

# The Foreword

Issue  
**January**  
2017



The Newsletter of the  
**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Amherst**  
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-634-3010; www.uuamherst.org

## Our Leadership:

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

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY AT 10:30AM

### *It's A Brand-New Year*

**1** Rev. Michelle Buhite  
Ready to start with a clean slate? Perhaps it would help to begin with intention. (No Nursery Care Today)

### *Creative Communications*

**8** Rev. Michelle Buhite  
We strive for compassion and clarity in our communications; let's identify the tools and build our skills

### *After the Banner-What next?*

**15** Rev. Michelle Buhite  
This service will include a Shoe Communion for all ages to honor our efforts to walk our talk; bring shoes to bless!

### *The End of the World As We Know It*

**22** Rev. Michelle Buhite  
Finding our inner resolve and resiliency amid the doom and gloom.

### *The Golden Rule:*

**29** *The Bond of Interfaith Dialogue*  
Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

Right now, understanding and creating relationships with those from other religious traditions is more important than ever. Let's explore what interfaith relationships are all about and how we are all connected no matter what we believe or how we pray.

## 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 was leafing through one of the blank-books where I capture quotations, poems, and ideas when I came across this notation: *The purpose of the church is to come together and get equipped to change the world – not to ‘meet needs’.* In the passage in the Gospel of Matthew known as “the great commission,” Jesus tells his disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations.” There was nothing about “go build a building and find ways to make people happy and meet all their needs.” Although we don’t limit our source of inspiration to just the Bible, I think as a denomination we have strayed from preparing ourselves to meet the *world’s* needs to having *our* needs and personal preferences front and center.

If our purpose as a church is to get equipped to change the world, then we exist to create a compassionate community where individuals can get grounded, build skills, and identify areas of service. We come to church to be changed so that we can change the world. Building resiliency – to conflict, to change, to that which is beyond our five senses, to all that challenges us – is a crucial piece of our ministry. This month we will have the opportunity to build our resiliency through healthy communications, confronting our reluctance to change, and releasing the old to begin the new; what an exciting way to start the new year!

See you in church,  
Rev. Michelle

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### UUCA Mission Statement

On Sept. 17, twenty-seven folks representing all ages and theologies within our congregation met to begin the process of creating a Mission Statement for UUCA that would guide our decisions in the coming years. The workshop was open to all and participants self-selected based on interest. At the end of the day, six participants were identified to be the “Scribes” and work with workshop presenter, Nikki Hitchcock, to distill all of the words, hopes, dreams, and diverging priorities into a coherent and meaningful mission statement. The Scribes strove to create a statement that would capture our fullest expression of ministry, as concisely as possible. I think they’ve done a magnificent job!

A draft statement has been produced and is ready for your feedback! Please attend one of the discussion sessions and have input! Sessions will be held on Sunday, January 15 at 9:15am in the Living Room and on Sunday, January 29 at noon in the Chapel.

The draft mission statement: *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.*

### Vigil for America, Thursday, Jan. 19

We will hold a vigil for our country during Vespers at 6:30pm on this Inauguration Day eve.



## Faith Development

**Karen LoBracco, Interim Director of Faith Development**

### **New Year – New Opportunity to put FAITH IN ACTION**

2017 brings some innovations to the Faith Development program for children and youth – like the 3 week January Intercession program **Black People Matter**. Each Sunday – January 8, 15 and 22 – children and youth

in the Spirit Play, Junior and Senior Youth will begin in the service as usual and then proceed upstairs to the Channing Chapel (Spirit Play room). After an opening and introduction to the theme of the day, participants can then select from a variety of activities/discussions/projects geared to differing interests and ages. While participants will benefit the most from attending all 3 sessions, they are freestanding so come when you can.

**January 8- WHAT?** What is this thing we call color? Are we really black or white? Participants will come away with a broader concept of who they are and explore what is beautiful/attractive.

**January 15 – SO WHAT?** So what does it take to be a hero or heroine? On this Martin Luther King Jr. weekend we will learn about real living people, some from our neighborhood or church, who are telling the real story about racial disparities in our community. So what clues can we uncover to learn the real story?

**January 22 – NOW WHAT?** A popular slogan among Unitarian Universalists is “Deeds, not creeds”. But what is the underlying value that informs my action? And getting skilled at any deed requires practice, so we will practice the skills needed to be a brave ally or friend.

**Spirit Play** (K-5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>) and **Junior Youth** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) teaching teams are looking for a few good people (male, female, gay, straight, parents, childless, experienced or first time volunteer) to share part of your Sunday mornings with our fabulous kids! Contact a current volunteer or Karen LoBracco ([dfd@uuamherst.org](mailto:dfd@uuamherst.org)) for more details about how to become involved.

**Spirit Play team** travels to the *UU Church of Buffalo* January 8 to observe their Spirit Play classes, and then meets *Saturday afternoon, January 21* to plan for winter and spring sessions.

**Junior and Senior Youth teams** have not yet finalized a date for their January planning meetings.

### **Our Whole Lives News**

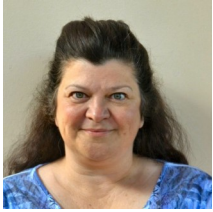
**4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade level** is being offered at the UU Church of Buffalo this Jan/Feb/Mar from 10:30-noon on Sundays. Parent orientation is January 8th at 10:30, and then the class runs for the following 8 weeks. There is a \$30 charge. UUCA families are welcome to participate – contact Sarah Martin, UUCB Director of Religious Education ([sarahmartin@buffalouu.org](mailto:sarahmartin@buffalouu.org)) for more details or to enroll.

**High School (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) level.** We are exploring the possibility of offering this for the first time beginning late January/early February in cooperation with congregation Shir Shalom and perhaps other interfaith partners. This would take place on Sundays around Noon. Like all Our Whole Lives programs for children and youth this would involve a mandatory parent information meeting and a commitment by youth to participate fully in the 12 session program. Discussions are still in a preliminary stage, but coordinator Sharlynn Daun-Barnett would appreciate hearing from youth/parents about your interest in participation.

### **Saturday, January 7, 9am to 1pm**

Lets begin the new year with a fresh start. Contact Rev. Michelle if you can be part of the **cleaning crew**--no need to stay all day; come for an hour or two to help out.





## Letter from Lisa

As we look forward to 2017 the time has come to leave behind the heavy burden of emotional unrest and fear that caught us by surprise in November. Now we must be calm, focused and pro-active to create a better world for ourselves and our families.

To this end, I've decided for myself to take on a daily ritual of social meaningfulness. What do I mean by this? Well, I've committed to spending 15 minutes a day to be politically active. Now, fifteen minutes a day might not sound like a lot, but if it's practiced every day the energy of my intentions will build into a meaningful practice of being pro- active.

Some examples of social meaningfulness include: Calling one of my representatives on a current issue, sharing a creditable post from Facebook, participating in a community gathering, attending a political rally, writing a letter to the editor, wearing my Black Lives Matter bracelet to an event, and starting a conversation with someone about something that impacts both of us.

Being socially/ politically active is not just an action, it's a mindset. If you can't commit to every day, then once a week, once a month. It's the commitment to consistency that matters the most.

So instead of sitting back and worrying, complaining, or preparing for the apocalypse, turn your angst into action and do your part to improve our future.

Blessings in 2017, Rev. Lisa

## UUCA Office News

- \* To send a message to the church list serve, address the email to [uuamherst-allchurch@googlegroups.com](mailto:uuamherst-allchurch@googlegroups.com) Messages are checked and posted daily during the week and 'best efforts' are made after Friday at 2pm.
- \* UUCA Special Collections:  
*Citizens for Regional Transit* on December 11: \$580 was raised
- \* Many thanks to the women who helped clean the kitchen on November 29th: Jacque Babka, Pat Burke, Marge Marcille, Marie Minsky, Sylvia Moran and Marlana Rice. Although the kitchen surfaces are now professionally cleaned, drawers need to be straightened and refrigerators need to be cleaned, etc. Many women have helped with these tasks in the past and we are grateful to them and also for the latest participants.
- \* Pledge and Donation Statements 2016  
In Early January, Donna (our bookkeeper) and Dave (our treasurer) will send statements of pledge payments received in 2016. There will be two statements, one for January thru June and the other for July thru December. The two statements are because we changed accounting software in July. A few people have a January thru June statement showing a credit, it just means your payments were more than your pledge; the credit does not carry over to July, which is the start of a new fiscal year.  
If you made a donation for the roof and/or the driveway and parking lot improvement, you were sent a donation statement at the time of the donation.  
Your July thru December statement will also show the amount of your current pledge you have paid to date to be finalized in June.
- \* Please continue to mark pledge checks with '2016-2017 Pledge' in the memo line.
- \* The email address [uuamherst@roadrunner.org](mailto:uuamherst@roadrunner.org) has been deactivated. Please use [administrator@uuamherst.org](mailto:administrator@uuamherst.org) to contact the office.



## Adult Faith Development

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

**Friday, Jan. 6** – 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, “Kindness is Contagious”, all in the Emerson Room. This Spiritual Cinema full-feature movie (documentary style) “beautifully illuminates that being committed, compassionate, and tender are great strengths”. Maybe we need this reassurance during this crazy time in our country.

**Sunday, Jan. 8** – Ted Talk, Cultivating Resilience by Greg Eells, 9:15 AM, Living Room

**Sunday, Jan. 8** – Poetry As Practice – Diane Bofinger will present poems for discussion with the theme of Resilience; Noon, Reeb Room

**Sunday, Jan. 22** - Three Spiritual Cinema Short Films, followed by discussion; 9:15 AM, Living Room. This month, we will show “The Gift” (13 min) about a young boy who receives a gift that changes his life, “Free Custom Poetry” (4 min) which features “some loving people whose generous gift is much more than a poem”, and “Ramona” (15 min) about a woman “who gives a whole new meaning to the phrase ‘her time has come’”.

**Friday, Feb. 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”.

**Sunday, Feb. 5** – Ted Talk, topic to be announced, 9:15 AM, Living Room

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

If you have any questions, contact Diane Bofinger

### Women’s Afternoon Study Group

*Tuesday, January 3rd - 1:30 p.m.* - With Yvonne’s help on the computer, we will see the sermon delivered at the General Assembly 2016 Sunday Service. We will meet again in the Emerson Room.

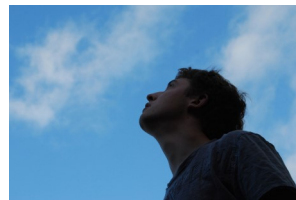
*Tuesday, January 24th and 31st - 1:30 p.m.* - Both days we will look at the articles in the Winter UU World issue with the tree on the cover. This arrived in November. Hopefully you will still have it to bring. Extra copies are in the Living Room.

#### *Current Events Discussion/Lunch:*

*Tuesday, January 10th - 12:30 p.m.* - Bring your lunch to the Emerson Room and we will discuss the events of the day.

#### *Women’s Lunch:*

*Tuesday, January 17th - 12:30 p.m.* - This is a time to meet with other women in the Emerson Room while enjoying your lunch from home or your favorite purveyor. No agenda, just eating and laughing!



### Adult Discussion:

*Looking for God:  
Opening ourselves to  
Mystery as we explore  
what ‘God’ means for  
each of us.*

Facilitated by Rev. Michelle; Two times available!

Thursdays 3-4:30 (1/5, 12, 19, 26)

Tuesdays 7-8:30 (1/10, 17, 24, 31)

Sign up in the Lobby or call the office.



## BOARD NOTES:

Hi again, from your Board of Trustees.

On Sunday, Dec. 18th we had a unique UU experience – we had our *Christmas intergenerational pageant* – most of the important roles were performed by our children (except Joseph – who was a grown up) – the grownups largely were animals or shepherds. One comment was that such a performance would likely be perceived as irreverent in many churches but with UU's we can learn the important messages by playing with the children and all having fun – that is so wonderful. Thank you Karen & Michelle and Fran for the musical interpretation of the Star.

The effort to discover our *UUCA Vision and Mission* is continuing, the 'scribes' are working to smooth out the product of the September 17 workshop. Discussion Sessions will be held on Sunday, January 15 at 9:15am in the Living Room and on Sunday, January 29 at noon in the Chapel. We do want your input even if you did not attend the September workshop!

*Black Lives Matter* – is up – it looks beautiful and is attracting attention. The task force group is working on web page enhancements to inform us all - members, friends, passers-by and anyone else who would like to be better informed about how we treat each other in this country today. We have had a few negative comments, most were polite and disappointed but not angry, a few were angry but these did not lead to violence – we must always remember each person is entitled to their opinion, even when we disagree they must be heard. On the positive we have heard from many people usually in person that we are brave to do the right thing.

*The Network of Religious Communities* (NRC) will be holding the Annual Meeting in early February 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 awarded. 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!

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 our Board of Trustees cycle off the Board and three new members are elected for three year terms.

The Nominating Committee will be finding talented members to fill the 3 spots on the 2017-2018 Board. We will be offering a way for us to know about you via an application followed by participation in a group discussion.

Please consider requesting an application or passing one along to someone you think might make a good candidate. The application is also online at <http://www.uuamherst.org/nominations-board-of-trustees/> The new Board term will begin on July 1, 2017.

To speak to a member of the Nominating Committee, please contact Tom Dibble, Marge Marcille, Taylor Parrack or Margot Shoemaker.



Always say "Thank You" to the church nursery workers.

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They are serving our most important guests each week.



### A Sacred Trust

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Amherst takes seriously its responsibility to protect children and youth from sexual abuse and volunteers from false accusations. The Board of Trustees therefore has established policies and the Faith Development Committee procedures to minimize the possibility of harm. Newcomers are invited to at least 6 months of “getting to know us” before volunteering to be a Faith Development teacher. Teaching teams gather occasionally and communicate regularly with the Interim Director of Faith Development, and organize their schedules so that 2 adults are present at every session. All OWL facilitators, Faith Development teachers and staff are required to submit an application form agreeing to a Background Check and checking of references. If you have comments or questions about UUCA’s Safe Congregation Policy please speak to Karen LoBracco, Interim Director of Faith Development or a member of the Board of Trustees.



### Nursery News

Every Sunday EXCEPT DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1 the UUCA Nursery is open for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Our professional caregiver Beverly Prible is ready to spend the worship hour keeping your young ones safe and happy. Needed are assistants to partner with her. Can you make a commitment to play with little ones once a month? They will love you for it! Contact our Interim Director of Faith Development Karen LoBracco ([dfd@uuamherst.org](mailto:dfd@uuamherst.org)) for details.



On April 1, the candidates for UUA President will participate in a Forum here in the Central East Region.

The UU Central New York Cluster and May Memorial UU Society, Syracuse, want to invite the congregations of the former St. Lawrence district to gather on April 1 for a special UUA Forum and Gould Lecture event.

Day: **Saturday, April 1, 2017**

Time: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Location: May Memorial UU Society, Syracuse NY

The Forum will focus on Interdependence.

The event will be livestreamed to May Memorial from Cedar Lane UU in Bethesda MD.

Following the Forum, Rev. Richard Gilbert will offer the 2017 Gould Lecture, titled: *“THE PROPHETIC IMPERATIVE IN A MESSY WORLD”*

Description: *The election of 2016 has done more than upset the political world. For Unitarians and Universalists – and many others – it has challenged the soul. Its meaning is far more than political. There are also moral, spiritual and religious meanings in what has happened and is happening. What are those meanings and what are we to do with them? Leonard Cohen has caught the spirit of the age in his phrase “broken Hallelujahs.” While we may wonder what he meant, it is more important what that phrase may mean for us.*



Update for VOICE- Buffalo for 2016 ~ from Pat Burke for the Social Justice Committee  
 CRIMINAL JUSTICE- Establish Diversion Programs as a means to address mental health in under resourced communities as a path forward to reducing the number of those incarcerated. VOICE will continue to hold elected officials and stakeholders accountable through our collective and strategic partnerships.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY & DEVELOPMENT TASKFORCE-This past year, VOICE has developed partnerships with Catholic Charities, Back to Basics, PUSH and Buffalo Niagara Partnership. In 2007 we hope to develop specific objectives and goals.

DISABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY TASKFORCE- This group is led by people with disabilities who want to develop a satellite office for The Developmental Disability Regional Office (DDRO) in Buffalo, since the other office is in West Seneca and is impossible to reach via public transportation.

REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP TEAM TASKFORCE-After a successful public meeting Oct 25, this taskforce will be gathering to discuss and ensure that Lafayette can become a nationally recognized international School.

Any of these groups are open to have new members.



**HEARTS AND HANDS**  
**Neighbor Helping Neighbor**

Thank you to everyone who came out for volunteer training in November. Our next training will be on **Saturday, January 21st at 10am** in the Living Room.

The Hearts and Hands program emphasizes:

---“ We do volunteering differently. Set your own schedule. Accept only the assignments which fit your schedule and interests.

--- Whether you have 5 minutes a week...an hour a month...you can help.”

We want to be a Faith in Action community. The H & H program offers us the opportunity to help those in need in WNY, and especially in the Amherst area. If interested or have questions, please contact Ron Palmere at [caring@uuamherst.org](mailto:caring@uuamherst.org).



**Upcoming Auction Events:**

Saturday, January 14th at 7pm: *Board Games with the Board* \$6/person

Sunday, January 15 at noon: *The ABCs of Music with Phil Blommendahl* \$10/person

Thursday, Jan. 26 at noon: *Card Playing Afternoon* \$10/person or \$30/family

Saturday, Feb. 25th at 6pm: *Not a Snowbird* good food and conversation evening in the living room. \$18/person

Sunday, April 9 at 1:30pm: *Lunch and Bridge Party* after church \$10/person

Call the Church Office (634-3010) to sign up for any of these exciting events.



**Scholarship**

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Do you know a college-bound senior who has demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence and human rights? HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) is offering a \$1500 and two \$500 awards. Check out the details on a bulletin board in our lobby or at [www.homeny.org/events-updates/joanne-champion-granger-scholarship](http://www.homeny.org/events-updates/joanne-champion-granger-scholarship).



## Faith Community Nurse Column

Eveline Hartz, RN BSN FCN

Happy, Joyful and prosperous New Year to all!

This past year a great deal of thought has been given to black lives matter and inclusivity. UU folk pride themselves on inclusivity. My question: why isn't UUCA completely accessible? While most of the downstairs is accessible, I dread to think how a wheel chair (w/c) user would maneuver into the bathroom stalls. Or even how the vast majority of churchgoers would make it up/down the stairs.

UUCA isn't unique in this. There is evidence of discrimination in every part of life. Here are some examples:



Tom can walk short distances but is unable to do long distances. He asks his doctor about a wheelchair. the MD says no, keep walking. Tom is now homebound (and out of sight).

Sharon, an electric w/c user, is denied membership into a senior center. When she calls social services for advice they reply "Senior centers don't want the image of members in wheelchairs."

June, received a prescription from her MD and has purchased a wheelchair. It's not working well for her. The sales person replies, after looking at the chair, "nothing can be done about this". In fact there is a solution - but it's not a standard, in the book solution. The chair is useless to June. She is homebound and out of sight.

Jim is fine in home, but needs wheels for outdoors to go places. Medicare says no deal, they only approve chairs for in-home use.

Mary has had an electric chair many years and lived independently. She now is looking at assisted living. She finds the dining tables are so close together there is no way a wheelchair would fit and the doors are so heavy she can't open them from a chair.

Cost is prohibitive if you are paying out of pocket. \$5-10,000 for a standard electric chair, \$35,000+ for specialized chairs., Then there is the wheelchair accessible van - \$65,000+

Jane (who is unable to stand) & friend go to Chautauqua institute. One of the religious houses has a brand new accessible bathroom. Jane goes to use it and finds that the door won't close while the wheelchair is inside. She would have to transfer onto the toilet in full view of the public, a second person would need to move the chair out to close the door. When this is mentioned to the manager, the manager haughtily (rather nastily) replies they followed all the rules. Luckily the Presbyterian house had a truly accessible bathroom - the only one on the premises at the time.

John is a wheelchair user and requires an accessible home. He is currently on Medicaid, he has just earned his PhD but finds he is, on his projected income, unable to pay for the medical care, chair & van he requires. He stays out of the workforce.

Why this mindset that lets us, as a society, accept this? If our fist is unable to pound in a nail do we call ourselves disabled and forget it? Or do we use a hammer and pound it in? If we can't get across the street with use of our feet, isn't the wheelchair or any other device just a tool to help us get there? Why stay home to avoid a stigma? Is a person disabled or enabled by using whatever is needed to get to where he/she wants to go?

While many of us are more than willing to help, what we could be doing is making our spaces & transportation accessible and user friendly to all. That would be one awesome New Year's resolution.

*"Society is always taken by surprise by any new example of common sense."*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



## **Music Notes** with Wendy Scott

### Choir Notes:

Choir rehearsals resume Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> as we prepare to sing the first Sunday in February. If you are planning to sing, please contact Fran Landis so she can prepare accordingly. Rehearsal dates & times: 1/22 & 1/29 at 9:30; 2/5 at 9:45am

### UpComing Music Events:

Friday, January 20th at 7pm: *Music Film Night*, \$5/person, snacks provided. Come enjoy an evening with us in the Emerson Room.

Friday, February 24th at 7pm: A Showing of the movie *Impromptu*. \$5/person, snacks provided.

### Lancaster Opera House News:

In January, *Dial M for Murder* will be given on weekends from Fr. Jan 20th to Sat.

Feb. 4th. Wendy Scott will pick a date & arrange for tickets for those who want.

More details to come: Stay tuned!



Pathway to UUCA: Sunday, February 2nd at 9:15 am in the Living room. Come Find out more about UUCA and how you can get connected!

Save the Date:  
**Saturday, March 11, 2017**  
at 6 pm  
In-home Suppers



### Potluck

Join us for an opportunity to meet informally with 4, 5, 8 + other church friends in a host's home. It is a chance to get to know each other better beyond the quick conversations of Coffee Hour. More information in the February Newsletter.



**WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. Visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

### **GREEN TIPS:**

You are encouraged to view the following TED talk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rZzHkpyPkc>

George Monbiot - on "Rewilding". There are many connections in Nature, some we may think to be impossible. This TED talk Includes the incredible positive effect on waterways & fish when wolves are returned to Yellowstone park. Who would think that returning wolves would restore diverse habitats and even bring back creeks, rivers & fish in a former desert environment. Also the destructive effect on shrimp, krill, etc. in the Pacific when whales are slaughtered.



## END OF LIFE SERIES

**Sunday, January 8th at 12:00 p.m.** *Nursing Homes and Assisted Living* with Kimberly Kent and Darlene Harris.

Brainstormers will perform one skit: "**Welcome home**", which is about 2 sisters deciding to put Dad in a nursing home/assisted living. Dad doesn't want to go.

Kimberly Kent is a social worker with extensive experience in geriatrics within hospitals, long term care and assisted living facilities. She is passionate about helping people maneuver through the increasingly, complex healthcare system. She will address a multitude of criteria, what your rights are, what questions to ask and so forth. Darlene Harris is an ombudsman, also with extensive experience and will add to these issues. Both women are UUCA Caring for Each Other Committee members.

**Sunday, February 5th at 12:00 p.m.** One of the topics that has been suggested for this session is physician assisted suicide. This is a controversial but very important topic.

Brainstormers will perform: "Exit" - This about a father who does not want to live. His children discuss whether or not do this —over a period of 3 years. There is no resolution. Discussion to follow.

This will be the last of our series. Much thanks to Evelyn Hartz and her committee for organizing this informative series of talks and discussions.



**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.

Relatedly, JRT is holding a Panel Discussion on Sunday, January 22, 10:30 to Noon, at the JCC Benderson Building, about "the turbulent times of the McCarthy Era." Coffee and pastries will be served as they "explore this remarkable period in our country's history."

-Marie Evans



The Buffalo Parent Teacher Org and the Urban League Young Professionals are hosting a conversation called "Walking the Border" a conversation about Race and the election. It will be a community conversation with teachers and students that is open to the public. The event will take place on Jan 18th from 5:30 to 7pm at East High School 820 Northampton St, Buffalo, NY 14211.

# What's Happening at UUCA ?

## This Month's Featured Event:

### LOVE FEAST THURSDAYS



Third Thursday of each month! This month: **Jan. 19**

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

#### COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

On January 6th ,all those over 21 welcome for a night out! Contact Ivy Yapelli for this month's location.

**UUCA BOOK CLUB** usually meets LAST Sundays at Noon in the church Dining Room

Due to the holidays, we'll gather Sunday, January 8, to discuss our December reading topic, Christmas.

We've chosen a common read for January: ALEXANDER HAMILTON by Ron Chernow. This is the book Lin-Manuel Miranda was reading when he was inspired to write the Broadway sensation, Hamilton. Join us Sunday, January 29 at noon in the dining room for our discussion.

#### 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 Ron Palmere at [caring@uuamherst.org](mailto:caring@uuamherst.org). Thank

**ROMEO's MEN LUNCH** will meet on Thursday, January 5th at noon at the Buffalo Brew Pub (6681 Main Street at Transit Road). All men welcome for good conversation over

**Check out our website and events calendar at**  
**[www.uuamherst.org](http://www.uuamherst.org)**

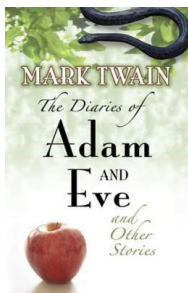
## We've Got a New Way to Walk

Creative communication & right relations workshop, Sat. 1/14, 9:30-3:30 (deadline 1/8)

Join with neighbor congregations for an interactive, fun, and informative day of discovery as we learn how to limit destructive drama, encourage new ideas in a supportive environment, handle difficult situations, and think outside the box!

Sign up in the Lobby, call the office, or register on our website (<http://www.uuamherst.org/right-relations-workshop/>)

\$10 includes lunch. Great for youth and adults! Build your communication skills!



### Coming Soon!

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 sale beginning 1/22 (family maximum \$30). The evening includes refreshments. (PG)

## 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.



After a long and full life, Geraldine "Gerry" Simmons passed from this life on December 9th. Those who knew Gerry know that in her younger days she was a very active member of UUCA as well as living out her liberal faith through political involvement.

A **memorial service** to celebrate her life will be held at UUCA on Saturday, January 28th at 11am, with a luncheon to follow.

## LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

~ Christine Slocum from the Western New York Coalition for the Homeless ([Christine.slocum@gmail.com](mailto:Christine.slocum@gmail.com))

We need people to help with Code Blue, a low-demand emergency shelter process for shelter-reluctant homeless community members to find refuge from extreme cold. These shelters open when the temperature dips below 15 degrees. All interested people can contact [wnyhomeless@gmail.com](mailto:wnyhomeless@gmail.com)





## U.U.-U.N. NEWS

The main purpose of the United Nations is to eliminate the scourge of war and promote world peace. At the present time, the U.N. can achieve its main purpose only to a limited extent. That is because the human family has not committed itself to universal and complete disarmament under U.N. auspices and the U.N. does not possess an effective system of collective security to keep the peace.

The U.N. does, however, attempt to promote peaceful political solutions to various conflicts. The U.N. employs the political tools of peacekeeping and diplomacy to help all 193 U.N. Member States prevent and resolve all conflicts peacefully and to avert the suffering and destruction of war. In pursuit of these objectives, U.N. peacekeepers, peacemakers and envoys are dispatched to areas of tension around the world to assist in defusing crises and brokering negotiated peace settlements in our interdependent world's various conflicts. Civilian-led "political missions" are also deployed throughout our interdependent world with mandates to encourage dialogue and cooperation among all 193 U.N. Member States.

The work of the United Nations to foster credible democratic elections around the world also contributes directly to efforts to promote peace and prevent conflicts. Underlying the work of the U.N. in all these areas is the belief that political, economic, social and cultural issues are at the root of most conflicts, and thus political solutions are required to resolve them.

Rational dialogue and compromise are a better alternative than unnecessary violence, destruction, and death.

United Nations peacekeeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy have made major contribution to reduction in armed conflicts globally in recent decades. Despite these successes, far too many people live under the shadow of war in our interdependent world. Efforts are ongoing, therefore, to increase the effectiveness of the U.N. in fulfilling and realizing the U.N. Charter. In a word, this means strengthening the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the main means of U.N. peacekeeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy.

With the support of all 193 U.N. Member States, the DPA and DPKO are evolving into more agile instruments of crisis resolution. Nevertheless, world peace will remain elusive until the U.N. possess its own effective system of collective security. Unfortunately, this goal has eluded the United Nations since its creation on 24 October 1945 and at the present moment in human history, no rational person or organization can predict when this goal will be realized. This is a sad state of affairs, but it is unfortunately, the truth.

Here is a basic fact that everyone should keep in mind. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will retire on 31 December 2016. He comes from South Korea. He will be replaced on 1 January 2017 by Antonio Guterres, the U.N.'s new Secretary-General. He comes from Portugal. We should all wish him good luck. He will need it given the current state of international affairs.

*~David Slive, U.N. Envoy*



Memories from our  
December 18th  
Christmas Pageant.

Thanks to all the great  
participants!



**UUCA**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF AMHERST

*we are a welcoming community*