

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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

May 2017

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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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, Judy Bongiovanni, and Susan Frawlev.

Sunday Services 11:00am

May 7: "Home"

From the Native American perspective, the English colonists were nomadic savages who'd left their homelands to wander in exile. For many of my college students, Facebook is the closest thing they will ever have to a "permanent address." Many will spend the next thirty years as migrant workers, following career-type jobs from state to state, passing through a series of apartments, ending in Florida trailer-parks. Elizabeth and I bought a house, and before we moved in people were already talking about how to increase its value and sell it. It makes me wonder - are we homeless? Are we, as a culture, stumbling into an age of homelessness, exile, alienation? And if so, is it a step backward into our species' nomadic foraging past? Or is it some sort of roundabout progress?

John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Linda Hurley

Usher: Dennis Kasmierczak

May 14: "Flying to the Climate March"

An individual tackling climate change might feel both foolish (we all have a pretty huge carbon footprints) and overwhelmed (it's a huge, complex problem). But what about half a million individuals? In this sermon Bob LaVallee will share his experiences and reflections from his time at the Climate March in Washington DC.

Robert Lavalley

Coffee Hour Host: Dennis Kasmierczak

Usher: Wally Lamb

May 21: "Mirthful Ministry"

Ministry isn't just for ministers. As UU's we engage in it everyday with our witness for social justice, defense of inequality and action for a sustainable planet. And along the way, we laugh. Humor is good for the soul and good for ministry. Come laugh, rejuvenate, smile and be gleeful.

Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host:

Usher:

May 28 "Living with the Presence"

Various manifestations of God

Rev. Don Reidell

Coffee Hour Host:

Usher:

Minister's Message

It's hard to see the work of winter. It looks only like a time of dormancy, death, Snow!!! Sometimes destruction with wind and ice. Many would avoid its presence all together....and some embrace it for all its worth (such are UU's) but it is exactly what the work of winter creates that we rejoice in come spring. The **Season Cycle** is a primal fact of human life, and of all life on Earth. The seasons exist because the Earth's tilt on her axis and how that interacts with the orbit of Earth around the Sun. So this tilt, this off centered balance creates response to its movement.

Of course there is no response without a planting..a seed, an idea, a desire, a kernal of knowledge or history... Sometimes the planting is purposeful. Sometimes unintended and sometimes, an accident of opportunity. Birds eat plants and as they drop their feces with seeds from their meal, they sow. A scientist experiments with a hypothesis and basks in wonder at its outcome. Chocolate fell into cookie batter and made our famous snack and Michael Cervantes planted the idea that there is one god and not a trinity, thus launching a faith movement.

Seeds....

And the work of those seeds is visible ..today..

The lilies are poking up. Babies are being paraded in strollers. Graduates are getting ready to take a scholars walk. All new forms of life and existence are rising forth from the place where they have been quietly waiting to make their presence known. Rising from beneath that which would present as the base/the ground/ the surface of established common standard. There is a magic, giddiness, wonder in the air.It is the tilt..the being off center that moves change and progress..drawing from a place of seeming sleep or void to produce life and sustenance. It is not easy to rise from below. It takes patience, stretching, roots, even nutrients from the very ground from which one wants to ascend. And moving with that flow of tilt discomfort to dance with the seasons of change is part of the great wondering and mystery of creation.

..

Spring has us celebrating birth..of vegetation, children, intellectuals, unions, and this year, as UU's we are in a place of movement towards change in a long dark underexplored history of our faith. This is not unlike how we came to be...a rising of belief from a revolt, a protest of established norms of faith. It was first the rising of belief against the trinity and continued in beliefs about salvation that poked from below the established norms of its time. Our history is a rising from deep beneath the established norms to stand like that spring flower and bask in the sun's nurturing and to be loved and respected. But with a burgeoning flower, there is always a lot of manure to be dealt with. We have learned through time that history

can be convenient, relevant to who was writing and what other purposes were achieved by any stories unveiling. Sometimes a lot of manure is present in a flower's growth process. We must honor the manure as much as we honor the flower..it is all a part of what helped it to rise from beneath. This equation works for all rising. Few people like the smell or feel of manure, it is unpleasant at best. but the by- product of one cycle is important to the nurturing of another. And so, be it troubling politics, social justice, education,all have got there by the manure that helped feed the rise from beneath.

We are at an interesting place in our faith's movement where rising from below are questions, concerns and challenges to established ways. This is as exciting to some as it is discomfoting to others.

None of these challenges or questions change what UUism is....that is an important piece to own.

But how we act, live and interact as UUs has room to rise from beneath established norms and transform into a more inclusive, more representative and more welcoming practice of faith. Transformation is messy, sometimes painful, always looking different at the end than it did in its beginning..but always, always..when done with love and honesty..transformation is beautiful.

To rise from beneath takes the first question...why move? Why be uncomfortable? Why rise? To what end will doing so create? Do I have what it takes to poke through the layers to surface?

Questions and wonder. What questions or wonder do you hold that are part of your movement, growth, transformation??

I can not predict the future. Good things are coming. New leadership in a new form is guiding our UUA these days. GA in June will no doubt be full of fun, surprises, challenge, manure and pain. But together, as UUs, we are going to explore our wonderings and together we are going to rise from beneath our tedium, dullness, complacency and parade a new presence in faith and practice of our very own. This I believe. It is the very foundation on which our faith is built. It is the very spirit in which we walk. .

Love on. Blessed be. Sue

UU Announcements

Annual Meeting

It is hoped that every member of our church community will attend our 97th Annual Meeting immediately after the church service on Sunday, May 21st @12:30PM. This is where next year's program, budget, and election of officers and board members will be decided.

Good participation from all members is needed to help us bring YOU what YOU want for next year.

Reports from all committees are needed for the Annual Booklet. Please get them to Erica as soon as possible.

Heart Love and Soul



Baskets will be placed in vestibule for donations of toiletries for Heart Love & Soul community showers. Please donate hotel, airline or other "sample" size items such as shampoo, tissue, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, etc.

Place donations in either "Men" or "Women" basket as appropriate, and when baskets are full they will be delivered and replaced with new baskets.

THANK YOU!!

Coffee with Sue

Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00

Orange Cat Coffee Co

703 Center St, Lewiston, NY 14092

Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30

24 Below Gallery & Cafe

435 3rd St, NF, NY 14301

Death Café

May 7, 2017..Death Cafe after service before Board Meeting. A quick and informative session to talk about sharing info with the church so that your wishes for final remembrance can be done. A form used by the church to record such ideas will presented and it can also be found on the web page under files.

Health Fair

Save the date. May 13 Health fair and screening of " Gender Rebel" 10-12 In cooperation with Planned Parenthood, FUUN is pleased to present the documentary produced for National Geographic by Katie Couric. This is an informative piece only available now by public screening. Check out the poster at church and Facebook for info.

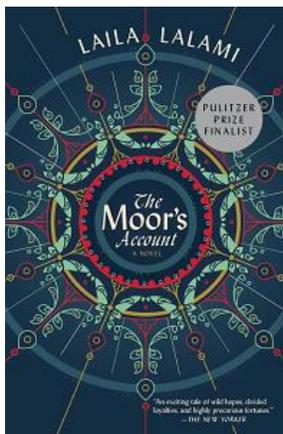
Pub Theology

Wine on Third 501 3rd Street, Niagara falls, NY 14301

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Tuesday May 9.

Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet May 16 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing two books *The Moor's Account* by Laila Lalami and *The 6th Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Everyone is welcome so come and add your opinions and thoughts

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.

TIBETAN BUDDHIST PRAYER

May you be at peace,

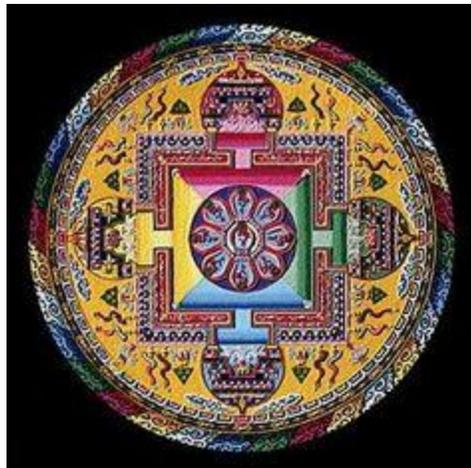
May your heart remain open.

May you awaken to the light of your own true nature.

May you be healed,

May you be a source of healing for all beings.

– Ancient Saying



Community

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



639 Main Street,
Niagara Falls, NY 14032 - 2566
P.O. Box 2566
(716) 282-8381

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



"Singles Social Club" established over 36 years 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*



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
 639 Main Street
 PO Box 2566
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 Return Service Requested
 May 2017

UU Niagara Activities May 2017

Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara							May 2017 (Eastern Time)		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
30 Terry Kime	1	2	3	4	5	6			
7 John Snodgrass 8am - Recycle	8	9	10	11 5:30pm - Pride	12	13 Health Fair			
14 Bob Lavallee	15	16 7pm - Book Group	17	18 6pm - Drumming	19	20			
21 Susan Frawley 8am - Recycle 12pm - Annual 12:30pm - Board	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28 Don Reidell	29	30	31	1	2	3			