

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

September 2017

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

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

## Contents

Sunday Programs .....	2
President's Message.....	3
UU Announcements .....	4
Our People.....	5
Visual Art .....	6
Community.....	7
UU Niagara Activities September 2017 .....	8



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, and Judy Bongiovanni.

## Sunday Programs

*Labor Day Weekend- This will be our last Summer Program*

**September 3:** . "Religion and Politics - Righteousness, Travesty or Tragedy" will be led by Nan Simon with a traditional Ice Cream Social immediately following presented by Nan and Glen Herman. Come and enjoy the last days of summer with us.

**September 10:** *Gathering In, Looking Out*

Water communion is a traditional UU ceremony marking the beginning of the church year. In this year of conflict nationally and waste water discharges locally, a church home is more important than ever. Join us to affirm our communion-ity and share our visions for the future!

**Rev. Bob LaVallee**



To conclude the ultimate Water Ceremony everyone is invited to ride on the Maid of the Mist at 1 PM. One may walk to the State Park boarding area in front of the tower, or drive. Since the entrance fee is \$10, one may wish to car pool. One must sign up by Friday, Sept. 8, to be included. That can be done on the paper in the Narthex or by calling the church and leaving your name, #in party and phone #. However, to be included one must attend the church service on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We have a limited amount of tickets so reserve early.

**September 17:** *Ya Gotta Believe*

In a take on the Buffalo Bills anthem, we explore belief. In the UU tradition; what do we believe, do you have to believe, why believe (or not). How does belief inform our principles? Maybe a little reference to Ripley's Believe it Or Not.

**Rev. Susan Frawley**

**September 24:** *A Place of Renewal*

Each Sunday I come to church earlier than the congregation in order to meditate and reflect.

It provides peace and renewal. It is a sacred place.

**Rev. Donald Reidell**

## President's Message

We're looking forward to a banner year beginning with an exciting conclusion to our Water Ceremony – a ride on the world famous Maid of the Mist. [Read 9/10 info to sign up.]

I am asking everyone to do their bit to help us maintain a viable church. We have many people volunteering but there are also many jobs to do. We'd like someone to promote us and then someone to read the local newspapers and cut out articles about us. These could then be put into albums. There are some clippings at the church already waiting to be mounted. Or find a job for yourself. If you see something that needs to be done, please just step up and do it. Or, at least tell a Board member that it is needed. And, above all let's keep track of each other and share any changes, problems or needs in our personal lives.

And how did your summer end? We spent one of the last weeks in August at Chautauqua listening to excellent speakers about “Media and the News: Ethics in the Digital Age”. However, at the religious services we heard white Christian messages – from the Bible. I heard little honor paid to other religions – they were hardly recognized - and nothing for atheists or skeptics. It definitely made me wonder where we fit in to today's USA. (I realize that Chautauqua was established as a center for Christian teachers so has a reason for that influence but perhaps this could change in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century!)

I thought about how the attendees at Chautauqua are all fairly well to do white citizens and if I felt out of “sinc” with society how much harder it is for people of color, differing sexual orientation or any other group of people separated into various cultures. Let's do our best to continue to bring us together in large and small ways.

We love UU and YOU!

~Betsy

## UU Announcements

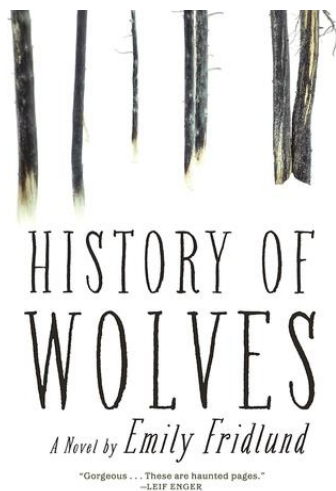
### Breast & Prostate Education Program

On Sunday, Sept. 17, there will be a program upstairs at 12:30 presented by Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center entitled: Breast & Prostate Education Program. It is being presented by the son of one of Habitat for Humanity homeowners. We'd like to support him as he works on his career so please bring your coffee up and listen to the information presented for the benefit of our own health and those we love.

### Work Party

Those of whom can, I'd like to get together on Thursday, September 7, to make sure the church is spruced up inside and out for our first service. Some of the morning may be spent just thinking about how and what to do but some will be manual labor. Let's meet around 9:30, work until lunch time at least. And then feast together – maybe at the new Mexican restaurant on Main St. [Let me know if Wednesday, 9/6, is a better day for you—we could do both days. Betsy]

### Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet September 19 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *The History of Wolves* by Emily Fridlund.

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.

## Our People

Over the summer, we held Memorial Services for both Paul Force and Lois DeCarlo. Also, late last spring, Bob McCoy died. Memories will keep them all alive in the hearts of many of us.

George Wood is comfortable in his new home in Buffalo. Barb Hathaway has moved to Rochester to be closer to her family. Upon visiting each of them, we were pleased to see the lovely assisted living for senior citizens in which they reside. You can find new addresses for both in the Church Directory.

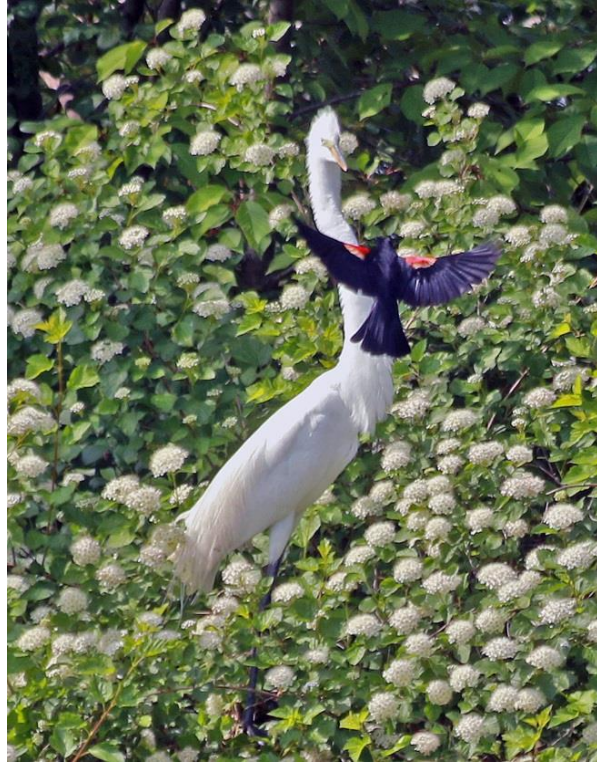
Our former President, Marge Gillies will be honored by the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier with the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award" at a dinner to be held on Tuesday, September 26, 5:30PM, at the Conference Center. More information may be obtained by calling 433-6714.

If you have news of members or friends of the church, please share it with the Caring Committee – chaired by Marge Gillies.



Paul Brundage

## Visual Art



Dave Young

Nature Photographer

Pastel:

*The Way to Somewhere*

Bonnie Soley



## Community

**Oakwood Cemetery Daredevil Tours:** Tours of the Oakwood Cemetery are open to the public at 763 Portage Rd. on Sundays through October. Book an 11 am or 1 pm tour online or at the cemetery office at 284-5131. Donations are \$10 per person, seniors, students and military \$8.00. Marge Gillies is leading a tour after church on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Tours are one hour.



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



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"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*



September 2017  
 Return Service Requested  
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
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 639 Main Street  
 First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

## UU Niagara Activities September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8 Recycle	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2
3 Ice Cream Social	4	5	6	7 9:30 Work Party	8	9
10 Book Luncheon Maid of the Mist Water Ceremony 8 Recycle	11	12	13	14 6p ■ Pride Unity Hall	15	16
17 Susan Fitzaley	18	19 7p ■ Book Group	20	21 6p ■ Drumming	22	23
24 Don Reidell 8 Recycle	25	26 5:30p YWCA Awards	27	28	29	30