

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

639 Main Street
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July 2017

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

Contents

Sunday Programs	2
President's Message.....	3
UU Announcements.....	5
Our People.....	6
Visual Art	6
Community.....	7
UU Niagara Activities July 2017	8



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 Judy Bongiovanni.

Sunday Programs

Programs in our summer format of recent years are continuing this summer. Two summer Sundays, July 30 and August 13, are still available to people who would like to conduct one. Please see Peter if you are interested in providing a program this summer.

On July 16 our Sunday morning program will feature a video lecture by Casey Gerald titled "Gospel of Doubt". This is a compelling presentation of his story of starting with full faith and developing doubt and its results. This is not part of our series of Free Thinkers Sundays described below. It should be inspiring to everyone.

As everyone should be aware by now, we are experimenting with having Free Thinkers Sundays this summer. We have already had 2 of these and a few more are scheduled for the remainder of this summer. We have been somewhat successful in getting these publicized. We are distributing press releases in advance of each of these. The most recent press release is copied below:

Press Release 7/11/17

A Church for Freethinkers!

A series of "Free Thinkers" Sunday morning programs continues for atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and non-theists as well as all others. These take place at 11:00 AM on specific Sunday mornings at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara (FUUN), 639 Main Street, in Niagara Falls. The next will occur Sunday July 23, showing a video of Alain de Botton's lecture "Atheism 2.0", followed by a discussion. Another "Free Thinkers" Sunday program will take place on August 6. They may be continued through the rest of the year on a monthly basis depending on their popularity.

A Freethinker is one who forms opinions on the basis of reason, independent of authority. He/She is not necessarily an atheist, agnostic, or anti-religion. A freethinker does not necessarily have wild or unstable beliefs, but they simply choose to question the validity of claims that come from an authority, such as a church, a government, or parents. Questioning does not necessarily lead to rejection. A person might question their

parents' values, but in the end conclude that they are indeed based on reason. They may also accept some parts and reject others, or reject all of them. But their rejection or acceptance is based on their reasoning.

The FUUN Church welcomes people of any or no religious beliefs. Many Members are avowed disbelievers. Others have more traditional beliefs. Most have come to this Church from other religious backgrounds. A sign in front of the Church proclaims "Atheists, Buddhists, and Christians belong here." Some of us believe in god all the time, some believe in god some of the time, and some believe in god none of the time. We expect people to decide for themselves.

Historically Freethinkers have been persecuted mercilessly. While they make up a substantial portion of the population today, they are still discriminated against in many ways. In some locations they can not legally hold public office. They can almost never be elected. Often they are regarded as evil or agents of the devil.

For more information call (716) 285-8381
(716) 754-2830

President's Message

I've asked Erica to work with me in putting out a July POWERLINE so that we can have as much participation in upcoming events as possible.

This Friday, July 14, we will have a potluck supper beginning at 5:30.

If you are down on your luck – we've got plenty of extra pots so just come for the fun and companionship.

This is also an evening for FUUN. After supper an outside moderator will help guide a discussion of what we want in our church and what we want for our church. It will be a time to discuss what your church can do for YOU as well as what YOU can do for your church. Please be thinking this week and bring your ideas – new or old – for our Friday evening discussion.

On Saturday, July 15, Niagara Falls is having a Garden Walk and we are a part of it. Kathy and Wally have made the front look beautiful and we want to show it off. We will be giving participants water and there will also be a drumming group on the front porch. We may also have some perennial plants for sale. If you have any you wish to donate you might bring them on Friday evening. We're listed as having something from 11 until 3 and can use people any time during that period. Bring a drum and/or a chair and help present our church to the City.

The Board will be having a retreat on Saturday, July 22, from 10 to 2. If you have anything you would like us to discuss, please pass it along to a Board member.

Sunday programs are continuing. If you'd like to be a presenter, let Peter Diachun know. Otherwise, we hope you will join us as you are able for these informal discussions.

July 31st marks the end of our Fiscal Year. Please pay any amount outstanding on your pledge. Checks may be mailed to UUC of Niagara, P.O. Box 2566, Niagara Falls, NY 14302-2566. You may contact Erica Kopp to find out any outstanding balance you may have (716-343-0360) or ericakopp@yahoo.com.

Also, because it is the end of our Fiscal Year, we'd like to sell all our remaining TOPS cards. At no extra cost to you, but with a bit of income for the Church you can buy gift cards for \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Finally, last Sunday, July 9, at church we had a reporter, Anne Neville, and a photographer, John, from the Buffalo News. Please be on the lookout for an article about FUUN in the Niagara edition of the paper.

We love UU and YOU!

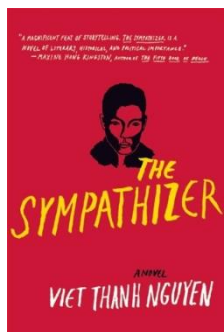
~Betsy

UU Announcements

Garden Walk

On Saturday, July 15, Niagara Falls is having a Garden Walk and First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is a part of it. Kathy and Wally have made the front look beautiful and we want to show it off. We will be giving participants water and there will also be a drumming circle on the front porch. Don't miss the perennial plants sale at a reasonable price. We're listed as having events from 11 until 3 and can use people any time during that period to greet visitors. The Discover Niagara Trolley will stop right outside the church for the Garden Walk on July 15th only. Bring a drum and/or a chair and help present our church to the City.

Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet July 18 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

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.

Our People

Jean Speck is in Memorial Hospital with a strained back.

Tim DiCarlo let us know that his Mom, Lois, passed away on June 24, at the age of 92. There will be a Memorial Service at their home on The Escarpment, midafternoon on August, 4, Lois' birthday. Exact time to be announced.

Visual Art



Stories I told my Daughter" by Jennifer Morrow, Sedgwick, Maine

Community

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



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(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
 July 2017

UU Niagara Activities July 2017

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