

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

September 2016

639 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
716-285-8381

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

In this issue

Worship P 2

President's Message P 3

Announcements P 5

Reflections P 6

Meditation P 7

Community P 8 - 9

Calendar P 10



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 Susan Frawley.

Sunday Services 11:00am

September 4: "Swimming into a new year"

A new liturgical year begins and with it we honor a UU tradition of In Gathering with our water ceremony. Bring water that holds meaning, hope, wishes and dreams with you on this day. We will be engaging in an interactive ceremony of sharing and blessing.

Susan Frawley

Today's service will be followed by a special Coffee Hour - our annual *Ice cream Social* presented by Nan Simon and Glen Herman. Join us as we get our new year off to a rip roaring start!

September 11: "Is It A Holiday."

In early September we Never Forget the fall of the World Trade Center. And, for some reason, we stop wearing white shoes. In this sermon we'll have some brief reflections on the tragedy and legacy of September 11th, and ask: is there hope to be found on this day? We'll also look at the origins and traditions of Labor Day and ask: what the heck is it?

John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Shelley Baxter

September 18: "The Universe Within and Without"

When do we first understand our connection with all that surrounds us? How do we explain the notion of the web of which we are only a part?

Rev. Sally Hamlin

Reverend Sally Hamlin is a retired UU minister who lives in Niagara Falls along the mighty Niagara with her little dog Gracie. She has served congregations in Concord, MA, Duluth MN, and most recently in Rochester NY.

Coffee Hour Host: Betsy Diachun

September 25: "THE SEEKERS"

The essence, the core of the liberal spirit is its need and its desire for the quest, the process, the becoming.

Rev. Donald J. Reidell

Coffee Hour Host: Marge Gillies

This year Susan Frawley will be the intern minister at FUUN. Susan is a 3rd year Seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School and a candidate for ordination. Susan lives in Amherst with her two children, Max (9) and Ayla (5). She is a retired school counselor. In this year, Susan will be doing pastoral care work, Sunday services, community connecting and service projects, inter faith relationship building and perhaps an interfaith service, liturgical planning, workshops for the church on various matters, conducting a focused initiative project designed to cross borders in the church community, and conducting community office hours. Susan has spent a lot of time in Niagara Falls this summer connecting with members of the church and the community to learn about Niagara Falls uniqueness. Susan has a lay committee that oversees her work her and a training pastor who also supervises her studies and performance as a minister. Susan is able to do weddings, funerals, child dedications and blessings



President's Message

Change is all around us.

The **Annual Meeting held on May 22, 2016 approved** items that have the potential to improve our operations substantially, thanks to President Peter Diachun. Two resolutions, previously brought to the attention of the Board for approval were carefully considered. Both were recommended to the congregation and were approved unanimously.

For years, several committees and individuals have wondered whether a **Legacy Fund** could be established to make the church more sustainable. This resolution, is to develop a relationship with the Niagara Foundation to establish a fund with higher interest than banks currently offer. Members passed this resolution to give the Board time to consider what the conditions might be needed. Once they have satisfied any questions, I will call a Special Meeting of the congregation to consider this Legacy Fund proposal.

Susan Frawley is a student at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She approached the church with a proposal to serve as an intern for this coming year. Services she would perform would be mutually agreed upon and at no additional cost, except for preaching once per month (similar to any other speaker). Members unanimously consented to her offer and she will begin with a meeting of the Caring Circle.



Welcome Susan Frawley!

The last order of business was to hear the **Nominating Committee Report** given by Teresa Labuszewski as follows: Joe Ewing, Linda Hurley, Paul Brundage, Betsy Diachun, President Elect, and myself as President. It is exciting to have two of our newest members serve on the Board. Special thanks to Paul for serving an additional year and many, many thanks to Teresa, Marie Howard and Peter Diachun for their years of service. On behalf of all members, we send our thoughts, prayers and good energy to Marie as she continues to heal.

Kudos to Peter Diachun for his leadership in proposing the two resolutions and for working on the maintenance of the church. Thanks to his work, there is a new faucet in the second floor bathroom, three new furnaces installed at an unbelievably low cost, a Little Library on the front lawn and much work to ensure that our roofing doesn't fail, in part because of damage caused by raccoons.

At the regular church service on May 29th, **Judy Bongiovanni** received the well-deserved **Unsung Hero Award** given to her for all she does for our church and its members. Judi also received the Karen Albond Award for community service. Congratulations, Judi!



Serving as president is a very large commitment of time and responsibility. Experience tells me that it won't be easy. Working together with the new board and a dynamic student intern is a wonderful opportunity to move forward. Thank you!

Marge Gillies

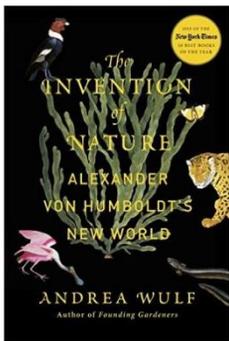
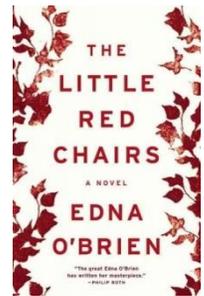


UU Announcements

ATTENTION: All who are willing and able are invited to join us at a WORK PARTY at the church on **Saturday, September 17**, starting @ 9:30 AM. There is work to be done INSIDE and OUTSIDE! bring gardening equipment for work out back. We can supply rags for inside work. If you have something which annoys you come and clean it up! The Sunday School room is a total disaster. The kitchen can always use work. We will try to get some young muscles to help us too. LUNCH will be served.

Book Discussion Group

Our readers and talkers group will meet on Tuesday September 20th at 7 pm in Unity Hall to discuss *The Little Red Chairs* by Edna O'Brien. This novel is about a small village in Ireland and the war in Bosnia and the siege of Sarajevo.



Our non-fiction selection for October 18th is *The Invention of Nature* by Andrea Wulf. It is about the adventures and amazing discoveries of Alexander Von Humboldt who shaped our way of looking at and understanding nature.

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.

Judy Bongiovanni Lewiston, NY USA

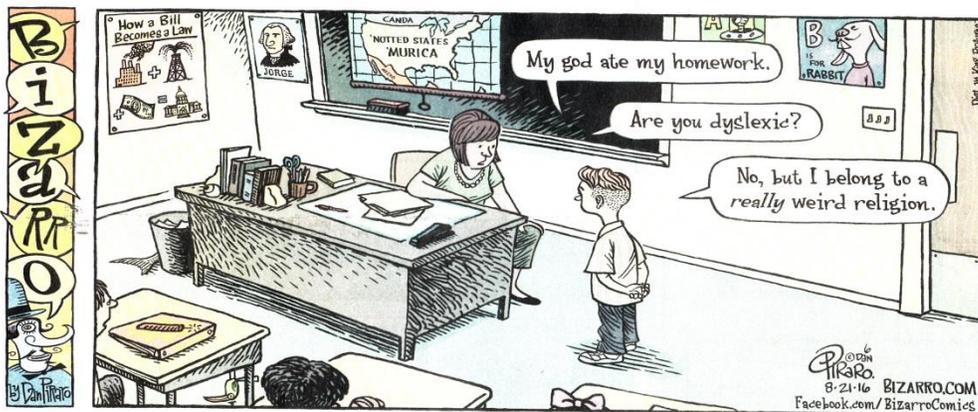
Attention all artists “Do you have a painting, photograph, a poem, or a brief reflection to share for the online version of the Powerline. It’s really easy to do and free. Just email your submission to the Powerline at the church address: uuniagara@gmail.com

Visual artwork is the property of the artist. For reproduction, please inquire with the artist by their email contact below.

Reflections

“I would never expect to live always in contentment and peace and happiness. The despairing situations challenge me to continue to seek and grow. To live constantly in joy and peace and self-centeredness would become very boring after a while. Unless we are growing, unless we are changing, unless we are becoming more, there would be very little excitement in life. I accept the nstruggle as joyfully as I do what the struggle produces.

Leo F. Buscaglia



Meditation

Eckhart Tolle – ‘The Presence of the NOW’

“Use your senses fully. Be where you are. Look around. Just look, don’t interpret.

See the light, shapes, colors, textures. Be aware of the space that allows everything to be.

Listen to the sounds; don’t judge them. Listen to the silence underneath the sounds.

Touch something-anything- and feel and acknowledge its Being. Observe the rhythm of

Your breathing; feel the air flowing in and out; feel the life energy inside your body.

Allow everything to be, within and without. Allow the “isness” of all things.

Move deeply into the Now.”

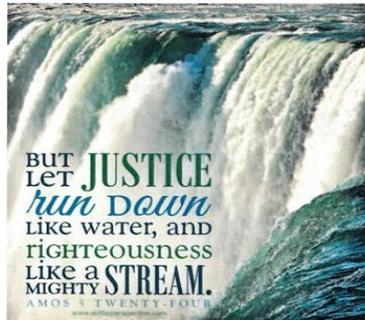




NOAH: Ten Years Strong. . . and Growing

*Niagara **O**rganizing **A**lliance for **H**ope (NOAH) celebrates ten powerful years of justice and community-building work in Niagara Falls and Niagara County.*

Join us as we recognize our community leaders and support NOAH's accomplishments at our annual banquet
FEATURING Keynote Speaker US Representative Brian Higgins



NOAH Banquet

Thursday, October 6th at 6:30 pm; cocktail hour at 5:30 pm
Antonio's Banquet & Conference Center
7708 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Tickets are \$50.00 per person
To Purchase Tickets or for information, please contact Linda at (585) 590-6807 or email
NoahBanquet2016@gmail.com

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



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E-mail uuniagara@gmail.com
<http://firstuunf.org>
Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 36 yrs 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"*



September 2016
 Return Service Requested
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 PO Box 2566
 639 Main Street
 First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

UU Niagara Activities - September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8am - Recycle	29	30	31 6pm - Historic Tours	1	2	3
4 Ice Cream Social Susan Frawley Water Ceremony	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 John Snodgrass "Is" 8am - Recycle	12	13	14	15	16	17 9:30am - Work
18 Sally Hamlin "The" 12:30pm - Board	19	20 7pm - Book Group @	21	22	23	24
25 Don Reidell "The" 8am - Recycle	26	27	28	29	30	1