

Issue  
January  
2018

# The Foreword

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

6320 Main Street,  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
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(x101 for office)  
www.uuamherst.org



*To challenge ourselves and the community to foster more compassion and justice in the world.*

## Our Staff:

**Developmental Minister**  
Rev. Michelle Buhite  
(Office).....x102  
minister@uuamherst.org

**Minister Emerita**  
Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

**Interim Director of  
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**Caretaker**  
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 **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.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30am

In the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Unitarian Universalists adopted seven Principles to define and guide our faith. In the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is increasingly clear that our existing Principles are not the last word on who we aspire to be as a people of faith. Earlier in 2017 the organization Black Lives of UU (BLUU) presented a proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle to address racial injustice. “to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.” This month we will address racism in programming across the ages. ***We will also engage in a month-long shared offering to support the ministry of BLUU, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. This is hard but important work that we can do together.***

### 7 *The Promise & Practice of our Faith*

Rev. Michelle Buhite

The UUA has invited all congregations to participate in a shared commitment to live into a new chapter in the story of our faith – a chapter that acknowledges and seeks to halt patterns of white supremacy at the core of Unitarian Universalism and in our own lives. Let’s begin a new year with a renewed conviction to be and do better

### 14 *TORDA450*

Rev. Michelle Buhite

This January marks the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edict of Torda, also known as the Edict of Toleration, which made Unitarianism an official religion in Transylvania during the reign of King John Sigismund (1568). In a religion that is usually celebrated in decades, let’s look back to some of our deeper roots. ***Bring a pair of shoes or bless the shoes/boots you are wearing as we celebrate a Shoe Communion during the Time for All Ages. (all shoes go back home with you)***

### 21 *The Moral Arc of the Universe*

Racial Justice Ministry Team

Martin Luther King, Jr said, in 1956 at the end of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, “the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” How do we find hope? What would Martin Luther King, Jr. say to us today?

### 28 *The Sum of Us*

Rev. Michelle Buhite

New Member Welcome Sunday

## MINISTER'S CORNER



This month is an important one in the life of this congregation. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the voting membership of UUCA will determine the next steps in ministry and whether to call me as your settled minister or to explore other options. After opportunities for feedback and discussion throughout November and December, I trust that the church has discerned its wishes for the future.

Although I have carefully kept a distance during the various discussion opportunities, I am not neutral to the outcome. You need to know exactly what you are voting for:

As a religious humanist, I am passionate about Unitarian Universalism's commitment to respectful pluralism; and that is at the center of my ministry. I believe in the UUCA covenant to celebrate diversity of thought and unity of spirit.

The years we have spent in developmental ministry have been good ones. Together we have created a covenant to guide our interactions, a mission statement to guide our decisions, and have made progress in integrating the various ages, stages, and theologies represented in the congregation. A process is underway to create a strategic plan to allow the congregation to identify priorities and plan for the future. That's more work than some churches do in decades – and I'm proud of the thoughtfulness with which you have engaged in the process of institutional transformation.

Beyond all of that, we have forged relationships together, creating bonds of trust and goodwill. Those bonds can carry us into a future together or to a decision to close this ministry and depart as friends. That is the decision that we will make at the end of this month -- a decision that is equal parts heart and head.

This vote is not just about my continued employment, or the church's avoiding another round of transition ministry. You are voting for the possibility of an extended future together – a future that includes a shared sense of direction. The nature and terms of our relationship together will change in significant ways as a result of this process.

I trust you. I trust the process. UUCA is a beacon of reason and hope in the community, and you will continue to live into that mission, whatever you choose as your future.

With care,  
Rev. Michelle ([minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org); 716-634-3010, ext 102)



### **SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING AND VOTE**

Congregation Meeting on **Sunday Jan. 28th at noon** in the Chapel.

We will vote on calling Rev. Michelle to settled ministry.

We will vote on reduction of the number of members on the Board of Trustees

**Can you vote?** You will be qualified to vote if you

- a) signed the membership book (before 11-29-2017),
- b) made a recorded financial contribution to the church in 2016-17 (waived for new/returning members), **and**
- c) either made a recorded financial contribution to the church **or** pledged to make a financial contribution to the church in 2017-18.

A list of all voting members will be posted in church well in advance of the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Hella Jacob, Board Chair.

Our bylaws do not allow absentee voting.

## Special Congregational Meeting

The Board of Trustees is calling a special congregational meeting on **January 28, 2018** at noon. There will be two issues voted on at this meeting:

1. **Whether to call the Rev. Michelle Buhite as our settled minister.** A settled minister's "call" comes from the congregation as a whole. Rev. Michelle has been serving our church as a developmental minister since the summer of 2015.  
Our bylaws state in ARTICLE IX. MINISTRY Section B.: "The minister shall be elected by secret ballot at a meeting of the corporation by an eighty-five percent vote of the members present and voting. He/she shall have indefinite tenure until duly severed by resignation, death, or dismissal."
2. **Reducing the size of our Board of Trustees from 9 to 7.** This would constitute a Bylaws change as per ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS Section A of our Bylaws: "This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the congregation provided that notice and explanation of the proposed amendment is included in the notice of the meeting at which such action is to be taken."

| Existing language  | Proposed change   |
|--|---|
| <p>ARTICLE V. MEETINGS Section A.<br/>The annual meeting shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Elect three (3) trustees for three (3) year terms</i></li> <li>2) Elect three (3) members of the nominating committee;</li> <li>3) <i>Elect one (1) trustee to fill each vacancy for its unexpired term on the Board of Trustees;</i></li> <li>4) Elect one (1) trustee for each new term or vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust;</li> <li>5) Transact such other business as may be properly brought before it.</li> </ol>  | <p>The annual meeting shall :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Elect trustees for three (3) year terms as needed to replace trustees whose terms have expired and fill vacancies with unexpired terms;</i></li> <li>2) Elect three (3) members of the nominating committee;</li> <li>3) Elect one (1) trustee for each new term or vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust;</li> <li>4) Transact such other business as may be properly brought before it .</li> </ol>   |
| <p>ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES<br/>Section B.<br/>The Board of Trustees shall consist of <i>nine (9)</i> members. <i>At each annual meeting three (3) trustees shall be elected for three (3) year terms, and trustees shall be elected to fill vacancies for any unexpired terms .</i></p>  | <p>Section B.<br/>The Board of Trustees shall consist of <i>seven (7)</i> members.</p>  |
| <p>Section K.<br/><i>Six</i> voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, <i>except during July and August when five shall suffice.</i></p>  | <p><i>Four</i> voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.</p>   |
| <p>ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section C.<br/>No later than the first day in April of each year, the nominating committee shall submit to the Board of Trustees a slate consisting of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>At least three (3) candidates for the three (3) year terms on the Board of Trustees</i></li> <li>2) At least three (3) candidates for the succeeding nominating committee;</li> <li>3) <i>At least one (1) candidate for each vacancy for its unexpired term occurring on the Board of Trustees.</i></li> <li>4) At least one (1) candidate for each new term or vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust.</li> </ol> | <p>No later than the first day in April of each year, the nominating committee shall submit to the Board of Trustees a slate consisting of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>a sufficient number of candidates for three (3) year terms on the Board of Trustees as needed due to expired terms, as well as at least one (1) candidate for each vacancy for its unexpired term on the Board of Trustees.</i></li> <li>2) At least three (3) candidates for the succeeding nominating committee;</li> <li>3) At least one (1) candidate for each new term or vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst Endowment Trust</li> </ol> |



## BOARD NOTES:

Fellow Members and Friends—

Let our New Year begin with the warmest of aspirations! I hope you had a chance to rest over the holidays because January will be big month for UUCA!

### 1) Special Congregational Meeting

The Board of Trustees is calling a special meeting on **January 28, 2018** at noon.

There will be two issues voted on at this meeting: 1) whether to call the Rev.

Michelle Buhite as our settled minister and 2) reducing the size of our Board of

Trustees from 9 to 7 (a bylaws change). We had to hold the meeting in the winter to allow sufficient time to act on the outcome of the vote.

Discussion forums: Last month, board members hosted two listening sessions, where congregants could voice their opinions and concerns and have their questions about the upcoming vote answered. We want everyone to understand the process and the options clearly. We will be hosting one more such open forum on Saturday, January 27 at 10am.

The Board recommends reducing the size of our governing board for the following reasons:

- A group of seven is as effective as a larger group in making sound decisions (if not more so).
- A significant number of UU churches have already reduced their boards to seven or fewer (among them the UU Church of Buffalo), and have been very pleased with their effectiveness. (More information is available upon request.)
- A smaller board size is less taxing on limited volunteer resources; it frees up two people to take on much-needed leadership roles elsewhere in the church.

More information on the scope of the special meeting can be found on pages 2&3. Childcare will be available. We plan to offer a heartier coffee hour that day—if you can contribute a pot of chili or soup (or something else), please let me know.

### 2) Town Hall meeting

All budget requests for the next fiscal year are due January 5 (if you need the form, please contact me). On **January 11** at 7pm, we will hold a church-wide meeting, at which each committee has the opportunity to communicate the activities they have planned for the next year and how they align with our congregational mission. This input will give us a basis for kicking off our annual pledge drive, which will continue through March.

### 3) Social Justice Opportunity for us with UU churches across the nation

January will offer the opportunity for our congregation to participate in the *Promise and Practice of Our Faith for BLUU* Campaign (which runs from November through February). You can read about what that entails in greater detail on pages 12&13. It is my hope that you will choose to join me and others at this extraordinary moment in our denomination's (and nation's) history!

### 4) Strategic Planning Kick-off

UUCA has is contracting with *City of Light Consulting* to facilitate our Strategic Planning Process. Now that the Board and the task force have done the needed preliminary work, it will be *everyone's* turn to participate and make it a success! For more details, see page 8

### 5) Opportunities to serve—we need you!

- By the middle of January we will have assembled the team that will be charged with identifying a new Director of Faith Development (since Karen LoBracco's non-renewable contract expires soon). If you are approached to be a part of the **search committee**, please consider carefully whether you can serve in this capacity.
- Please also consider being one of people on the **pledge drive** team this year. A church canvass might not immediately sound like fun but what could be more important than ensuring we can afford to "do church" the way we envision next year? Perhaps you have people skills, finance skills,

organizing skills, or just plain enthusiasm to contribute. And while you only commit for a couple of months, your work will have a lasting impact for the rest of the year!

- Lastly, please give some thought to whether *your* ministry for the church is to serve on the **Board of Trustees** next year. It is the trustees' responsibility and duty to safeguard and promote the well-being and progress of the corporate body. Do you care deeply about whether our church thrives? Are you an active participant in the life of the church who attends Sunday worship services and other programming on a regular basis? Do you enjoy brainstorming and problem-solving? Are you a team player who is willing to consider others' opinions, and yet also speak your own truth? Are you curious to develop a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism, while at the same time honing your leadership skills? Serving on the board is a significant time commitment, but also a very rewarding experience. To learn more, please approach a member of the Board of Trustees or the Nominating Committee. Applications will be due in February.

January is a time of new beginnings, and with it comes a time of reflection and promises. I hope 2018 will indeed prove to be a year that brings us many blessings, and that you will make it so. I will see you in church. :)

~ Hella Jacob, Chair, on behalf of the UUCA Board of Trustees  
(Gemma Lanthier, Angela Warren, Anne Hibbert, Carolyn Evans, Mark Hitchcock, Steve Kemp, Randy Kent, and David Kofke)



#### **Tapestry Project Update**

Symbols are powerful. The symbol that comes to mind for this congregation is that of a tapestry; many separate threads that, woven together, create something beautiful and larger than any individual could be. Pam Kent, our amazing resident fiber artist, is weaving a tapestry with contributions of yarn, ribbons, and strips of fabric from the congregation. **We're taking a break this month. We will resume in February with BLUE.**



On December 6th, the Black Lives Matter sign at our church was vandalized. The sign has been cleaned, but will need to be partially replaced when the weather warms up in the spring. We have received several letters of support, most recently from the UU Church of Buffalo downtown (on the church life bulletin board, if you wish to check it out). This event showed us just how much work there is to do in our conversations about race and justice. We've launched a crowdfunder, raising money to support community dialogue and awareness raising. Please show your support here.

<https://www.givegab.com/campaigns/responding-to-black-lives-matter-sign-vandalism>

### **NOMINATIONS FOR THE UUCA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The Nominating Committee will be finding talented members to fill spots on the 2018-2019 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, 2018.

To speak to a member of the Nominating Committee, please contact Bruce Becker, Rosalind Sulaiman, Judy Bihl, Randy Kent or Margot Shoemaker.



## Faith Development News

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

### **Moving Toward Bravery**

Infants need to feel safe and secure in order to thrive. Having their needs taken care of by a reliable caregiver is the foundation for emotional health. But in what seems like both a fog of never-ending sleep deprived days and a flash of time, that infant transitions to a brave toddler. We extend out our arms and urge “Come on, you can do it”, and each brave step is a move away from the safe cocoon of maternal womb and parental arms. And it is just the beginning!

At UUCA we are also moving into a brave space. We grew comfortable with the Black Lives Matter sign until someone vandalized it, and now once again we feel a bit vulnerable and exposed. Decisions are required in January about the future leadership and direction of the congregation, and we are called to bravely consider not only what is best for ME but also what is best for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst of the future. And on top of everything else, in January we are encouraged as a congregation to engage in conversations of race and racism.

In Adaptive Leadership we talk about three levels of stress. The Green zone is one of comfort and safe predictability. Here we can get complacent, and not much in the way of personal growth and change takes place. The Red zone is a place of high stress and anxiety. Our mind and body are on alert, it might feel dangerous, and most of us find it difficult to be open to new ideas and strategies. The middle or Yellow zone is where our most creative thinking and productive work happens. Here we leave the Safe Space behind and step into Brave Space. We embrace the inevitability of discomfort in our quest to reexamine assumptions and the way we view the world. It is a place of listening to others with an open heart. It is a time of asking “Wondering Questions”. We notice our reactive and defensive responses, and are brave enough to dig deeper to figure out their source. And it is in the yellow adaptive zone where learning takes place, where we might change our minds and our behavior.

Although it was on my Christmas list this and every year, spiritual growth and maturity, plus upper body strength and aerobic fitness, don’t come wrapped up in neat packages. They are possible only through struggle and doing what doesn’t come easy. And so during this month of January, let’s help each other to enter into brave conversations.

### **Black People Matter – for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade**

For three consecutive Sundays in January (7, 14 and 21) the faith development programming will focus on racism. Through age appropriate activities, we will create Brave Spaces for creating positive social change. Our interim Director of Faith Development Karen LoBracco ([dfd@uuamherst.org](mailto:dfd@uuamherst.org)) is still looking for a few more assistants to work with her on those Sunday mornings. It might be the perfect short term position for you!

### **Senior Youth Outing to *The Great Escape Room***

If you are a 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grader who is part of the Sunday morning OWL or Faith Development program, then you are invited to an evening at the Great Escape Room <https://www.thegreatescaperoom.com/> in downtown Buffalo. Here is what our team is up against: *Locked in a room with one way out, you must search for hidden compartments, secret passageways, and clues to plot your Great Escape. It’s a hybrid scavenger hunt and puzzle game.* After our escape we will go out for food followed by an optional sleepover at the church. Cost is \$15/person plus money for food, with scholarships available. Space is limited, and registration closes January 4, so sign up NOW <http://www.uuamherst.org/youth-event-registration-form/>.

### **Join a Faith Development Team**

“Regular” faith development programming for children and youth resumes January 28, and we have opening for new teaching team members. Commitment is a desire to learn WITH young people once or twice a month. For more details, contact Jeanine Moyer or Karen LoBracco.

### **#1023 Building Bridges between our divisions**

Hats off to Les Buhite and Chris Barry who repurposed material from the former choir risers to make our pulpit area accessible to all – even Mary on a scooter!



## Adult Faith Development

**Women's Afternoon Study Group—Tuesday, January 2, 2018 - 1:30 p.m.** We will read an interview of Terry Gross, presenter of "Fresh Air" on public radio. She had her start at U.B.! Meet in the Living Room.

**Thursday Night Book Club:** is reading "A God That Could Be Real" by Nancy Ellen Abrams. The emerging collective reality of God in our world exists in a new cosmology. Abrams writes as an atheist introduced to a higher power that behooved her to ponder how an idea of God can reflect the present day reality that reason has made available. We are reading part one of the book and will meet again on **January 4th at 7:00pm in the Living Room.** Our Last meeting was a wonderful engagement of many perspectives providing intriguing discussion. Join us.

**Young Adult Meet-up** — A get together for those primarily 18-35 years old. The next date will be **Sunday Jan 7th at noon in the dining room.** If anyone wants to bring in food or a board game, please do. Contact Diane Bofinger.

**Current Events Discussion/Lunch-Tuesday, January 9th - 12:30 p.m. -** Meet in the Emerson Room to have lunch and discuss the events in the news. Always a lively discussion

**Poetry As Practice** —will meet on **Sunday, January 14th at noon in the Reeb Room.** Poems will be presented by Lauraine Marcus.

**Women's Afternoon Study Group—Tuesday, January 23rd - 1:30 p.m. -** Marcia Scott will present a book review of Sonia Sotomayor's autobiography: My Beloved World, chronicling her rise to Supreme Court Justice. Meet in the Living Room.



### Grief Support Group Forming

When you've experienced a loss, it can be comforting to connect with others who understand what it means to grieve. Whether you have lost a loved one or experienced a divorce or other form of separation, your church family is here for you. An initial interest meeting to begin a grief support group is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am.** If you are interested but unable to attend at that time, please respond to Rev. Michelle ([minister@uuamherst.org](mailto:minister@uuamherst.org) or call the church).



**The Choir** is always ready to welcome new singers. The choir sings about once a month during services as well as for special occasions such as our Christmas Eve candlelight service. Choir practice is usually on Sunday morning before the scheduled singing day. Contact Music Director Fran Landis with questions.

## Welcome to our New Members!



On Sunday, 11/26/17, these folks formalized their commitment to UUCA:

Virginia M. Snider, John M. Hague, Joseph P. Cusker, Michael & Anne Clayton, Louise LeDuc, Gail Lang, Christine Boczarska, Faith Pham, Heather Kuhn, James Caleb Collins, Zachary K. McDonald, and Patricia A. Scott.

They join these folks who also signed the membership book in 2017:

Patricia Logan-Greene, Kimmy Martinez, Patrick Walker, Virginia Cody, Katherine R. Czechowski, Nancy Faery, and Liz Miller & Brittany Miller.

**Sunday, Jan. 28th** there will be a New Member Welcome during services.

*Save  
the  
Date!*

### ***New Year = New Directory***

*Photo Directory picture updates—for new members and friends, old members who may have missed it last year, and those who maybe want to change their picture for the 2018 directory.*

***Monday March 12, 2018 from 1-9pm. Sign ups and more details to come.***

*Save the Date!*

A photograph of two hands, palms facing each other, reaching out towards the center. The background is a warm, bokeh light effect.

## Help us Grow

**Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow. Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. You won't need to write checks and prepare envelopes every week. And even when you can't attend services, your electronic contributions will arrive without delay.**

**Visit our website**  
**[www.uuamherst.org/giving-3-2/](http://www.uuamherst.org/giving-3-2/)**



### Chalice Lighters Wanted!

Would you like to light the chalice some Sunday? Sign up in the lobby!



Part-time bookkeeper wanted in the church office. Contact Rev. Michelle for more information .



Nikki Hitchcock

## Strategic Planning Update

Last year we started talking about a strategic planning initiative at the UUCA. We spent a year developing a covenant, another working on a mission statement, and now it was time for a strategic plan. Over the summer, the Board of Trustees asked several members to participate in a strategic planning task force and the three of us replied in the affirmative. After the Board solicited requests for proposals, we evaluated, interviewed, contacted references, and deliberated—together with our BOT liaison, David Kofke—those companies who were interested in helping us develop a strategic plan for the future of our church. The process occurred over a two month period and on December 9th, the committee met and unanimously recommended **City of Light Consulting** to help guide us into our future. Nikki Hitchcock is the founder and lead consultant for *City of Light Consulting*. The BOT approved our choice and letters

were sent. The (very reasonable) cost of this process is funded from the Endowment Trust.

Very soon, you will be seeing surveys, invitations to meetings, and possibly requests for interviews, so that relevant data can be collected. **We earnestly hope all members and friends will enthusiastically participate in this process.** *City of Light Consulting* has begun their work by reviewing our bylaws and recent end-of-year financial statements. We need to move forward in a determined fashion, with a common goal. Strategic planning is a proven method to identify the heart of an organization and can help us reach our goals. You can expect the process to take approximately six months. We can do it!

If you have any questions or concern, please contact any Board Trustee or Strategic Plan Task Force member. ~Barbara Gauger-Kent, Lauraine Marcus, Rosalind Sulaiman; Board Liaison: David Kofke

### A Holiday message from Facilities!

We have been working assiduously for nearly two years, and our project to improve our sacred space is nearing completion. What am I talking about you are wondering? We have studied, we have consulted, we have chosen, and now we have signed a contract to replace the **carpet in the chapel**. The ladies of the décor committee—Pam Kent and Grace Little—have selected a color that coordinates beautifully with the wood & brick and will highlight the ceiling (when we started we took some pictures, one of which is on the home page of the website, and noticed that the ceiling appeared greenish, almost as if there were algae growing on it—the picture is ‘fixed’ by Photoshop, but then carpet looks ‘orangish’ — take a look!). Not only did Pam and Grace select the right color, but they found a vendor who will make a most durable and non-allergenic carpet for us, and they negotiated a good price. The Endowment Trust is graciously funding this effort as a capital improvement.



Creating ADA accessibility to the chancel has long been a goal, which we were able to realize at the same time through the building of a side ramp from the right of the podium. Still a work in progress through December, this project has been spearheaded by Les Buhite and managed by our most able minister Rev. Michelle Buhite, assisted by tremendously capable engineering and carpentry helpers: Bob Wack, Chris Barry, and Joe Rautenstrauch.

Throughout this major project, all the procedures of our church were followed, and board approval and support was obtained. We anticipate installation in January. Thanks once again to all who have worked so diligently to make our sacred space even more beautiful..

~Submitted by Yvonne Stocker - Facilities Manager.

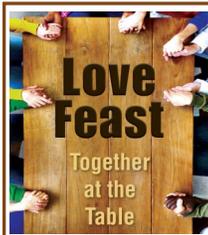


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# JANUARY 2018

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 31   | 1  | 2   | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| <b>FD Mini Session: Black</b><br>9am - OWL Class 7-9th (Bu)<br>10:30am - Church Service<br>12pm - Little Free Pantry (Lu)<br>12pm - Young Adult Meet- (Bu)<br>12:30pm - Bridge Club<br>12:30pm - Transitions Talk-AE (En)<br>7:30pm-AA (LR)  | <b>New Year's Day</b><br>6pm - AA (LR)<br>7:30pm - Buffalo Recorder (Chapel)                                   | 10am - ACOA(LR)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)<br>1:30pm - Caring for One Another (En)<br>1:30pm - AA Women's Study Group (LR)<br>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck<br>7pm - Black Lives Matter (En or LR)<br>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb) | 10am - Grief Support Group (Lu)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>1:30pm - Green Sanctuary (LR)<br>6:30pm - John Newman (FD&LR)<br>7pm - Ministry Council (LR, En) | 12pm - ROMEO's Lunch @ Buffalo Brewery Pub<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>3pm - Voice Lessons (Choir)<br>7pm - Thursday Night Book (LR)                    | <b>Budget Requests due to Finance Committee</b><br>7pm - Cocktails and Conversation | 12pm - set up for auction<br>4pm - Auction Event (Full/Whole First Floor)<br>8pm - Senior Youth Activity (Upstairs)   |
| 7  | 8  | 9   | 10   | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| <b>FD Mini Session: Black</b><br>9am - OWL Class 7-9th (Bu)<br>10:30am - Church Service<br>12pm - Little Free Pantry (Lu)<br>12pm - Young Adult Meet- (Bu)<br>12:30pm - Bridge Club<br>12:30pm - Transitions Talk-AE (En)<br>7:30pm-AA (LR)  | 6pm - AA (LR)<br>7pm - Mankind Project (Reeb)<br>7:15pm - Finance/Facilities (En)<br>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)        | 10am - ACOA(LR)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)<br>12:30pm - Current Events (En)<br>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck<br>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)<br>7pm - Board of Trustees (En)   | 12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>7pm - Membership (Em)   | 12pm - Card Party (AE)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>3pm - Voice Lessons (Choir)<br>6:30pm - Havurah Board (Bu)<br>7pm - Town Hall for Budget (En/Chapel) |   | 1:30pm - set up for private<br>2pm - Slime Making (AE)<br>3pm - Private Party (Em)<br>6pm - Buffalo Belles (LR)   |
| 14   | 15   | 16  | 17   | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| <b>FD Mini Session: Black</b><br>10:30am - Church Service<br>12pm - Poetry as Practice (Reeb)<br>12:30pm - Bridge Club<br>7pm - Board Games with the Board (En)<br>7:30pm - AA (LR)  | <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b><br>6pm - AA (LR)<br>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)<br>7:30pm - Buffalo Recorder (Chapel) | <b>Deadline for Newsletter</b><br>10am - ACOA(LR)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)<br>12:30pm - Women's Lullaby (Lu)<br>5:30pm - Endowment Trust (En)<br>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck<br>7pm - Black Lives Matter (En or LR)      | 12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>6:30pm - John Newman (FD&LR)<br>7pm - Social Justice (DR)   | 12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>3pm - Voice Lessons (Choir)<br>6pm - Love Feast Thursday (En & Chapel)   |   | <b>AA all day meeting ?</b><br>7pm - Music Concert  |
| 21   | 22   | 23  | 24   | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| <b>FD Mini Session: Black</b><br>9am - Faith Development Committee (Whitney/Young)<br>9am - OWL Class 7-9th (Bu)<br>10:30am - Church Service (Whitney/Young/Chapel)<br>12pm - Equal Exchange (En)<br>12:30pm - Bridge Club<br>7:30pm-AA (LR) | 6pm - AA (LR)<br>6pm - Green Sanctuary (En)<br>7pm - Mankind Project (Reeb)<br>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)              | 10am - ACOA(LR)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)<br>1:30pm - Women's Afternoon Study Group (LR)<br>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck<br>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)   | 12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>7pm - Snowbirds (Em)  | 12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>3pm - Voice Lessons (Choir)  |   | 10am - Next Step in Ministry (LR)<br>7pm - Music Concert  |
| 28   | 29   | 30  | 31   | 1   | 2   |   |
| <b>CONGREGATIONAL VOTE</b><br><b>Regular FD resumes</b><br>9am - OWL Class 7-9th (Bu)<br>10:30am - Church Service<br>11:30am - UUUA Settled Minister Vote (Chapel)<br>12pm - Book Club (DR)<br>12:30pm - Bridge Club<br>7:30pm - AA (LR)     | 6pm - AA (LR)<br>7:30pm - ACOA (LR)  | 10am - ACOA(LR)<br>12:15pm - AA (LR, FD wing)<br>1:30pm - Women's Afternoon Study Group (LR)<br>6pm - Blue Mtn. Potluck<br>7pm - Blue Mtn. (Reeb)   | 12:15pm - AA (LR, FD)<br>6:30pm - John Newman (FD&LR)  |   |   | AA = Alcoholic Anonymous<br>AE = Auction Event<br>ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics<br>Bu = Thomas Buffrich<br>Ch = Chapel<br>DR = Dining Room<br>Em = Emerson Room<br>FD = Faith Development Wing<br>LR = Living Room<br>Reeb = Reeb Room<br>SCS = Non-religious sobriety group<br>* = tentative |

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



**Love Feast** The third Thursday of each month is a *Love Feast*, with this month's gathering on **Jan. 18** Soup or chili (always gluten-free and vegan) is provided; feel free to round out the meal with contributions of bread, salad, dessert, etc. No RSVP needed and no cost – just show up! Dinner is at 6pm, followed by Vespers at 6:30 and Drumming at 7:00.

### **Women's Lunch:**

**Tuesday, January 16th - 12:30 p.m.** - Meet in the Emerson Room to have lunch with women from the church. No specific agenda. Just laughing and chatting.

### **Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEOs): Men's lunch**

All men (age not a restriction!) are invited to meet at Buffalo Brew pub for lunch and conversation on Thursday, **January 4th at noon**. Come relax with friends, good food, and good conversation. No agenda—all topics considered! Contact Bob Wack.

## **Upcoming Fall Auction Events**

### **SPRING/ WINTER WEEK IN THE ADIRONDACKS.**

WOW!! A lovely vacation home will be available from now through June 1<sup>st</sup> for one week in the Adirondacks on North River, NY. This house sleeps 6 adults and 4 children (2 Queen, 1 King, and bunk room). No pets; bid winner must occupy the home themselves. (No re-auctioning or re-gifting please). Time of vacation will be mutually agreed upon by the owners and the bid winners. **Donated by Tom & Marsha Langan**

**Value: \$1,000 Minimum Bid: \$750**

### **Presentation on the Transition Movement with Dennis Kazmierczak**

**Date & Time : Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 12:30pm in Emerson Room COST: \$8/person**

### **Card Playing Afternoon**

**Date: Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 12 noon in Emerson Room  
COST: \$10.00 per person, \$30.00 max for families. EIGHT SPOTS LEFT**

### **Learn How to Make Slime!**

**Date: Saturday January 13, 2018 at 2pm in Bulfinch Room  
NUMBER OF OPEN SPOTS: 7 COST: \$8/person or \$20/family**

### **Board Games with the Board!**

**Date: Sunday January 14th, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Emerson Room COST: \$7 a person, \$12 a family**

### **Kindness Rocks Project**

**Saturday, February 10, 9:30 am to Noon, in the Channing Chapel 10 SPOTS LEFT  
COST: \$3 per person; \$10 per family of 4 or more**

### **Faith & Begorrah! St. Patrick's Day Brunch**

**Date: Sunday March 18, 2018 at the Cuskers' home. ONE SPOT LEFT PRICE: \$50**

### **Trivia Night with the Sulaiman Family**

**Date/Time: Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Emerson Room  
COST: \$10/person, or \$25/family**



## SUPPORT BLUU: THE PROMISE AND PRACTICE OF OUR FAITH

Join in the promise and practice of our shared commitment to be a more inclusive, more expansive Unitarian Universalism.

## The Promise and Practice of Our Faith for BLUU

Imagine what our faith would look like if we upheld and centered the perspectives, the voices, and the leadership of Black UUs. The *Promise and the Practice of Our Faith* Campaign is our opportunity to collectively work to amend a long broken promise to the Black Lives within our Association.

You may be aware that the **Black Lives Matter banner** outside our church was vandalized on December 6. Despite the tragic nature of that, it was not unexpected; it just took longer than we thought it would (over one year). The timing seems almost prophetic in its own way. Just in October, we had begun the *Living the Pledge to End Racism* program—a 12-h workshop in which participants make a personal commitment to work on ourselves and with others to address racism in all its forms. Also in October, the Board agreed that our church should

participate in the *Promise and Practice of Our Faith for BLUU* Campaign, which runs from November through February.

**What is BLUU?** Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism is an independent organization, financially sponsored by the UUA, led by an executive director, a community minister, and a volunteer Organizing Collective, which provides ministry for, and by, Black Unitarian Universalists, while also working to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith. BLUU's work differs from past anti-racist efforts within our faith in that BLUU is a Black-led movement, drawing and building upon important work begun in the late 1960s and early 1970s. BLUU and the Organizing Collective are working with Black UUs around the country to design and proclaim how they envision their faith now and in the future. BLUU developed a new way for Black UUs to organize within our faith, known as #BLUUMicro30, in which action making a long-term commitment to dismantling white supremacy, racism and oppression within our congregations, our Association, and beyond. Teams identify manageable 30-day 'mini-actions' to connect justice movement spaces with UU resources and people.

**The *Promise and Practice of Our Faith* Campaign** is intended to bring the issue of Black Lives into individual UU congregations and commit us to action. The commitment to this Promise and Practice is threefold:

1. scheduling at least one worship service around the campaign's themes between November 12, 2017 and February 4, 2018,
2. raising money to support the \$5.3 million financial commitment the UUA has made to BLUU to establish an endowment to do their work and lead the denomination, and
3. making a long-term commitment to dismantling white supremacy, racism and oppression within our congregations, our Association, and beyond.

Rev. Michelle will be preaching on the "Promise and Practice of Our Faith" on **January 7th**.

Secondly, we ask that you join us in connecting our finances with our theological values as we enter a new chapter within our faith. The UUA believes so deeply in this commitment to support BLUU's ministry that it has put forth \$1 million from its endowment. A private party gave a \$1 million gift to encourage and match contributions from congregations. We are asking everyone to contribute throughout the month of January to the Campaign so that we may reach our **goal of \$10 per certified UUCA member** (or \$1,750) for this work—which is the minimum threshold for the match opportunity. We will be giving the entire January 21 plate to the Campaign, but you may give in any collection during January; all checks should be made out to UUCA and have BLUU in the memo line. Hella and I are committing \$100 to this campaign to help reach the \$10 per member goal. We hope others who are able will also rise to this challenge and contribute above and beyond in order to send the message that racism has no place in our community and we are behind BLUU in their work to bring awareness to this issue in the larger community and nation.

Thirdly, for our congregation's long-term commitment, the Board has recently recognized as a permanent committee the UUCA **Racial Justice Ministry** group to replace our short-term Black Lives Matter Taskforce. The first meeting of this new committee will take place on January 3 and is open to anyone. As mentioned above, this committee has already begun to work on programming to make the Promise and Practice of our Faith part of our church work. On January 21, we will be honoring the first cohort of *Living the Pledge to End Racism* graduates, as they sign the banner with the Pledge.

The defacement of our Black Lives Matter sign shows how needed this campaign is for BLUU. The Racial Justice Ministry is spearheading that movement in the church, but it is all our ministry to help bring awareness of white supremacy and help end this scourge on our society. This is our time to be **bold, radical, and transformational** as we commit to nurture a radically inclusive, justice-centered, multi-racial and multi-generational religious faith!

~ Scott Harrigan, on behalf of UUCA's Racial Justice Ministry

## BLACK LIVES MATTER



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AMHERST

"Living the Pledge" is a special workshop led by the Black Lives Matter taskforce & Racial Justice Ministry team. It is intended to help us work through the issues of racism in ourselves and in society. Meetings will be the 1st and 3rd

Tuesdays of the month in Emerson or the Living Room from 7 pm to 9 pm. **January dates are 1/2 & 1/16** Contact Scott Harrigan with questions.

### Equal Exchange

(<https://shop.equalexchange.coop>) Coffee, Chocolate & Tea.



Check out the Equal Exchange table on the third Sunday of the month (Jan. 21st) for fairly traded coffee and to support farmers. If you have a special coffee, tea etc. that you would like to order, contact Eveline Hartz.



**Cocktails and Conversations:** On the first Friday of every month, UUs aged 21+ enjoy each other's company and friendship over cocktails at a local establishment. Locations range anywhere from a dive bar to an upscale place with signature cocktails. Wherever it is, it is a low-key evening where you can connect with friends old and new, relax and be yourself. There is no agenda, just fun. Contact Ivy Yapelli for the location of

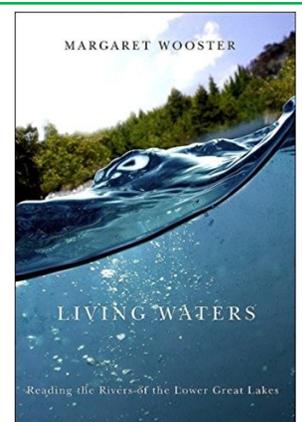
the meet-up on **Friday, Jan. 5th**

### **GREEN SANCTUARY CORNER**

Green Sanctuary Committee has invited Dr. Margaret Wooster (University of Buffalo) to do a presentation on "water" on **Monday Jan 22** in the Emerson Room. There will be a potluck at 6 pm with the talk beginning at 7:00pm.

Check out her book

*Living Waters: Reading the Rivers of the Lower Great Lakes*



# UUCA GET COOKIN'!

With Christine Boczarska & Faith Pham, Caring For One Another Committee

## SWEET POTATO, WHITE BEAN AND PEPPER TIAN

**Tian, (Chinese: "heaven" or "sky") Wade-Giles Romanization t'ien, in indigenous Chinese religion, the supreme power reigning over lesser gods and human beings. The term tian may refer to a deity, to impersonal nature, or to both. (From [britannica.com](http://britannica.com))**

Technically, a **tian** is any casserole cooked in an earthenware vessel by the same name, but these days it almost always refers to some kind of layered vegetable dish that's gratinéed (browned on top) in the oven. ([www.serious-eats.com](http://www.serious-eats.com))



Here's the basic recipe:

Preheat oven to 375°F

Use a heavy shallow 2 1/2 to 3 quart ceramic baking dish

3 medium sweet potatoes, peeled, quartered lengthwise, and slices 1/4 inch thick

1 (14 oz.) can small white beans, rinsed

1 red pepper cut into 1-inch chunks

1 green pepper, cut into 1-inch chunks

1 medium red onion, cut into 2-inch chunks and sections separated

2 plum tomatoes cut into 1 1/2 inch chunks

5 cloves of garlic, thinly sliced

1/2 teaspoon salt, generous seasoning of black pepper

1/3 cup olive oil

Preheat oven to 375. Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and toss well. Pack the mixture into the baking dish and flatten the top. Bake 45 minutes.

Optional: add toasted panko bread crumbs and/or shredded cheese the last five minutes of baking. Adding both makes it really yummy.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Making it Vegan, Vegetarian, Gluten- and/or Dairy Free. (Eveline Hartz)

This recipe is all of the above. For the optional ingredients there are gluten free panko bread crumbs readily available as well as dairy free shredded cheese. ~Enjoy!

### Dementia and Mental Health Lecture Series

Sunday, January 21 at noon: ***Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's Disease : Early Detection Matters*** Lauren Ashburn will explain what Alzheimer's disease is, what dementia is, and what to look out for as far as early signs and symptoms. Her presentation will be followed by Q & A.

Sunday, February 18, noon: ***Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research*** This presentation will focus on risk factors and research in the areas

of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. There will be ample time for Q & A afterwards.

Lauren Ashburn, MSW, is the Director of Respite Services for the Alzheimer's Association of WNY where she oversees social programming for individuals with dementia. Social programs are a vital component to dementia care as they provide individuals living with a diagnosis opportunity to connect with others facing similar difficulties as well as offer much needed socialization. These programs afford caregivers time to relax, re-charge and refresh so they are better able to appropriately care for their loved one. Lauren is also devoted to educating the community about Alzheimer's disease and related dementia's, understanding and responding to difficult behaviors, and planning for safety precautions that are inherent in dementia care. Lauren previously worked as an activities assistant in a long-term care facility for several years where she developed her passion for working with individuals with dementia and their caregivers. She received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Buffalo State College and her Master's of Social Work degree at the University at Buffalo where she specialized in Aging through the Hartford Partnership Program.

## Faith Community Nurse Corner

Eveline Hartz, RN

At the December Caring Committee Meeting **Lauren Ashburn, Director of Respite Services for the Alzheimer's Association of WNY** spoke to us directly about Respite programs that are being held at various churches and community centers. These programs are directed towards people living at home and are meant to give their primary caregiver a break.



Respite provides relief to those who care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Time away from caregiving responsibilities is essential to their own well-being and allows them to refresh and recharge their batteries, reduce caregiver stress and can help ensure that those with Alzheimer's remain "at home as long as possible."

The flexible 4 hour program is held once per month at a date and time of the hosting organization's choosing for a maximum of 15 participants. Individuals are assigned a volunteer who stays with them throughout the time period. All activities are done together. The activities are structured and planned. A lunch/dinner/snack may be provided. The Alzheimer's association provides training, assists with starting a Respite program and remains available for support as needed.

The Caring Committee is currently exploring whether such a program could be started at UUCA. Is there a need? Are there available volunteers? If you are interested, either in participating or volunteering for such a program, please let one of our committee members know your thoughts! Lauren Ashburn will be at UUCA in January 21 and February 18 after Sunday service for presentations on Alzheimer's (see inset, page 14) and to answer questions you may have concerning Respite Programs.

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### **NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS**



January is the month for making resolutions. What are your resolutions for this year? Are you focused on some aspect of the environment or social justice? Have you made self-care a priority?

It is not always necessary to do great things to make lasting change. There is a saying that the beat of a butterfly's wing can be the initiation of a great hurricane. In this manner so can our thoughts/words/actions be pivotal in an avalanche of change. By fixing ourselves, the world – and all of creation – can be set on a course towards healing and wholeness.

Here are some ways you can make your intentions a reality this year:

1. **Write down your intentions and keep them in a visible place**, like taped to your bedroom mirror or the dashboard of your car.
2. **Get to the source of whatever is keeping you in a rut.** Are you in a stressful relationship that causes you to eat a pint of Ben & Jerry's every night? Are you stressed at work and feel too tired to exercise after work? If you don't tackle the root of the behavior, it will be much harder to accomplish your goal.
3. **Be clear about what your life would look like once you achieve your goal.** If you resolve to go to the gym more, how will this benefit you? Get connected to the result of your action, and you will be more likely to stick with your plan.
4. **Share your resolutions with friends and family.** Hold each other accountable for achieving your goals. If you want to go to the gym more, have a friend call you two or three times a week to check on you or invite them to join you.
5. **Reward yourself with every little accomplishment.** If your intention is to lose weight and you lose 1 pound a week, pamper yourself with a massage.
- 6.

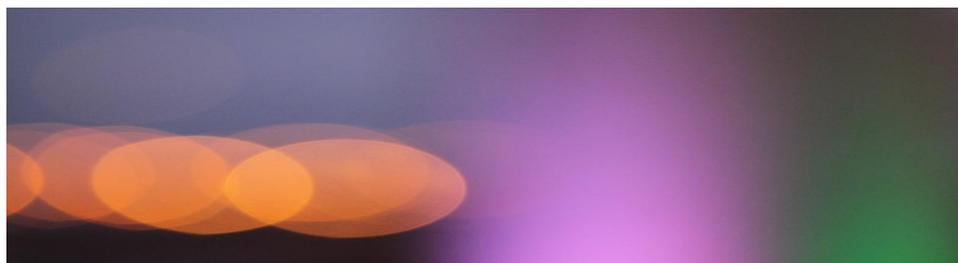
Big changes do not require big leaps. Permanent change is more likely to happen gradually than through one big restrictive plan. Climb the ladder one rung at a time.

Wishes to all for a Joyous, Healthy and Prosperous 2018!

"True life is lived when tiny changes occur."

~ Leo Tolstoy

**“We gather on the cusp of this new year eager to begin anew, hopeful for what lies ahead, promising to make changes, anticipating tomorrows and tomorrows.”** Sylvia L. Howe



**The Endowment Trust thanks you for supporting the future of the UUCA.**

## **TOWN HALL MEETING**

On **Jan. 11, 2018**, a **Town Hall Meeting will take place** at 7pm in the Emerson Room to discuss budget requests and proposes for 2018-2019 fiscal year.

As the **Faith Development Committee** has been considering the future, we have noticed that opportunities for adult faith development are currently lacking due to an inadequate level of support. In part because of this, we are recommending that the UUCA move to hiring a full-time Director of Faith Development for 2018-19 and going forward, rather than keeping the position at half-time. This will allow us to not only offer more adult faith development programs, but also will enrich the current children and youth programs. Please come to the **Jan. 11 Town Hall** learn more about this need and to participate in the conversation.

~Jeanine Moyer, Chair, Faith Development Committee

### **UUCA Theatre Lovers**

Sunday, February 11, The Jewish Repertory Theatre presents "Rose," starring Tina Rausa, a vivid portrait of a feisty Jewish woman, and a reminder of events that shaped the 20th century. We'll attend the 2 pm production, then go to dinner at Lebro's Restaurant. Discount ticket order forms will be posted on the Church Life bulletin board in early 2018. Contact Marie Evans with questions.



Thank you from Jeanine Moyer and the Faith Development Committee to everyone who participated in December with the Angel Tree for our neighbors at Gateway Longview.



If you need help, Hearts and Hands: Faith In Action may be able to help you at no charge, regardless of age, income, race or religion. Just call Hearts and Hands: Faith In Action at (716) 406-8311.

Volunteers are needed to provide transportation and support for older and physically-challenged adults. Volunteers can choose to do the activities that they feel comfortable doing. Please call Hearts and Hands: Faith In Action at (716) 406-8311 or visit their website at <https://hnhcares.org>.

Ron Palmere and Eveline Hartz are the liaison volunteers connecting our church with Hearts and Hands. Contact them with questions at [caring@uuamherst.org](mailto:caring@uuamherst.org). Hearts & Hands is a program under the Caring for One Another committee.



**WhaleCoast Alaska 2018** Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2018** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs 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! Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



### Amherst Little Free Food

Pantry : Meetings will resume in January with first meeting on Sunday Jan. 7th at noon in the Living Room. Please contact Maria Ceraulo with questions related to this project.

A look back... Memories from the Holiday Decorating Party in December





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

December 10 was **Human Rights Day**; that is because the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly on 10 December 1948 in Paris, France. U.N. Headquarters in New York City was not finished until 1952. The Commission on Human Rights began its work in January 1947 under the chairpersonship of Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962). In thirty Articles, the Declaration sets forth basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, to which all human beings are entitled to everywhere in the world without any discrimination. 2017 was the sixty-ninth anniversary of the Declaration's adoption.

The United Nations' General Assembly has proclaimed the Universal Declaration as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations." No U.N. Member State has a perfect human rights record, but all 193 U.N. Member States should aspire to realize the Declaration's thirty Articles.

The U.N. has also adopted two Covenants to formally implement the Universal Declaration: the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. No U. N. Member State has currently formally adopted and implement both of these Covenants. That remains to be achieved in the future, but it is imperative that the adoption and implementation of both these two

Covenants by all 193 U. N. Member States occur as quickly as possible.

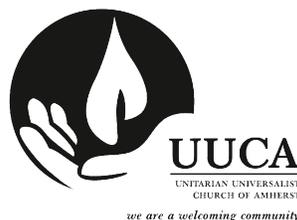
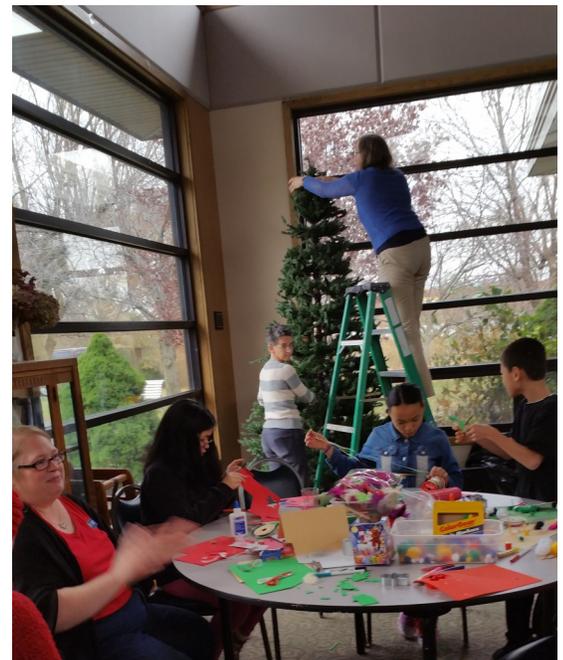
Both the United Nations' Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights categorically state that the realization of human rights is essential for the promotion and maintenance of world peace. Therefore, on Human Rights Day (10 December), every U.N. Member State and person should resolve to implement the Universal Declaration's thirty Articles. This will begin the process of leading our troubled, interdependent world in a much more constructive direction. In too many parts of the world, there are flagrant human rights violations and these must be eliminated if world peace is to prevail in the future.

Implementing the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights throughout our interdependent world may be a daunting task, but it is not an insurmountable one and should evoke humanity's foremost efforts. At the present moment in human history, there is nothing more important than the human family achieving and maintaining world peace. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its thirty Articles should, therefore be implemented throughout our interdependent world in order to promote world peace and human betterment. The international clock of doom is ticking. There is no time to lose if the extinction of the human family is to be averted.

*~David Slive, U.N. Envoy*



More memories from the Holiday Decorating Party in December



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