

February 2011 **POWERLINE**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

Sunday Services (11:00am)

Worship Associate Marge Gillies and Caring Circle Associate Peter Diachun

February 6: ““The Foundation“– Rev. Theresa Kime

Join us this Sunday as we continue the exploration of our UU theological heritage and understandings based on the book *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the 21st Century* by John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker. We will explore what “God” has meant to those of our liberal faith and what it might mean for current UU’s.

Chalice Group will follow after coffee hour in the Founders Room.

February 13: “We Are One - Marriage through the Eyes of a Ten Year-Old”

– Kelly Kilmer Hall, Ministerial Intern,
May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, Syracuse, NY

The tide continues to slowly turn against the prohibition of same-sex marriage; however, we cannot afford to become complacent. Let us look at our humanity through the eyes of a child, but with the voice of prophecy.

February 20: “Margaret Fuller and her UU Transcendentalist Legacy”

– Rev. Theresa Kime.

We will consider the amazing life of Margaret Fuller in preparation for the re-enactment of her life to be held at our church on March 12.

February 27: “The Anatomy of Marriage” – Rev. Don Reidell

A view on the commercialization of marriage.

Minister’s Weekend Schedule

Friday, February 4:

6:00pm: First Friday Potluck and Niagara Vision

Saturday, February 5:

9:00-10:00am: Children’s Religious Exploration Committee

1:00-3:30pm: Pastoral Care Training/Refresher Session 2

Saturday, February 19:

10:00-11:00am: Worship Team/Committee

11:00am-Noon: Caring Circle

1:30-3:30pm: Pastoral Care Training/Refresher Session 3

3:30-4:30pm: Planning for Growth Team

Sunday, February 20:

1:00-3:00pm: Board meeting in the Founders Room

From Your Minister

Last year was the bicentennial of the birth of Margaret Fuller (1810-1850). On March 12 FUUN sponsors a Margaret Fuller re-enactor at our church to celebrate her life and to encourage the community (and us UU’s!) to learn more about this remarkable woman, one of our Unitarian forebears.

The UU Bicentennial Project Commission, which planned events all last year to celebrate Fuller, has written:

Today we consider Margaret Fuller one of the guiding lights of the first wave of feminism. She helped educate the women of her day by leading a series of Conversations in which women were empowered to read, think and discuss important issues of the day. She empowered generations to follow through her ground-breaking writings, especially her landmark book *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.

Among her accomplishments:

- First American to write a book about equality for women
- First editor of *The Dial*, foremost Transcendentalist journal, appointed by Ralph Waldo Emerson
- First woman to enter Harvard Library to pursue research
- First woman journalist on Horace Greeley's *New York Daily Tribune*
- First woman literary critic who also set literary standards
- First woman foreign correspondent and war correspondent to serve under combat conditions.

"The Flowering of New England," a time she shared with the looming figures of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Bronson Alcott, Elizabeth Peabody, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, among others.

I look forward to seeing the re-enactment in Fredonia, sponsored by that UU congregation's Social Action Committee, right before the actor comes to Niagara Falls. I hope folks here come out in full force to enjoy the performance and support it. And consider bringing a friend to both the February 20 service as well as the play. May Fuller's life inspire us to deepen and expand the living of our UU values!

With every good wish,

Terry

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. TERRY

Address: PO Box 514, Fredonia, NY 14063

Phone: 716 467-2074

E-mail: tesskime@gmail.com

Please make sure to change the e-mail in your computer contact list and the phone number on your speed dial!

President's Corner

This church has a proud history of being a center of public discussion and debate. We have hosted debates, organized forums to discuss community issues, and provided our building for public assemblies. Our intent has been to foster reason and knowledge in making decisions. This has been for the benefit of our members and the entire community.

Right now there is a local issue about the future of the Robert Moses Parkway. Divergent positions have been declared. It has become contentious. The church board has decided to include the City Planner, Tom DeSantis, as the guest speaker for our next monthly First Friday Potluck. On Friday, February 4 our potluck supper will follow its normal format with supper starting at 6:30pm, followed by programs at 7:15pm, and gathering for dessert at 8:00pm. As usual we will have games and fun activities as an alternative. The other choice will be to hear Tom DeSantis present the vision for Niagara Falls based on the Master Plan. This should provide an important perspective in considering the future of the Parkway. Other perspectives may be explored in the future.

The church serves the community by providing an open forum for considerations of various views on this issue.

It would be great to encourage people from the entire Niagara community to participate in our potluck supper program February 4. Please help spread the word about what is happening. No follow-up programs on this topic are planned now, but offers or suggestions are welcome.

BUDGET PROCESS

The first meeting with the Finance Committee to collect comments on each line of the budget was conducted on January 9. These will continue every second and fourth Sunday following coffee hour in the Founders Room. All comments are being recorded and will be published for the congregation's consideration.

WORK PARTIES

Work parties are continuing on the second Saturday morning of each month. Please consider participating as you can.

HEAT CONTROL SYSTEM

The two main furnaces, in the sanctuary and Unity Hall, now have new control systems. This is to reduce our use of fuel, both to save money and to help the environment. One result is that these areas will be colder when they are not scheduled for use. Both of them require a long time to heat up to achieve a comfortable temperature. Anyone using these areas should plan at least 24 hours in advance of when they need to be heated. Until the system is fully set up, contact Peter to do this. This will take getting used to by everyone. We now encourage any small groups to use the Founders Room for gatherings because it is less expensive to heat and heats up much faster. It will also be maintained at a higher temperature. A major advantage of this new furnace control system is that it can be operated remotely over the Internet so no one has to physically go to the building to make settings or monitor the heat.

Peter Diachun

Financial Reports

The following is a condensed summary of the financial progress and condition of the Church. Complete financial reports are available to any member on a one time or monthly basis. Request them from any Board member:

	Church Year 8/1/2010 to 7/31/2011 Actual Year to Date at December 31 2010	Church Year 8/1/2010 to 7/31/2011 Budget for the Full Year
Income from Operations	\$16,501	\$39,300
Income from Investments	\$1,418	\$4,000
Total Income	\$17,919	\$43,300
Expenses from Operations	\$23,430	\$66,100
Capital Contributions Less Capital Expenses	-\$265	-\$4,000
Change in Money Assets for the Year	-\$5,776	-\$26,800
Total Money Assets on December 31 2010	\$110,630	

Board of Trustees News

January 16 Board meeting highlights

Our new Facebook page is set up! Thank you Erica. The Finance Committee will be having after-service conversations regarding next year's budget. Peter led the first

line by line discussion of the budget. Ed Tormay has agreed to be chair of the Pledge Drive this year. The official membership list was approved and will be sent to the UUA.

If you have any questions, speak with a board member. Full minutes are available in a binder in the Founders Room.

Next Board meeting – Sunday, February 20 at 1:00pm. All members are welcome.

Facebook

The church is now on the social network, Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, search for First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. To receive the information on our Facebook page you must select "Like." We update the page with each week's service and social events. There are pictures of our last potluck, movie nite, and the children's activities.

If you are unsure, I can assist you. I also can show you the Facebook page during coffee hour if you do not have an account.

Every time I update the status it will be sent to everyone who has "liked" the page. If anyone comments or likes the status it will be sent to all of their friends on Facebook and so on. Information is shared exponentially.

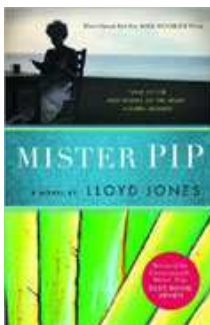
Ask me any questions! Call or text 523-8103, e-mail ericakopp@yahoo.com or message me on Facebook.

Erica

Book Discussion Group



On February 8 we will discuss *The Forger's Spell* by Edward Dolnick, a true story of Vermeer, Nazis and the greatest art hoax of the 20th century. A mesmerizing account of art theft, criminal psychology and military history that vividly portrays a staggeringly successful Dutch art forger.



On March 8 we will discuss *Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones. This haunting fable explores the powers and limitations of art for a child trapped between rebels and soldiers as well as between her teacher and her fiercely religious mother.

Judy

Operation Paperback: Febuary Outreach Speaker

Kristin Van Slyke, local liaison for Operation Paperback, is FUUN's outreach speaker at service on February 20.

Operation Paperback supplies free, gently used paperback books and current magazines as recreational reading materials to US armed forces troops overseas. The

local project is run by Ms. Van Slyke and subsidized by the Friends of the North Tonawanda Public Library. It developed from a Niagara County soldier in Iraq asking his mother to send him books.

As part of FUUN's outreach initiative for February, the church is partnering with Operation Paperback and collecting books through the month until Ms. Van Slyke's talk, when she will collect them. Take this opportunity to clear your own and your associates' shelves of books and magazines!

Most requested types of books include: military history, action/adventure, science fiction/fantasy, general history, suspense/thriller, general fiction, biography. Recent magazines, from 2010+ should concentrate on sports, automotive, history areas. Remember, readers are mostly men, so any romances should be directed to public library book sales.

Books can be left in the back corner of Unity Hall. A sign on the wall points to the deposit site, and there are already donated books piled up.

"Many of our troops are far from home and live in facilities that provide few comforts of home," says Ms. Van Slyke. "At the end of the duty day, they enjoy escaping into a good book." Books are collected and shipped under the sponsorship of groups like churches and libraries throughout the country, and North Tonawanda Library is the closest to us.

Founded in 1999, Operation Paperback is a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Your book donations are tax deductible. To find out more about the group's mission, visit its web site at operationpaperback.org Particularly inspiring are the thank you notes sent by the military "library clerks" who distribute the books in Afghanistan and other places.

Janet

Caring Circle

The members of the Caring Circle (Marge Gillies, Yvonne Stocker, Peter Diachun and Judy Bongiovanni) continue to try to keep members of our congregation connected and recognized. If you know of a need, wish to offer a service, have a suggestion or complaint, please contact a member of the committee or Rev. Terry.

Judy

NOAH

The regular NOAH Board meeting is February 1, 2011 at 6:00pm at the NOAH office, 13419 Falls St. This meeting is open to all members of our congregation. Consult Ed McGreevy for further information..

Adult Reflection and Exploration

We continue to share our pearls of wisdom and wit based (sometimes quite loosely) on articles in the *UU World*. The specific article and starting questions for each Sunday are listed in the weekly activities. We meet at 9:45am in the Founders Room. Come and add your thoughts to the mix.

Judy

News From CRE

In January the children learned about the third principle. One of their favorite activities was celebrating the Hindu winter festival with a bonfire. We had to simplify but we did have fire.

They also hosted movie nite with popcorn, chocolate and pop. Madison and Vicky helped with the UU minute.



Our bonfire - only a fantasy!

In February the children will work on the fourth principle, "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

Madison and Vicky will lead the congregation with their opening words once a month..
The words are:

*We are the church of an open mind,
We are the church of a loving heart,
We are the church of the helping hands,
We are the church that cares for the earth,
We are the church that works for friendship and peace.*

Anyone interested in helping CRE, call or text: 523-8103 or email Erica ericakopp@yahoo.com or Ed Tormay columbaltd22@gmail.com

Anyone working with the children must sign a new Ethics Form.

Erica, Ed

SOCIAL

* City Planner Tom DeSantis presents the vision for Niagara Falls based on the Master Plan at the next First Friday Potluck. On February 4 we will gather at 6:00pm; dinner begins at 6:30pm. Bring a dish to pass and participate in our future.

* We need folks who could host a Circle Dinner.

Please contact Marie 745-7149, or rhoward@localnet.com
or Yvonne 278-0176 or yvonnestocker@gmail.com

* FUUN Movie Nite Saturday, February 19 at 7:00pm.

Movie to be announced.

See you at the movies....

*Drum Circle

Drum circles offer a setting in which there is a level playing field for everybody. No experience necessary. Group drumming is: empowerment, enjoyment, opportunity, exercise, rhythm, mastery, enlivening, nurturing and transcendence. Carolyn Zimmermann, Endorsed Health Rhythms Facilitator, will lead our drum circle on Saturday, February 5 at 4:30pm. Coffee and snacks after the drum circle. For more information look at Carolyn Zimmermann's website drum4health.com or call or text Erica 716 523-8103 or email ericakopp@yahoo.com or message on Facebook

Marie

UUWNY Cluster

Barbara Kloberdanz described the "Family Promise" program whose goal is to preserve families if they become homeless. Each church houses the family for a week and assists it to become self sufficient. Buffalo UU will be running the program February 5-12.

The UUWNY Cluster's next meeting is Thursday, March 10 at 7:00pm at the UU Church of Amherst.

Jvonne

February Birthdays

- 9th – Shelley Collins
- 9th – Sagan Malluma
- 11th – Angela Flower
- 19^h – Pat Loretto
- 22nd – Ed Tormay

From the Archives Closet

Two Liberals, preliminary research

Recently a contingent of FUUN members attended a Saturday Sabbath service at Temple Beth El on Ashland Ave. This service differed markedly from what we are accustomed to. It has been said that FUUN's predecessor, First Unitarian Church of Niagara Falls, and the Temple had enjoyed friendly relations for decades. Details are hard to come by.

Organized Jewish worship has existed in Niagara Falls from the city's early days. Temple Beth El began in 1864 as an Orthodox congregation whose members had purchased a cemetery plot. According to a *Niagara Gazette* article by Dick Klug on September 2, 1961 the Temple "became a pioneer in the liberal movement" in the city.

They were located in the village of Suspension Bridge according to the *Gazette* of October 8, 1967. In 1887 Temple rooms were upstairs in the Silberberg Building at Main and Ontario Streets. Louis Silberberg had a haberdashery there, and he was a pillar of the Temple. In that year their religious philosophy changed from Orthodox to Reform, which it maintains yet. (Orthodox are the most traditional branch of Judaism, Reform is the most liberal. In Niagara Falls, the Conservative Temple Beth Israel's practice is somewhere in the middle... But we digress.)

Incorporated in 1905, Temple Beth El's congregation decided to erect its own building on Ashland Ave. across from the Library. The cornerstone was laid on October 8, 1914, and the Temple was dedicated September 9, 1915. The quaint building was the site of the recent visit from the FUUN delegation.

How does all this correspond with Unitarian churchgoers who were just getting underway when the Reform Jews had built their new house of worship after fifty years of existence? The Temple centennial book, *Century Chronicle: Congregation Temple Beth El 1864-1964*, comments in "The temple and the community":

Proud of its new edifice (1915) and moved by the spirit of brotherhood, the congregation gladly made the temple available to Christian Scientists. Later the Unitarian Church was to use Temple Beth El as its temporary home.

This must have occurred between the dedication of the Temple in 1915, and 1920, when church services were held at 910 Main Street. Searching arduously through advertisements in the weekly "In the churches" column of the *Gazette*, the Archivist to date has not found printed notice of the Unitarians meeting in the Temple.

However, they tried. Recall that the First Unitarian Church was officially organized October 17, 1920. Dated November 3, 1919, a letter to J Allen Johnson, prime mover of the church, from Minot Simons, Director of Church Extension of the American Unitarian Association in Boston, states:

I wish you would get an option on the Jewish Temple as a place of meeting. I am sorry we could not confer with Mr. Silverberg [sic].

Mr. Johnson's response dated Nov, 18:

I immediately took up the matter of the Jewish temple with their Board of Trustees through Mr. Silberberg, and I am now informed that a meeting was held at which the matter was discussed, and the decision reached was that in view of the various activities now being carried on...their Sabbath school which is held in the temple on Sunday morning, they do not see their way clear to allow us the use of it in any permanent or semi-permanent way.

Mr. Simons regretted these developments in a further letter of December 2, 1919, and wished "we might solve the problem by erecting a modest church building."

The Temple was only one of many meeting places of the wandering Unitarians. From 1920 until the present church was built in 1922, they met at Grey and Trigg Hall at 910 Main Street opposite the Armory. Upstairs rooms there also accommodated the Bricklayers and Masons Union, appropriate for monument makers.

Earliest records in January 1914 show Unitarian sermons being preached at the Odd Fellows Hall at Niagara and Fourth Streets. Boards of trustees met at the YWCA at the corner of Main and Fourth; the Naval Militia Room in the Armory; or the Chamber of Commerce offices on the first floor of the Masonic Building at Main and Walnut Streets. Not surprisingly, church stalwart and Spirella Corset Co. president, WW Kincaid, was president of the Chamber in 1920, and a fellow member was merchant Louis Silberberg.

The churches column ran weekly in the *Gazette*, but a minority of local churches listed their services on any given Saturday. With the arrival of the Rev. O. Bruce Swift, more regular notice of Unitarians' worship appeared in the local press. More on these early days of First Unitarian Church and Temple Beth El to come.

Janet with thanks to the Local History Dept., Niagara Falls Public Library

UU Niagara Activities – February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6p NOAH Board 2 meeting		3	4 6p Potluck - Niagara Vision	5 9a CRE Committee 1p Pastoral Care Training: Session 2 4:30p Drum Circle
6 11a Sunday Service	7 6:30p Habitat for Humanity	8 7p Book Discussion	9	10	11	12 9a Saturday Work Party 19 10a Worship Exploration 11a Caring Circle 1p Pastoral Care Training: Session 3 3:30p Planning for Growth Team 7p Movie nite
13 11a Sunday Service	14	15	16	17	18	
20 11a Sunday Service 1p Board Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11a Sunday Service	28					

If you have comments, arguments or articles you may submit them to the editor either electronically yvonnestocker@gmail.com or by mail 4118 Bell Street, Niagara Falls NY 14305-1606 or phone 716 278-0176

Yvonne