

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

639 Main Street
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February 2018

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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Stay tuned for **THIS IS US**



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 Marge Gillies, Betsy Diachun, and Judy Bongiovanni.

Sunday Programs

February 4: “Whose Jesus is it anyways?”

From the very beginning of the conversation millennia ago, the idea of Jesus has been open to debate. Today we find ourselves with evangelical Christians voting for Trump on the one hand and Rev. William Barber calling for a moral revival on the other, all of them thinking that they are sincerely following the teachings of Jesus. What are we UUs to make of this, given our Christian roots and present-day departure from biblical authority? And does the idea of Jesus matter anymore?

Bob LaVallee was welcomed into preliminary fellowship as a UU minister in 2017. He is currently a Chaplain Resident at the St. Joseph’s campus of Sisters of Mercy Hospital located in Cheektowaga.

Bob LaVallee

Coffee Hour Host: Shelley Baxter

Usher: Linda Hurley

February 11: Gifts of the Sky-Woman

As we begin the new year, we will look back at Western New York's own native creation story: an Iroquois narrative about a woman from the sky who co-creates the land in cooperation with the animals. We'll look at how the themes of power and cooperation influenced the Seneca and other Iroquois cultures, and also what we in modern America can continue to learn from this story today.

John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Patty and Bill Lisk

Usher: Stephen Wittkowsky

February 18: “Nevertheless We Persist”

“Nevertheless, she persisted.” Damning words spoken recently by a conservative senator to a liberal colleague. I take them, not as an insult, but as a mandate. Theodore Parker tried to bend the “moral arc of the universe,” as did Susan B. Anthony and Martin Luther King, Jr. They all persisted. What can we learn from this prophetic trinity?

Richard Gilbert

Coffee Hour Host: Joy and Norm Rowlinson
Usher: Susan Diachun

February 25: “To Pursue your Dream”

Where are the dreamers? Every age should pursue a dream.

Rev. Donald Reidell

Coffee Hour Host: Erica Kopp
Usher: Pat Velky

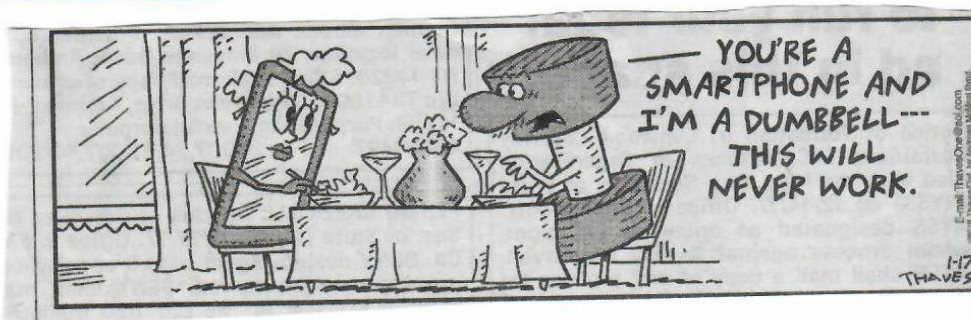
President’s Message

Sometimes it is hard to explain to people why church is so important to me when I don’t believe in a personal God, or maybe any god. They have no concept that humans created religion, complete with a god (or gods) which resembled themselves.

It’s not that I don’t believe in outside forces stronger than one individual. I just don’t think that humans are the be-all end-all of the world. It is our ability to work together to create a better world through ethical behavior that makes church important to me. As we grow to realize and accept that each person has an outlook which may be completely different from ours, but isn’t necessarily worse or better, it helps us become more understanding.

I like to tell people that in my church we are trying to create heaven here on earth!

We Love UU and You!



Ordination of Bob LaVallee

The Board of Trustees of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara request the honor of your presence for the Ordination of Bob LaVallee Sunday, March 18th at 4:00PM

UU Announcements

CONFERENCE: DIVING into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice

There will be a Racial Justice Conference at the Buffalo UU Church, 695 Elmwood Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9am to 4pm. The main speaker is a senior editor with the UU World magazine, Kenny Wiley. The church will cover the cost of registration. Please let Betsy or Erica know if you wish to attend. Carpooling can be arranged. There's a brochure posted on the bulletin board in Unity Hall.

Social Activities

On **Friday, February 23**, let's have a pot luck supper followed by games. We'll have board games and cards available. Let's say to meet at the church between 5:30 and 6. If you wish you may bring a dish to pass. Per usual, I'm sure there will be more than enough to eat so just come and bring your appetite, if necessary. We'll put you to work in the kitchen. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex so we don't end up with all vegetables and no desserts!

All are welcome so bring a friend or two.

Doris Sippel is working on obtaining socially conscious movies. We'll plan a showing within the next few months. We did receive a good list from another UU church. Keep a look out for dates as they are established.

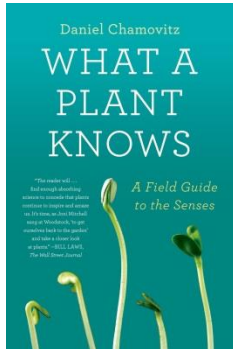
SAVE THE DATE!

2018 Seaway UU Spring gathering will be on Friday/Saturday, April 13 and 14 in Syracuse. This replaces the SLD Spring Assembly held in past years. More information will follow but Rev. Megan Foley will be the Keynote speaker.

Heart, Love, and Soul

BASKETS are back in Narthex for small personal hygiene items to be given to Heart, Love and Soul for their clients. Don't forget to share shampoo, deodorant, soap etc. which you might get in your travels and don't plan to use.

Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet at February 20 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *What a Plant Knows* by Daniel Chamovitz (175pg.)

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

Visual Art



Pastel, Out on a Limb

Bonnie Soley

Poetry

I Am Offering this Poem

BY JIMMY SANTIAGO BACA

I am offering this poem to you,
since I have nothing else to give.
Keep it like a warm coat
when winter comes to cover you,
or like a pair of thick socks
the cold cannot bite through,

I love you,

I have nothing else to give you,
so it is a pot full of yellow corn
to warm your belly in winter,
it is a scarf for your head, to wear
over your hair, to tie up around your face,

I love you,

Keep it, treasure this as you would
if you were lost, needing direction,
in the wilderness life becomes when mature;
and in the corner of your drawer,
tucked away like a cabin or hogan
in dense trees, come knocking,
and I will answer, give you directions,
and let you warm yourself by this fire,
rest by this fire, and make you feel safe

I love you,

It's all I have to give,
and all anyone needs to live,
and to go on living inside,
when the world outside
no longer cares if you live or die;
remember,

I love you.



Jimmy Santiago Baca, "I Am Offering This Poem" from *Immigrants in Our Own Land and Selected Early Poems*.
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Source: *Immigrants in Our Own Land and Selected Early Poems* (New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1990)

Community

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

*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to
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
 February 2018

UU Niagara Activities February 2018

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thu Feb 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
DON REIDELL • 8am Recycle						
4 Bob LaValle	5	6	7	8 • 6:30pm Pride Unity Hall	9	10
11 John Snodgrass • 8am Recycle	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Board Meeting	19	20 • 7pm Book Group	21	22	23 • 5:30pm Potluck	24 • 9am Racial Justice Conference
25 Don Heideil • 8am Recycle	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3