

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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May 2018

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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Annual Meeting May 20

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

May 6: The Dance of Empathy and Fragility.

Leonard Cohen wrote “There is a crack in everything; that’s how the light gets in.” It seems like empathy is a rare condition in public life these days. Bob LaVallee will talk about how we might overcome our fragility to cultivate empathy and be happier.

Bob LaVallee

Coffee Hour: Marie Spear- Howard

Usher: Peter Diachun

May 13: “Mother's Day - Grace and Terror”

Mother is our first experience of love and our first experience of fear. And this mix of grace and terror shapes our sense of relationship to divinity and the world.

John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Linda Hurley

Usher: Erica Kopp

May 20: "Well Balanced"

Come ready to move, breathe and meditate. We will participate in exercises to realize our balance as humans and as UU's. Don't miss the fun to experience it, it will be fun and delicious.

Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour:

Usher: Teresa Labuszewski

May 27: Free Thinker Sunday

Coffee Hour: Stephen Wittkowsky

Usher: Shelley Baxter



President's Message

On Friday, April 20, students and teachers across our nation were urged to leave school and go to the nearest government office to once again bring their concerns about current gun laws to the attention of the politicians. I know that many in our congregation feel that this is an important issue, while at the same time feeling old, tired and representing a very small number of people.

I decided we should do something. I talked to the Superintendent of schools and got his full cooperation. He said that students needed to learn to become involved citizens so this would be a lesson for them. He arranged to have a police escort for the high school students.

The students were most impressive. There were representatives from 10th through 12th grades (and one 6 grader). Students who didn't know each other, of different genders and of various races and backgrounds.

Some met on Thursday evening AT OUR CHURCH to go over the schedule; discuss how to address the officials; how to dress and various talking points. They reflected on kinds of stories to tell, not repeating what another speaker had said and keeping things short and simple. They created posters to carry on the walk so people would be informed about their purpose.

On Friday, using a borrowed bullhorn and carrying their posters 40 students walked the 3 miles from the high school to City Hall. They stood in front of City Hall and spoke. Their message was stated - loud and clear. They had both newspaper and TV coverage.

From City Hall they came back to OUR CHURCH for lunch and relaxation. We had at least 4 church members attending and helping. We got voting registration forms for those turning 18 this year.

At 1 PM those who did not take the training the evening before, left. The others waited until their appointments with the Mayor, the Teachers' Union and the City Council. Our State representatives were not in their offices and since they wanted to meet personally with the students they scheduled to meet other times.

I can't say enough for how impressive these students were. OUR CHURCH was thanked for hosting and feeding them. They did not leave any mess. It made me feel that our future looks a little brighter if we have leaders like this preparing to take over.

~Betsy

We Love UU and You!

Our People

Alexandra Nicosias-Kopp, who has been working with Americorps in Georgia, will stay on another year and become a Leader in the organization. We wish her well!

And congratulations also to Tina Galyn who has been accepted into U.B. Law School.

Steve Wittkowsky is scheduled for a medical procedure on May 5. He will be happy to get it over with and we we will be happy to see his face in church again.

Joan Davis is back in Buffalo General (room 962) due to an infection which has affected her white blood corpuscles. One can visit her but must take precautions against germs. She would love to receive cards.

UU Announcements

BUDGET: ATTENTION Chairpersons and Members:

We will be making up the Church budget to cover Aug. 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019, to present at the Annual meeting on May 20th, 2018. If you know of money that will need to be spent by the church during that time please contact Erica Kopp or Peter Diachun with those needs.

Prayer Day

Thursday, May 3rd, is National Prayer Day. People will be gathering at noon time in front of City Hall in Niagara Falls to pray for our country.

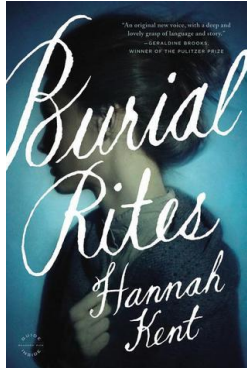
Light Bringers

A new group is starting on May 7, at the LaSalle Library Auditorium, from 5:45 to 7:45 PM. It is called "LightBringers" and is an empowerment group for people who love to help others. More information is available on flier pinned up in Unity Hall.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 20, immediately following our Sunday service. Please plan to attend. Be apart of the governance of the church! 3 new Board members to be elected. The budget for Aug. 1, 2018 thru July 31, 2019, is to be voted on.

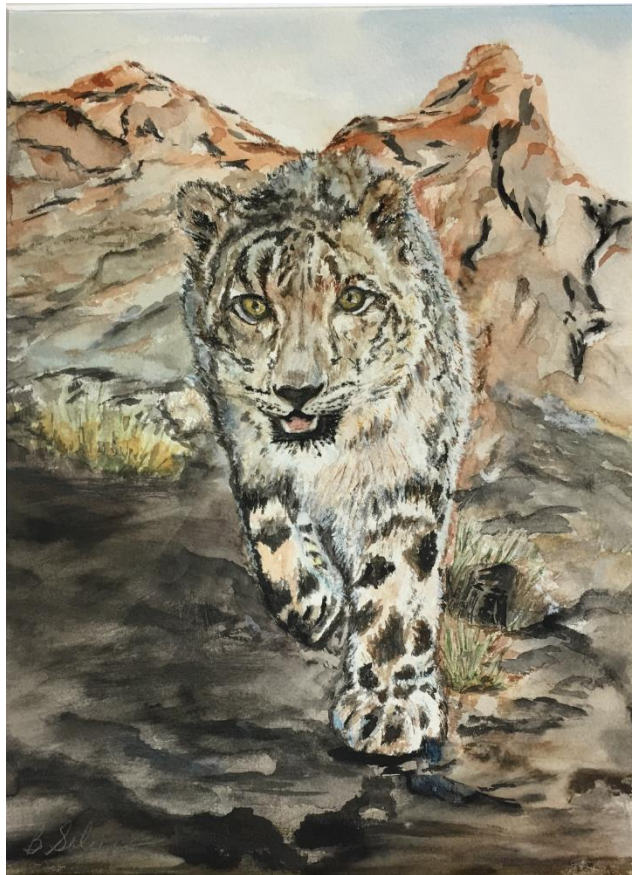
Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet at May 15 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *Burial Rites* by Hanna Kent.

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

Visual Art



Watercolor,

Here's Comin Atcha

Bonnie Soley

Blue Sky Returning

By Lindasusan Ulrich
April 25, 2018

“In our life there is a single color, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love.”
—Marc Chagall

Before I moved to Michigan, friends warned me about the long months of overcast skies. I'd lived in climates where winter came with snow and freezing temperatures, but also included plenty of sunshine and that sharp cobalt reserved for particularly cold days. Here, though, the latter two seem to vanish some time in November.

By the time April rolls around, I find the blue that returns to the sky...confusing. My brain can't quite make sense of it. My eyes are so unused to anything other than grey that they don't know how to process the richness of another color. It's as though they've survived on thin gruel for several months and are suddenly presented with molten chocolate cake.

I can fall into living like that, too: hunkered down, nose to the grindstone, out of touch with what feeds my soul. I'll focus so much on getting through the bare essentials of the day that I'm not sure what to do when an opportunity for joy pops up. Is it real? Do I deserve technicolor experiences? Shouldn't I keep my expectations low since the grey will inevitably return?

Then I remind myself that my singular life is part of that technicolor tapestry, along with the tumbling waterfalls and purring cats and unfurling blossoms. I can no more step outside the vibrant flow of life than I can reverse the cycle of the seasons. However imperfectly I may be living this life of mine, there's no one better at it, and there's no one else who can do it for me.

While the grey days aren't over yet, there's still joy to be found in the chiaroscuro of bare branches against a luminous sky. A veil may obscure the vivid hues for now, but I can look with new eyes for the essential richness underneath.

Prayer

Inescapable Love, help us find opportunities for joy wherever they appear. Remind us of spring's heady perfumes, exuberant colors, and the warmth of sun on our skin. When the road seems endless, reconnect us to the deeper essentials of our lives so that we may be sustained. Amen and blessed be.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/blue-sky-returning>

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



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"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

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