congratulations to **Marian McAlpine's daughter, Sarah and her husband**. Sarah gave birth to Leigh Matthew last Friday. Mother and baby are doing fine and Grandma Marian is very proud.*

***Pam Smith**, Guidance Counselor at Niagara Falls High School is enjoying retirement and is starting a new **career**. **Congratulations, Pam!***

***Susan Diachun** has been employed by NY State Parks for many years. She officially announced her retirement at church in late December by saying she would conduct her first tour on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Welcome to the club, Susan!*

*Thanks to the **Simon sisters, Nan and Suzanne, and their brother, Emery** for a fun party to celebrate the work of the Obamas, Joe Biden, and Hillary Clinton at the Stone House in Lewiston. Such great fun, fine food and homemade pastries.*

*It was wonderful to see **Diana Strablow**, member of the Sierra Club, spoke about concern over National Fuel's Northern Access Pipeline Project. She also spoke about environmental threats at the Women's March in Buffalo. Way to go, Diana!*

*To the **families of Reinhild Vadla and Jeanne Aydelotte**, we will keep each of you in our hearts upon the loss of your loved ones as you heal.*

*To the family of **Arnold L. Shafer**, we extend our condolences on his passing. Arnie was a fine musician and collector of music.*

# UU Announcements

## **Congregational Workshop**

All congregation workshop. On Saturday, Feb 4th from 9:00-12:00, we will have a congregational workshop titled "Who we are". The focus of this workshop is to better define and know who we are as individuals, a congregation, a church and a presence in the community. A survey form will be available at the welcome table for people to do some pre - workshop evaluation. The workshop is free. After there will be a pot luck lunch. Peter will make chili so just side dishes, desserts and beverages need to be brought. Sign up for items to bring and share for lunch will also be at the welcome table. Hope to see many of you there.

## **Indivisible Niagara Stronger Together**

On Wednesday, February 1, at 6:30 PM there will be a public meeting of "Indivisible Niagara Stronger Together" at our church. This will be a post-inaugural meeting to meet, greet, assign, volunteer, offer support, generate ideas on creating impact NOW to make sure our elected officials know our stance on ongoing issues. We are trying to get a head count so if you haven't signed up on line, please let Betsy know if you plan to attend. (ediachun@gmail.com)

## **Pianist**

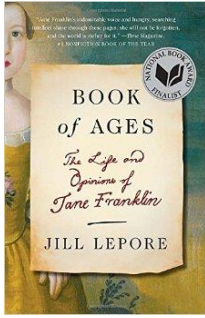
We are still in need of a pianist/organist for Sunday mornings. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please speak to a member of the Board



## **TOPS Gift Cards**

We still have TOPS cards we are selling as a fundraiser. We make 5% on each sale and it doesn't cost the buyer a thing. They really are easy to use at the stores. See Erica if you wish to buy cards.

## **Book Discussion Group**



Our readers and talkers will meet February 21 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *Book of Ages: the Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* by Jill Lepore.

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.

## **Throwback Photos**



# Reflections

The writings of Robert Reich, a former Labor Secretary, UC Berkeley Professor and author were summarized from his presentations on Facebook and You Tube.

## **Authoritarianism is the Opposite Democracy by Robert Reich:**

He defines authoritarianism and democracy as follows:

**“Authoritarianism** is power in the hands of one person or a group of persons.”

**“Democracy is** designed to control the power of one person assuming all power by establishing a **‘separation of powers into three branches of government.’**”

Reich characterizes authoritarian behavior as follows:

1. **By-Passing and Denigrating the Press** (Dependence upon tweets, rallies and videos)
2. **Scapegoating** (minorities, women and refugees)
3. **Lying:** i.e., “Denying Russian interference in US election, Landslide victory; Massive voter fraud; Increase in Homicides (Actually down by 40%); Climate (Claiming improvement by 40%) and rejection of science.”
4. **Vindictive** (publicly punishing enemies)
5. **Relying on Family for own personal needs**, not for the good of the general public. (i.e. -using personal security detail not secret service.)



# Community

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



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<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*



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 639 Main Street  
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 Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
 Return Service Requested  
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## UU Niagara Activities February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8 am - Recycle	30	31	1 6:30pm - Indivisia	2	3	4
5 John Snodgrass	6	7	8	9 5:30pm - Pride	10	11
12 Robert Lavallee 8 am - Recycle	13	14	15	16 6pm - Drumming	17	18
19 Susan Frawley 12:30pm - Board	20	21 7pm - Book Group	22	23	24	25
26 Don Reidell 8 am - Recycle	27	28	1	2	3	4