

The Foreword

Issue
February
2017



The Newsletter of the
**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Amherst**

6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
716-634-3010; www.uuamherst.org

Our Leadership:

Developmental Minister

Rev. Michelle Buhite
(Office).....634-3010
minister@uuamherst.org

Ministerial Intern

Rev. Lisa Peterangelo
(Office).....634-3010
revlisa@uuamherst.org

Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

Director of Faith Development

Karen LoBracco
dfd@uuamherst.org

Music Director

Fran Landis.....
music@uuamherst.org

Caretaker

Chris Barry.....

Financial Clerk

Donna Sentz.....634-3010
bookkeeper@uuamherst.org

Office Administrator/ Newsletter Editor

Jaime Sheridan.....634-3010
administrator@uuamherst.org

Office Hours:

9:00am until 2:00pm,
Tuesday to Friday

The office will be closed Wed. Feb
22nd and Friday Feb. 24th

SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY AT 10:30AM

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Where Our Hearts Are

Rev. Michelle Buhite

In the gospels, Jesus reminds his followers that our hearts can be found with what we treasure. Let's consider this as we kickoff our annual stewardship campaign of support to the ministry and mission of UUCA.

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Peace through Understanding

Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

Why is Interfaith Dialogue so important. How do we create such a dialogue?

19

Making Peace with Mammon

Rev. Michelle Buhite

So many anxieties around money! Let's pause and reflect upon our attitudes and anxieties – and maybe even discover creative pathways to peace and joy.

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Enchantments-How We Tell Our Stories

Rev. Michelle Buhite

Intergenerational service – all ages worshipping together.

UUCA Covenant

Together we promise:

To gather in compassionate community

To celebrate diversity of thought and unity of spirit;

And to seek wholeness for ourselves, our children, and our world.

MINISTER'S CORNER



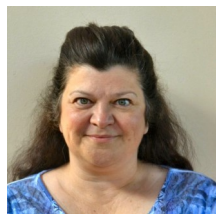
I used to say that creativity skipped a generation, leaving me behind. My father is a retired art teacher and my daughter shares his ease with paper and paint (and other creative, crafty stuff). I am hopeless at drawing and painting anything smaller than a room. A blank page and a 64-pack of Crayolas can reduce me to tears.

But I discovered that I *am* creative – just in different ways. I'm a patternist; looking for and finding patterns comes easily to me. I can spot a hawk sitting in a tree because of the pattern of branches; I look for what 'doesn't belong,' in this case, the hawk. That same gift makes me a whiz at word-find puzzles and the dice game, Farkle! My creativity expresses itself as I look for patterns – of ideas, of communication, and ways of being.

An essential component of creativity is play – and this month we will look for ways to play together. “The desire to create is one of the deepest yearnings of the human soul” (Elder Uchtdorf). Fulfill your deep yearnings for connection, creativity, and play at UUCA.

See you in church,
Rev. Michelle

Letter from Lisa



Wow, we're already into February! Of course, this is the month of love but there are more types of love than romantic.

One type of love that many people have a tough time with is self-love, the idea that you are worthy of your own care, respect, and the right to be treated well by others. For whatever reasons, we sometimes feel the need to put others first. Sometimes this is necessary, especially if you are a parent. But at times, out of love and concern for others, we allow ourselves to give up too much of our time & emotional energy, and worse, cause ourselves to feel guilty when we feel we have failed to live up to others expectations.

This Valentine's day, offer yourself a box of chocolate, or buy yourself some flowers. Celebrate the loving being that you are, and start thinking about how you can show yourself more self-love this year.

Love, Rev. Lisa

UUCA Mission Statement

The draft Mission Statement that arose out of a workshop in September that was attended by 30% of those who actively participate in the life of UUCA is:

It is the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst to challenge ourselves and the community to foster more compassion and justice in the world.

A second feedback session will be held **Sunday, January 29th** at noon in the chapel. Plan to attend and add your voice to the process.

Faith Development

Karen LoBracco, Interim Director of Faith Development



Valentine's Day Lessons

Everybody deserves love. In Elementary School we received a list with the names of everyone in the class. The rule was clear – everyone received a valentine. I could pick which one suited a particular friend, or enemy, but no one was excluded.

There are all kinds of love. The assortment in a Hallmark store showcases that fascinating diversity: Sexual, Familial, and Friendship; New and Mature; Tenuous and Tried; Rational and Not. Just because I am missing one does not mean I cannot be rich with others.

Love is not easy. At least not long term. With the exception of narcissism, love is about RELATIONSHIPS, and thus give and take and compromise and growth and disappointment.

We all have the capacity to give and share love. There are no limitations around age or status – we can change the world one smile, one person, one day at a time. How cool is that!

BLACK PEOPLE MATTER – Black Lives Matter in Action

Last fall this congregation celebrated the installation of a Black Lives Matter sign. That was the culmination of years of ongoing education and a congregational vote. But since any social justice cause does not end when a sign is erected, in January the Faith Development team partnered with volunteers Ivy Yapelli, Liz Miller, Hella Jacob, Pat Burke, Karen Kuhn, Margot Shoemaker and Rev. Lisa Peterangelo to bring the topic of racism to our children and youth. The program was based on one developed by a religious educator in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (the most racially segregated area in the US) and adapted for our use here in the 6th most racially segregated metropolitan area.

Are you looking for resources for your children/grandchildren/young people in your life? Want to learn more? Check out the BLACK PEOPLE MATTER tab on our UUCA website under Children and Youth Faith Development <http://www.uuamherst.org/january-intersession-black-people-matter-take-2/>.

Guest At Your Table

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is an awareness and fundraising program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. For many years we have conducted a campaign between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, but this year we are embarking on a Lenten effort. On **Sunday, February 19** all children and youth will be invited to make collection boxes. The following Sunday, **February 26, a Soup and Bake Sale** to benefit UUSC will take place after the worship service. Coincidentally, UUCA's February 26 GAYT Kick-off begins as our Interim Director of Faith Development is flying home from a trip to Nicaragua cosponsored by UUSC, and will conclude on Palm Sunday, April 9. Stay tuned for more details!

“REGULAR” Faith Development Classes (Spirit Play, Junior and Senior Youth) resume on January 29 and continue on February 5 and 12. February 19 is a Children's Chapel multi-age program, and February 26 is a Multi-generational service.

Many thanks to our January

Cleaning Crew!

This group helped spruce up the FD Wing and various 'hidden corners' in the building to get ready for the new year.





New Photo Directory !

It's time to update our photo directory! We will photograph all church families right here at UUCA with Lifetouch Photo Studios. The directory won't be complete without you! Dates and Times are:

Friday February 3rd, 2-9pm
Saturday February 4th, 10am-5pm
Monday February 27th, 2-9pm
Tuesday February 28th. 2-9pm

You will have a variety of poses taken. One pose will be selected for the directory. The directory is free and each family gets a free 8×10 portrait. Lifetouch will also give you an opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your photo session, if you desire. No purchases are necessary to be included in the directory.

You can sign up to participate in this professional photography session in one of three ways:

- Use this online link: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9z0c5ctg/> (works Tuesday to Fridays)
- Sign up on the paper sheets at the welcome desk on weekends at church.
- Call Jaime in the church office at 634-3010

We can't wait to see everyone's smile!

GREEN TIPS:

In the Morning

- **Brew "certified" coffee.** A USDA Certified Organic label means it was grown using sustainable standards.
- **Green "to go."** Not brewing at home? Take a travel cup to your favorite java joint; they may fill it at a discount.

At Work

- **Double up.** Configure your office printer or copy machine so it prints on both sides of the page.
- **Put it to sleep.** If you'll be away from your computer for more than 20 minutes, change it to "sleep" mode.

Running Errands

- **BYOB.** Bags, that is. It's good for your wallet, too: Some retailers, such as CVS, now pay you for every disposable bag you *don't* take (\$1 on a special CVS card for every four trips on which you BYO). Target will also credit you \$.05 for each reusable bag.

Before Bed

- **Truly turn off electronics.** Plug your devices — the TV and DVD player, or the computer and printer — into a UL-certified power strip; switch the whole group off for the evening to prevent phantom electrical draw.



Adult Faith Development

Adult Faith Development has several programs to offer over the next month.

All are welcome!

Friday, Feb. 3 – No movie night this month – a photography session will be held in the Emerson Room that night for the new church photo directory. Don't forget to sign up for your photo!

Sunday, Feb. 5 – **Ted Talk**, “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” by Ken Robinson (19-20 min), 9:15 AM, Living Room. This talk is insightful & humorous and should spark lively discussion.

Tuesday, Feb. 7—**Women's Afternoon Study Group** 1:30 p.m. - To participate in Black History Month, meet in the Living Room for the Chris Rock documentary video “Good Hair” about black women's hair. Sounds weird but it is fascinating! He even takes us to India!

Sunday, Feb. 12 – **Poetry As Practice** – Dorothy Reade will present poems for discussion with the theme of Creativity; Noon, Reeb Room

Thursday, Feb. 16—**Love Feast Thursdays**

Third Thursday of each month! This month: **Feb. 16**

What happens at Love Feast? First, we meet at 6pm for dinner with friends. There is always a hot entrée (soup or chili – dietary restrictions welcome) and folks bring bread, salad, fruit, or other items to round out the meal. It's not a potluck and it's ok to just show up for dinner without a 'dish'. Around 6:30 we move into the Chapel for an informal vesper service. The atmosphere is intimate as we share a reading, speak about our lives, and restore our spirits in this midweek time of reflection. No big sermons or complicated services – just friends joined together. At 7:00 we return to the Emerson Room for an activity. This fall we have been drumming (no experience necessary & percussion instruments provided). The activity is geared toward all ages and can reflect the wishes of the group.

Love Feast: come for all of it, come for some of it, just come and spend some time with friends! 6pm – Dinner 6:30pm – Vespers 7:00pm – Drumming

Sunday, Feb. 19 - Two **Spiritual Cinema** Short Films, followed by discussion; 9:15 AM, Living Room. This month, we will show “Love Notes” (16 min) about two musicians who harmonize beautifully from afar, and “Dear God” (13 min) about an Israeli guard who intervenes for a woman who, at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, leaves a note asking God for a sign of love.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - **Women's Afternoon Study Group** 1:30 p.m. Meet in the Living Room to read and discuss an article from Marie E. about the florist shop at the center of a controversy about gay rights. Very interesting. March's focus will be Women's History - the stories of the Grimky Sister and of Mother Jones.

Friday, March. 3 – Movie Night – Come at 6 PM for a pot luck dinner (bring a dish to pass) and at 7 PM enjoy popcorn and the movie, “Nightlights”, all in the Emerson Room. This Spiritual Cinema full-feature movie gives a “poignant portrait of a young woman who is a full-time caregiver to her brother, putting her own life on hold until she meets someone who makes her want the freedom to care for herself”. We will return to some of the missed movies at another time.

Sunday, March 5 – Ted Talks, “Humanities Hope: Connecting People, Earth, and Spirit” by Anita Sanchez (17 min), and “Building Integrity – Keeping Promises” by Erick Rainey (11 min), 9:15 AM, Living Room

Sunday, March 12 – Poetry As Practice – Joe Rautenstrauch will present poems for discussion with the theme of Wholeness/Integrity; Noon, Reeb Room

If you have any questions, contact Diane Bofinger.



BOARD NOTES:

Hi again, from your Board of Trustees.

The effort to discover our *UUCA Vision and Mission* is continuing, the 'scribes'

have smoothed out the product of the September 17 workshop and have come up with:

The mission of the UU Church of Amherst is to challenge ourselves and the community to foster more compassion and justice in the world.

We conducted a forum Jan. 15th (another will be on Jan 29th at noon after service) Keep your eyes peeled for announcements of the times we can meet for continued discussions. We do want your input even if you did not attend the September workshop. Remember your participation in the process is essential to our defining our mission well.

Black Lives Matter the new curriculum is starting and all who can should participate however they can – education is the key to bigotry reduction and eventually elimination.

The Network of Religious Communities (NRC) will be holding the Annual Meeting February 9 at 6:00pm at the Jaffarya Muslim Center, 10300 Transit Road, East Amherst, NY 14051 – come and join the celebration when Maria Ceraulo will officially hear that her grant to support the Little Free Pantry is granted. This meeting is short and also includes a dinner and interesting guest speaker. As your representative to the NRC I invite any person to ask about the work of the NRC – remember it is 150 years old and the largest Interfaith Organization in the WORLD – right here in WNY – yes we are world leaders. Anyone interested in participating in Network activities – as many of you did at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this November – please come to a Board of Governors meeting and meet some of the wonderful folks who make this all happen – just ask me! (call 716 882-4793 for reservations)

Just a shout of *thanks to all* those who have worked together to keep our premises sparking clean and beautiful. Also *Green Sanctuary* has been investigating – recycled paper towels, toilet tissue and enzymes to keep the kitchen sinks running smoothly – we are 'greening' slowly but effectively and may also save money.

If you haven't signed up to have your *picture taken* yet – Call Jaime, she can help you.

Once again – I extend to all members and friends – and those not yet officially in our community the invitation to *speak to board members about any issue, concern or idea*. Remember please, that any member is invited to attend and listen at any board meeting. If you wish to present an idea or raise an issue with the Board, please consult the Board Chair a least the day before the meeting. Board meetings are held regularly each month on the second Wednesday starting at 7:00pm in the Emerson Room.

If I can help in any way – ask me – Yvonne Stocker

Nominations for the UUCA Board of Trustees

Every year 3 members of the Board of Trustees of the U.U. Church of Amherst cycle off the Board and 3 new members join the Board. It is the job of the Nominating Committee to submit to the Board at least 3 candidates for the 3-year terms on the Board of Trustees.

To be eligible for nomination a person must be a voting member of the church for at least one year. There shall be no bar to eligibility by reason of age. Young members under age 21 will also be considered.

The Nominating Committee will seek members to serve on the Board and they shall also invite members to self-nominate by filling in an application. **Please consider requesting an application.** Being a Board member offers many opportunities to grow and develop as well as work with like-minded people who will help our church to flourish.

Applications are available now at the church, via email to committee members, or can be downloaded from the UUCA website at <http://www.uuamherst.org/nominations-board-of-trustees/> . They should be submitted by March 1st to allow the Committee time to review them. On Sunday, March 6 we will hold a group session to meet the candidates and share visions for the future of our church.

~From the Nominating Committee: Tom Dibble, Marge Marcille, Taylor Parrack or Margot



Soup & Bake Sale to kick-off Guest at Your Table Program on **Sunday, February 26th.**

Our January Soup & Bake Sale was rescheduled to after the Service on Sunday, 2/26 to coincide with the kick-off of the Guest at Your Table Program during the Easter season. We are in need of cooks and bakers. If you are able to bring a large pot of delicious soup and drop it off before the service, that would be great. We also

need volunteers to provide a variety of individually wrapped baked goods for the bake sale. Please contact Sharlynn Daun-Barnett if you are able to contribute soup or desserts to the Soup & Bake Sale. Please include a note indicating if your items are nut-free, gluten-free, vegetarian, etc., if applicable. Thanks for supporting our Faith Development Program!



In-home Suppers

Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6 pm



Potluck

Looking for an opportunity to get to know others in the congregation beyond the quick conversations of Coffee Hour? Consider signing up for an In-Home Potluck Suppers.

We need volunteers to host a group of church friends—whatever number they can comfortably seat at their dining room table. The host provides a main dish and all other attendees provide a side dish or other component of the dinner which they coordinate through the host. Arrangements will be finalized the week of March 5th.

Look for sign-up sheets at the welcome desk the third week of February. You can also register by calling Lauraine Marcus or the church office 634-3010

RSVP by March 5th NOON

“Baking for Dollars”

Bread Baking Gathering - Saturday, March 11,
10 am to 2 pm

We often **BREAK** bread together.
Let's **BAKE** bread together!



Join Marlana and Marie in the UUCA Kitchen to make a yeast bread and a puff pastry to take home (or to one of the UUCA in-home Potluck Suppers that evening). No prior experience or baking expertise required!

Donation: \$12 per person

Maximum participants: 8 –10

Contact: Marie Evans



Music Notes with Wendy Scott

Dial M for Murder at the Lancaster Opera House: Sunday Jan. 29 at 2:30 PM. E-mail or call Wendy Scott to reserve a ticket (\$25) for this group outing.

Choir Notes:

Choir will sing in worship on 2/5, the first Sunday in February, and 3/12. If you would like to sing, please contact Fran Landis so she can prepare accordingly. Rehearsals are Sundays at 9:30 unless otherwise noted. 1/29, 2/5 (9:45), 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12.

Upcoming Music Events:

Friday, February 24th at 7pm: A music film night, title TBA, \$5/person, snacks provided.

Friday, March 6th: Hal Walker and Friends



Save-The-Date

Friday, March 3: Hal Walker in Concert with Friends, an evening sponsored by the UUCA music committee. Freewill offering. Great, uplifting music with a UU vibe! Invite your friends!

More details to follow. Save the date and invite friends & family!



Pathway to UUCA: Sunday, February 12th at 9:15 am in the Living room. Come Find out more about UUCA and how you can get connected!



Connecting with Guests

This came across the internet several months ago. I thought that this would be a good time to share these thoughts, since it is likely we will be seeing more new faces in the weeks ahead.

“...seven things we *should* say to guests:

“Thank you for being here.” It’s just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told “thank you.”

“Let me help you with that.” If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses, and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.

“Please take my seat.” I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.

“Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way.” Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.

“Can I show you where you need to go?” Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms, and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.

“Let me introduce you to _____.” The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff, and other members of the church.

“Would you join us for lunch?” I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.”

Other things to do include asking if they want a tour of the church, insuring they have a newsletter, reminding them about activities beyond Sunday service, and looking for them the following Sunday.

Thank you for making our guests feel welcomed. ~Lauraine Marcus for the Membership Committee.

Faith Community Nurse Column

Eveline Hartz, RN BSN FCN

February 14th is the feast of St. Valentine and has celebrated love and affection for over 1,000 years. This day lovers and loved ones exchange small tokens, such as chocolate, flowers and cards, to express their love of one another. As you are planning this special day keep in mind the five love languages identified by Gary Chapman. Most people speak one primary language. This is the language that fills their emotional tank. Which language does your lover speak? And which is the most important to you?

Words of Affirmation. Growing up we were often admonished, “sticks and stones may hurt my bones but words can never hurt me” goading the current opponent to ever more hateful words. Nothing can be further from the truth for many people. If your language is words of affirmation then positive words from your loved ones build you up and negative words tear you apart. Write down all the positive qualities your lover has and mention these frequently.

Quality Time. Means being there wholly and completely, giving your partner your undivided attention. Look at and listen to your partner without judgment and without advice.

Receiving Gifts. The securing of and giving of a gift as an expression of love is very important to those who speak this language. The gift is a visual symbol of love. It can be a pebble, a cut out paper heart or a diamond. The only requirement is that it is heartfelt.

Acts of Service. Speakers of this language give great importance to helping each other with chores around the house, childcare, and other home related tasks. This is doing what your life partner would like you to do – Vacuuming, dishes, changing a diaper, etc. puts big money into the love bank of this person.

Physical Touch. This language can be explicit or implicit. It could be sex or a massage or just sitting close or holding hands. It is the physical contact that is most important without need for kind word, quality time, gifts or acts of service.

An easy way to remember is to think of these as the five Ts: Talk, Time, Trinkets, Tasks and Touch. If you are not sure which language is yours there are quizzes you can take to help you find the answer. Check out Gary Chapman’s book or google him on the net. Some people are bilingual!

Our heart is also a very physical entity that requires our attention and care. According to the CDC: “Americans suffer 1.5 million heart attacks and strokes each year—a burden that contributes to most of the more than \$320 billion in annual healthcare costs and lost productivity caused by cardiovascular disease,…” That’s a lot of people! And a lot of money out of your pocket into that of corporate medical services. But note what else the CDC states: “Despite the misconception, **cardiovascular disease is largely preventable**”. That is good news.

How do we prevent heart disease? By living a healthy lifestyle of course! A healthy lifestyle includes the following:

- ♥ Eat a healthy diet: mostly vegetables - think color variety, whole fruits, ease up on animal products, use some but minimally processed fat, spices & herbs. Avoid processed foods (“fast”, junk and snack foods). When in doubt, make it yourself.
- ♥ Maintain a reasonable weight. Most of us could lose a few pounds.
- ♥ Get minimally 30 minutes/day of physical activity most days of the week
- ♥ No tobacco products
- ♥ Limit alcohol use
- ♥ Manage your stress (meditation, yoga, Tai chi, etc.)
- ♥ keep your emotional and spiritual tanks filled.

Heart disease, once you have it, is serious and needs prompt medical attention. Watch out for these symptoms:

- ♥ Irregular, fast/slow heart beats,
- ♥ chest pain
- ♥ lightheadedness & dizziness
- ♥ fainting
- ♥ swelling in legs, abdomen or around the eyes
- ♥ shortness of breath during activities,
- ♥ fatigue, easily tiring during exercise or activity

Don’t wait until symptoms occur. Keep your money in your pocket. Choose a lifestyle that promotes good health and well-being. Love speak regularly and frequently to those you love.

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.” ~ Charles M. Schulz



END OF LIFE SERIES

Sunday, February 5th at 12:00 p.m.

This is the last presentation of our End of Life Series.

In this month's session there will be an open discussion on physician assisted suicide. A controversial topic to be sure. The practice is also known as death with dignity, physician-assisted death, physician-assisted dying, physician-hastened death/dying, aid in dying, physician aid in dying, and medical aid in dying. It differs from euthanasia as it is done with legal backing. Currently physician-assisted suicide is legal in five U.S. states: Oregon, Vermont, Washington and California. It is an option given to individuals in Montana via court decision. In these five states, individuals must be mentally competent (able to make their own health care decisions), have a terminal illness as well as a prognosis of six months or less to live - confirmed by two physicians. There are also mandated oral requests, written request, a waiting period and other stipulations. Physicians cannot be prosecuted for prescribing medications to hasten death in these states. Physician assisted suicide is not legal in NYS.



Jewish Repertory Theatre's "A Season of Amy Herzog" continues February 9 - March 5, with **AFTER THE REVOLUTION**, directed by Saul Elkin.

Synopsis of the story: Emma Joseph, a bright, hardworking, recent law school graduate descended from a long line of Marxists, is continuing her family's business of fighting for progressive ideals. She founded the Joe Joseph Fund, named for her grandfather who was blacklisted during the McCarthy era for refusing to name names, and is currently working to free a man on death row who is being punished for his outspoken political beliefs in much the same way. A curveball comes hurdling Emma's way, however, when she learns that her grandfather may have been passing information to Russians while working for the US government. In this intellectual family drama laden with lively, entertaining dialogue, loyalty, citizenship, betrayal and freedom are open for investigation.

JRT performs at the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre, inside the Jewish Community Center, 2640 N. Forest Road, Getzville.

Discount ticket order forms are available in the church lobby - NOTE NEW LOCATION - in a folder tacked to the Church Life bulletin board. Selected Saturday and Sunday performance tickets may be purchased for \$25 each (regular box office price is \$38 per ticket). *Checks must be received eight (8) days prior to performance you wish to attend.* Contact Sophia Veffler at 631-3228 with ticket questions.

I am organizing a **group dinner after the 2 pm performance on Sunday, February 26.** We dine "Dutch treat" at Lebro's, 330 Campbell Blvd. Please RSVP to me by noon on Friday, Feb. 25, so I can make the reservation.

-Marie Evans



Now that the holidays are over and you are enjoying your new phones, could we encourage you to recycle the old ones in the wicker basket located in the first coat room? They are given to Haven House, a shelter for battered women in Buffalo. The money they collect from the sale of these phones is used to help transition their clients from the shelter into their own living space. Such a nice, easy way to help our community. Thank you! ~Bunny Malone

What's Happening at UUCA ?

This Month's Featured Events:



ROMEO'S MEN LUNCH

Thursday, February 2nd at noon at the Buffalo Brew Pub (6681 Main Street at Transit Road). All men welcome for good conversation over lunch.

Current Events Discussion/Lunch

February 14th - 12:30 p.m. - Bring your lunch to the Emerson Room and we will discuss the events in the news.

WOMEN'S LUNCH:

February 21st - 12:30 p.m. - Bring your lunch to the Emerson Room to spend time with like-minded women. No agenda - just laughing and chatting! This is a great time to bond with old friends and make new ones. Newcomers always welcome!

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Volunteer Drivers Needed

The Caring For One Another Committee is forming a list of church members who would be willing, occasionally, to transport another member to a Sunday service or other church activity. If you would be willing to provide a ride, convenient with your schedule, please contact Evelyn Hartz at caring@uuamherst.org.

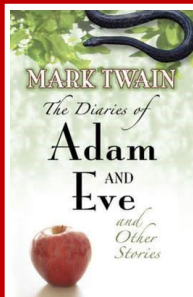
Also, remember we are a Faith in Action community. The Hearts & Hands program offers us the opportunity to help those in need in WNY, and especially in the Amherst area. If you need help or are interested in volunteering, please go to <https://hnhcares.org/> or contact Ron Palmere or Evelyn Hartz

~Ron Palmere & Evelyn Hartz

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

On February 3rd, all those over 21 welcome for a night out! Contact Ivy Yapelli for this month's location.

Bridge Club usually meets Sundays after Service in the Emerson Room. Contact JoAnn Shafer for details.



Mark Twain Drama

Enjoy an evening of theatre at UUCA as Rev. Michelle & Les Buhite offer *Mark Twain's The Diaries of Adam and Eve* as reader's theatre. Plan now to attend this **one-night only performance, Friday, February 10, 2017, 7:30 pm**. Tickets are \$10 and will be available for pre-sale 1/29 and 2/5 and at the door (family maximum \$30). The evening includes refreshments. (PG) Invite your friends!

Check out our website and events calendar at
www.uuamherst.org



U.U.-U.N. NEWS

October 29, 2017 is the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy—the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of 2012. The New York City area, including many parts of New Jersey, have now finally recovered from Hurricane Sandy. Let us recall the U.N.’s inadequate response to this terrible storm.

On 9 November 2012, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the U.N. General Assembly and called for more action to control climate change. His address was delivered in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy. “Storms and emergencies pose great tests and challenges. They may bring out the best in people who work beyond the call of duty in trying and even heroic circumstances,” Mr. Ban Ki-moon said. “But emergency situations can also lay bare where we may have been operating on flawed assumptions and must do better. Such was the case over the past two weeks. The U.N. continued to provide its vital global services despite major disruptions,” he added. “At the same time, where there were mistakes, there must be lessons to be learned. We are determined to work with all of you to learn and move forward.” The U.N. General Assembly also devoted a minute of silence in memory of all the storm’s victims.

Not only the U.S. eastern coastline and the New York metropolitan area were effected by this “once in a generation storm,” but also many Caribbean U.N. Member States, including Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas. In the wake of the hurricane, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his solidarity with all the storms’ victims and pledged the full support of the United Nations. Hurricane Sandy’s arrival and its effects on New York City caused the U.N. to be closed for an unprecedented three days, before re-opening on

Thursday, 1 November 2012. As a result of the storm, U.N headquarters sustained minor damage. “Let me also stress that our global services were provided without interruption. Many staff members worked around the clock,” Mr. Ban Ki-moon said, “but more information about the storm should have been conveyed to the public.”

In their remarks to the special session of the U.N. General Assembly, both the Secretary-General and the U.N. General Assembly President, Mr. Vuk Jeremic, raised the issue of climate change. “Extreme weather events caused by global warming are but one manifestation of the reality of climate change. This is a very serious issue that requires us to work much more closely together in order for it to be adequately addressed,” President Jeremic said. The Secretary-General acknowledged the difficulties in attributing any single storm to climate change. “But we also know this: extreme weather due to climate change is the new normal.” The world’s best climate scientists have been sounding the alarm for years. The U.N. Secretary-General said the challenge before the international community remains clear and urgent: a profound reduction in greenhouse gas emission, and the need to reach a legally binding climate change treaty as soon as possible. “This should be one of the main lessons of Hurricane Sandy. The U.N. and the human family need to control climate change before it is too late.”

If more is not done soon to truly control climate change by the U.N. and international community, the world will experience more storms similar to Hurricane Sandy and even more severe climatic disasters. The time for preventive action is now. Also, Mr. Antonio Guterres, the U.N.’s new Secretary-General is extremely concerned about U.S. President Donald Trump and the negative effects his presidency may have on the United Nations.

~David Slive, U.N. Envoy



6320 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-634-3010
www.uuamherst.org