

**First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara  
Powerline**

**December 2015**

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

**Sunday Services (11:00am)**

**December 6: "Theism Without Faith"**

A brief description is: "I consider myself a theist today. However, I have no faith. I shall explore that position, which seems paradoxical. It is my spiritual autobiography."  
John Mayer

**December 13: "BOUNDED OR CENTERED?"**

While we Unitarian Universalists generally agree that we are a "creedless faith," we quite regularly are asked questions about what we believe, perhaps even more during our generic USA high holidays in December. Let us consider...  
John Rex

**December 20: "WORK"**

Modern times press us to re-evaluate our cultural notions about jobs and vocations. Are we backsliding from a 'Golden Age' of thirty-year careers and retirement? How long did this 'Golden Age' of the American workforce exist, and what did people do before it? What did 'Success' and 'Satisfaction' mean in the distant past, and what might these concepts look like in the future?  
John Snodgrass

**December 24: Not Scheduled**

**December 27: "The Truth of Fiction"**

Is there any truth in the Christmas story?

Rev. Don Reidell

## President's Message

We are a tiny church by any standard--far too small to survive and function. Our denomination is very small. Its definition of a small church is one with less than 75 members. We have less than half that number.

Small as we are we serve our members and the community in important ways. Where else would groups meet when they are not welcome elsewhere? Where else can an atheist go to church? Where else could a person obtain real open alternatives to established cultural and social practices? Where else could the community have gathered to grieve and console each other when a Planned Parenthood doctor was murdered? Where else can we gain confidence that being out of step with the mainstream is good?

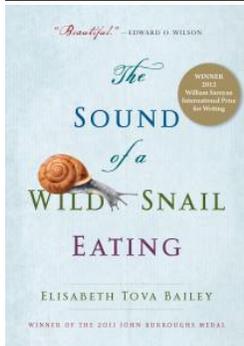
We are small, but we are important. I am reminded of the exclamation of Daniel Webster while defending Dartmouth College in court in 1818. He said,

"Sir, you may destroy this little institution; it is weak, it is in your hands! I know it is one of the lesser lights in the literary horizon of our country. You may put it out! But if you do so, you must carry through your work! You must extinguish, one after another, all those great lights of science which for more than a century have thrown their radiance over our land! It is, Sir, as I have said, a small college. And yet *there are those of us who love her!*"

Peter

## Book Club Tuesday

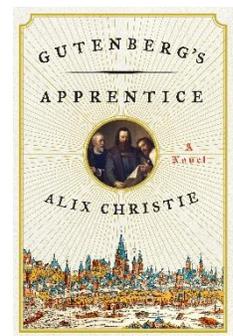
### December 15 at 7pm:



about the development of

The Book Group will not be meeting in November but will make up the deficit in December. We will and discuss two books. The first a historical fiction

printing: *Gutenberg's Apprentice* by Alix Christie. The second is a very short non-fiction: *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elizabeth Bailey. Bring your ideas, thoughts, insights and a sense of humor.



Last September when the YWCA held their "Tribute to Women" 3 of our members were among the nominees. Julie has moved out of town and Tina and Andrea own a business which is open on Sundays so we don't see much of any of them. But we congratulate them all on this fine achievement.

CELEBRATING 100 + YEARS OF SERVICE

## YWCA of The Niagara Frontier 2015 Niagara Awards

### *A Tribute to Women*

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

September 22, 2015



#### **Andrea & Tina Galyn**

Location: Niagara Falls, NY

Employer: 24 Below Gallery & Cafe

Awards/Honors: 2013 Commitment to the Arts Award (Andrea), 2011 Main Street Business & Professional Association Award (Andrea & Tina), 2014 Citation for Dance of the Fireflies from Niagara Falls mayor (Andrea & Tina), 2015 Citation from Niagara County Legislature for Business (Andrea & Tina).

Community Organizations/Volunteer Work: Niagara Falls Block Club Council, Live Niagara Falls, Rainbow City Coalition, Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara, Niagara Falls Historic Preservation, Downtown Niagara Falls Business Association, Human Rights Campaign.

Advice to young women: Never give up. Never accept others' definitions of you. Never, ever, ever, give up.



#### **Julie Whittemore**

Location: Niagara Falls, NY

Employer: Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.

Awards/Honors: Karen Albond Courage in Caring Award, HANCI Compassion in Action Volunteer Award, Community Missions.

Community Organizations/Volunteer Work: AmeriCorps VISTA, Member of Temple Beth El and First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara, Member of Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and Central New York Obsessive Compulsive Foundation.

Advice to young women: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to [ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com) with the subject "Powerline"*



December 2015  
Return Service Requested  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
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639 Main Street  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

## UU Niagara Activities - December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6 Recycle	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 7pm - Book Group @	16	17	18	19
20 Recycle 12:30pm - Board	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2