

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

March 2025

639 Main Street
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Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour Sunday, March 9th,
Daylight Saving Time begins!

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.

Sunday Services

March 2: The "Fairer" Sex

In this reflection on the energy, power, and history of Women...our speaker will strive to make the connections that will help us understand why women have and will continue to have, the Power to change the future for the better. Through this sermon, you will remember what the True Calling of a Woman is all about and where you just might fit in.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour: Marge Gillies

Usher: Patty Lisk

March 9: A Whiff of Change

The adoption of a dog ushers in a new beginning, but the human-canine relationship has been going on for as long as either of us can remember.

Adult Education Class, March 9, 12:30 – 1:30

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Kathy McCunn and Wally Lamb

Usher: Patty Lisk

March 16: Compassion Begins with You

Compassion is critical to being in good relationship with others, but most importantly, it begins with being compassionate with yourself. Being compassionate with yourself is easier said than done -- much like loving yourself. We tend to be our own worst critics. How can we start being more compassionate with ourselves, so that ultimately, we can carry that compassion into the world?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour: Paul Brundage

Usher: Patty Lisk

March 23: Putting Unity Back in Community

Looking at our UU value of interdependence, we will examine how we can participate in creating and promoting unity and extend invitations and sincere welcoming.

Linda Stricker presents

American Religious Liberty

Part 2 of 4, March 23, 12:40 – 1:30

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour: Marie Spears-Howard

Usher: Patty Lisk

March 30: John Snodgrass Presents

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Usher: Patty Lisk

President's Report

As we move forward in our church year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the life and legacy of Betsy Diachun, who has been a beloved member of our church since April 10, 1963. Betsy has been a part of every aspect of our church community—whether through service, fellowship, or simply leading by example.

I still remember what she told me when I first started attending this church: “My religion is how I live my life, not what I do on Sundays.” That sentiment has stayed with me and continues to inspire all of us to embody our values every day. Betsy’s unwavering dedication and kindness have shaped our congregation, and we are truly grateful for the many ways she has enriched our lives. As we celebrate her life, let us carry forward her spirit of commitment, love, and service.

On the administrative side, Bill has been keeping track of our expenses, ensuring that we remain financially stable as we continue our work in the community. I appreciate his diligence and dedication to this important task.

Looking ahead, I want to remind everyone that our Annual Meeting will take place on May 18. This is a time for us to come together, reflect on our progress, and make plans for the future. I encourage everyone to attend and take part in shaping the direction of our church.

Thank you all for your continued support and presence in our church community.

Erica

Betsy Diachun Memorial's Details

All are welcome to participate in a Celebration of Betsy's Life!

Date: March 22, 2025

Time: 11:00am

~Refreshments to follow~



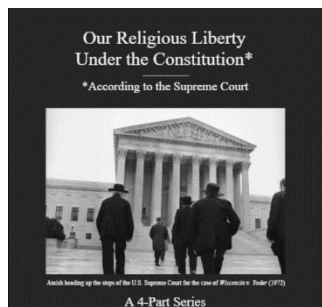
Lecture Series: The Evolution of American Religious Liberty

Join us for a compelling four-part lecture series on *American Religious Liberty*, presented by **Linda Stricker** at our church. This series will explore the landmark Supreme Court cases that have shaped the relationship between Church and State in the United States.

Guided by the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment—*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."*—this series will bring to life the real-world struggles, debates, and legal battles that defined religious freedom.

Drawing from extensive research, including a master's thesis on the Free Exercise Clause, newspaper articles, and conference presentations, Linda Stricker will examine how the Supreme Court has set legal precedents, reversed itself, and navigated the evolving boundaries between government and faith.

Through engaging case studies, we'll explore how and why our freedoms have expanded and contracted over time, and where the balance between Church and State stands today.



Part 2

March 23, 2025

Time: 12:40 PM – 1:30 PM

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be May 18, 2025 after Church.

UUA

Written in Ink

By Lindasusan Ulrich

February 12, 2025

“Your tattoos like the stamps upon your passport...”

—“Wheat Like Waves,” by Death Cab for Cutie

For the longest time, I’d admired friends’ tattoos but couldn’t think of what image I’d want permanently stamped on my own body. One day the lightbulb went off: I wanted words. Not just any words, though. I chose qualities to which I’d already made a lifetime commitment: Justice. Compassion. Love. Kindness.

Rev. Lindasusan, a person of color, stretches out their arm to reveal their tattoo by James Chase: a dandelion going to seed, with its scattered seeds spelling the word L I B E R A T I O N. I was then inspired to design my next ink: a dandelion puff with seeds floating away on the air, spelling LIBERATION. I’d felt this word’s magic for years, even when I wasn’t ready to answer its call. But it kept asking me to explore what comes after justice, compassion, love, and kindness. Liberation revealed itself as the next evolution in my life’s purpose. And so I worked with a tattoo artist to bring the concept to life, in a location where I’d see it all the time.

What I wasn’t prepared for, though, was the way this commitment began writing itself on my life—not just my forearm.

I started growing a friendship with someone I’d long admired, someone I considered one of the “cool kids” in our shared community. To my delight, he was equally enthusiastic at the prospect, and we began corresponding regularly. I wasn’t popular growing up, and this new relationship gave me confidence; it was profoundly healing.

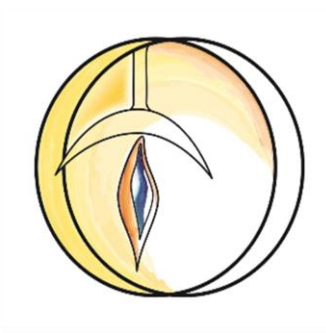
Then, at my instigation, I had a conversation with someone who’d caused a deep trauma in my life. I wanted answers. As we talked, I heard more about his own tragic history—and my story shifted, as though a new operating system had been installed in my brain. My anger drained away, as did the echoes of hurt I’d carried with me for decades. I kept staring at my tattoo as I realized I felt only compassion for this person who had wounded me. My past hadn’t changed, but I’d been liberated.

Suffering is part of the human experience, but what would our world be like if all of us could also experience liberation? What emotional and spiritual resources would be available if we weren’t owned by the hurt and numbness that lock us down? What if each of us made a lifetime commitment to get free and to bring others with us? I suspect that a robust, transformative hope would flourish.

Prayer

Spirit of Liberation, prepare our hearts to receive your blessings of healing and release. When disappointment and pain overwhelm us, keep pointing us forward on your path. Teach us how to use your wisdom on behalf of all souls so that all of us can get free. Amen and blessed be.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/written-ink>



Return Service Requested
March 2025

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
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Receptions, and Celebrations



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