

February 2015 **POWERLINE**
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Sunday Services (11:00am)



In the month of February, our pulpit will be filled with religious diversity. Come join us to hear a Jewish Rabbi, Jesuit Priest, an Avowed Atheist, and a UU Minister. Please join us in welcoming these people to our church and increase your understanding of some of the variety of beliefs in our nation which was built upon religious freedom.

February 1: Feb. 1 - Rabbi Drorah Setel of Temple Beth El, Niagara Falls, will be talking about a recent book, "Living in the Shadow of the Cross: Understanding and Resisting the Power and Privilege of Christian Hegemony" by Paul Kivel. Many may remember Rabbi Setel when she spoke at our church before.

February 8: "No Magic Wand: Pope Francis Demythologizes Scripture (again)."

Last fall, Pope Francis addressed the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, remarking that "When we read the account of Creation in Genesis we risk imagining that God was a magician, complete with an all powerful magic wand. But that was not so." For those who have eyes to see, faith and reason are not enemies but allies in appreciating God's goodness to us.

— Martin X. Moleski, SJ

February 15: "Why Would an Atheist Go to Church?"

Since an atheist does not believe there is a god or an afterlife, it seems he or she would not have any reason to go to church. Yet our Unitarian Universalist churches have a substantial number of active members who are atheists. Why?

—Peter Diachun

February 22: Is Christianity essential for a President.

—Rev Donald Reidell

President's Report

Our planning meeting on January 25th was well attended and produced useful results. We discussed online marketing, outreach to tourists visiting the area, presenting UUNEX for the March UU District Assembly in Niagara Falls, and several other suggestions for increasing our appeal and service. A follow-up meeting is tentatively planned for April 26th, and additional strategy meetings are being considered to maintain our focus.

Bill

District Assembly

Deep Roots, Broad Wings March 27-28, 2015, Niagara Falls, NY

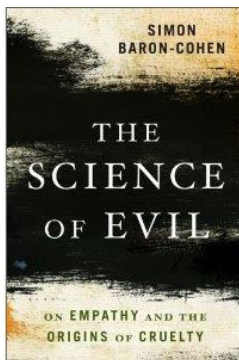
This year's District Assembly is a joint effort with the Ohio-Meadville District and the St. Lawrence District. District Assembly will take place March 27-28, 2015 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY.

The Rev. Scott Tayler is the keynote speaker. His keynote address is titled *The Space Between: Building a new day by strengthening the ties that bind*. Gould Lecturer is Rev. Thomas Chulak, speaking on *The Sum of the Parts*.

Eleven workshops will be offered in two time slots covering an array of topics important to congregational life. CERG (Central East Regional Group) staff are attending as workshop presenters and to answer questions by members about CERG services and resources. There is time allotted for conversations about regionalization and what it means to our congregations, clusters and districts.

<http://www.sld.cerguua.org/conggrowth/districtassembly.html>

Book Club Wednesday February 18:



At 7PM the book club will meet to discuss the book, *The Science of Evil*, regardless if you have read it all. Come and join the lively discussions.

Rev. Frances Manly and Doug Yeomans



Special Meeting

At the special meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25, we voted to hold a fundraiser to entertain people attending the DA. Below is the invitation issued to possible DA attendees on March 27, 28, 29. Depending on how many responses we get, this may be a BIG undertaking. It will be a mini UUNEX which we held with great success for many years. As the time approaches we will want to know your availability and capability to help. Thanks!

Unitarian Universalist Niagara Experience 2015 (UUNEX2015)

March 27-28, 2015 are the dates set for the District Assembly in Niagara Falls, NY. The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is offering a special Niagara Experience for participants. At the close of the District Assembly programming at 5:00 PM Saturday March 28, those registered for the UUNEX2015 may convene at the First UU Niagara Church for a cocktail hour with an open bar followed by a pork tenderloin banquet with a grilled portabella mushroom vegetarian alternative. After the banquet, tours of the lights over the Falls will be led by Church members for those who are interested.

On Sunday morning our guests will be fed scrumptious brunch before our 11 AM Sunday Church service.

If there is interest church members will be available to take people to attractions within the county: The Aquarium; Old Fort Niagara, and evidence of Underground Railroad activities in the area.

Cost is \$75 per person for the entire UUNEX2015. This price includes meals, tour guides and lots of story telling. Guests will be expected to stay over an additional night at their hotels at their own expense. The Church is located a short distance from the Convention Center where the DA will be held and close to the major hotels. It is approximately 1 mile from the Falls themselves.

There is limited space available for UUNEX2015. Please register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We are excited about hosting you for this special event.

Taboo Topics

The Membership/Stewardship Committee is planning a series of discussions entitled "Taboo Topics". We hope to include topics which few people discuss openly. These forums would be free and open to the public. We are looking for feedback from the congregation. At the moment we are hoping to begin in March and hold them in Unity Hall on the first Wednesday of each month from 6 PM to 8 PM. We would have coffee and light refreshments. Our list of topics is extensive but feel free to contact us if you have something you'd like discussed. Let us know if you'd feel comfortable leading such a discussion. Teresa Labuszewski, Marge Gillies, Patty Lisk and Betsy Diachun.

Hymns

SERVICE COORDINATORS: At the request of the Board to Teresa Labuszewski, a list of “singable” hymns has been developed. There is a hard copy in the office and it can be found on our Website.

Facebook and Website

USERS: Remember to like us on Facebook: Just go to Facebook and type in First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. We'd also like you to go to our Website frequently. We are looking for ways to update and improve it and are open to suggestions. See Erica Kopp. Our address is: firstuunf.org

TOPS CARDS

A new supply of TOPS cards is available. Contact Erica (ericakopp@yahoo.com) or Betsy (ediachun@gmail.com) to purchase. Help the church finances while shopping as you normally would.

Heating the Church in Winter

We are now in the heating season. There are two important actions all members must understand.

1. Anyone using the Church building must be aware that it will be cold unless a request is made to bring up the heat at least 24 hours ahead. It takes at least that long to heat the auditorium. Unity hall heats up in about 6-8 hours. If you want any part of the building heated you must let Peter or Erica know at least a full day before so it can be reprogrammed to meet your needs. It can be programmed up to 6 days in advance. The Founders' Room (Office) is an exception. It automatically senses activity and will be up to temperature in about 10 minutes after someone enters. You can use the Founders' Room any time with out any prior arrangement for heat.
2. In order to conserve heat, all the inside doors which now have spring closures on them must be kept closed except when people are going through. Please do not prop them open. Treat these doors as you would an outside door—that is closed during the heating season.

Website

Have a look at the new website <http://firstuunf.org/>

It still needs some changes. Please email Erica with any thoughts or suggestions: ericakopp@yahoo.com

Library

I have a large collection of classic lp records and cds and a video library of over 3000 videos of classic movies and tv shows and concerts. I am 83, do not plan on dying soon but i have no one to leave this great library to. If you are truly interested or know someone who is call me at 716-743-4059 and we can discuss it.

Arnie Shafer

FUNDRAISING

The church is listed as a charity on Ebay. Anyone can sell items on Ebay giving 10-100% of the proceeds directly to the church. Ebay discounts the seller's fees at the percent of the donation. There is also an option to make a direct donation. Proceeds are directly deposited in the Church's checking account. So far we've raised \$200 from the first few of Jeanne Aydelotte's Hummels. We also have a beautiful ornament from Patty Lisk listed. Sometime - will be listing a number of items donated by Mamie Simonson and Judi Bongiovanni.

Ebayers in the church can check out:

<http://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/first-unitarian-universalist-church-of-niagara/58459/>

If you have comments or articles you may submit them to ericakopp@yahoo.com with the subject "Powerline"



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
 639 Main Street
 PO Box 2566
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 Return Service Requested
 February 2014

UU Niagara Activities – February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11am - Rabbi Drorah	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 11am - Martin X.	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 11am - Peter 12:30pm - Board	16	17	18 7pm - Book Group @	19	20	21
22 11am - Rev Donald	23	24	25	26	27	28