

Issue
March
2017

The Foreword

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

6320 Main Street,
Williamsville, NY 14221
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www.uuamherst.org

Our Leadership:

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Ministerial Intern

Rev. Lisa Peterangelo
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Office Hours:
9:00am until 2:00pm,
Tuesday to Friday



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH AT 10:30AM

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Stone Soup

Rev. Michelle Buhite

This is the culmination of our annual stewardship campaign; come celebrate how each of us contributes to the life and ministries of this congregation.

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Women's Lives Matter

Rev. Michelle Buhite

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A House for Hope

Rev. Michelle Buhite

How can we live up to the promise of our progressive religion for the 21st century? Based on the book with the same title by John A. Buehrens and Rebecca Parker.

Once Upon a Time: Children's Lives Matter

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Rev. Lisa Peterangelo

It has always been a daunting task to raise children in a conflict-filled world. How do we do it today? Let's think about the skill set that children need to be successful just to get through childhood! Let's reflect on what the children teach us as they journey through our lives.

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

This month we are considering the topic of Wholeness. As I meditated on what to write in this column, I rediscovered a hymn I wrote to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Beethoven). I share with you here, "Elusive Wholeness."

On the path from here to wholeness,
never present to the now,
wholeness as elusive conquest
if we could just reason how.
'Though our hearts be softly breaking,
we will ever 'soldier on.'
We must lead the weary forward
through dark night to bitter dawn.

Spirit, lead us on a new way,
help us share the heavy load.
As we rise to greet the new day
Off in distance shines the goal.
There's no hurry, we will get there,
what's at stake – our very soul.
Though the journey last our lifetime,
help each one to be made whole.

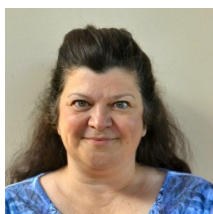
See you in church,
Rev. Michelle

(Rev. Michelle will be out of town March 21-25)



THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped to make the drama event, *Mark Twain's The Diaries of Adam and Eve* such a success! We raised \$570 to help UUCA folks attend Summer Institute in July! Also, our Loose Change Offering (2/12) raised over \$100!!! Great work, y'all!



Letter from Lisa

This month Rev. Michelle and I are starting a new small group ministry and we would like to invite other women to join us on it. We are developing a journey program entitled "*Sister Circle*" that supports women in their quest for inner peace and empowerment. Empowerment is a choice, but once that choice is made it is accomplished through support from others; sisters united for the sole purpose of lifting each other up and witnessing the growth and joy that comes from togetherness. Please contact Rev. Lisa or Rev. Michelle to begin the journey.



UUCA Mission Statement

The draft Mission Statement that arose out of a workshop in September that was attended by 30% of those who actively participate in the life of UUCA is:
To challenge ourselves and the community to foster more compassion and justice in the world.

Several folks participated in the two discussion sessions held during January. This month there will be 'virtual' discussion happening on the Art Wall in the Chapel – check it out!



Faith Development

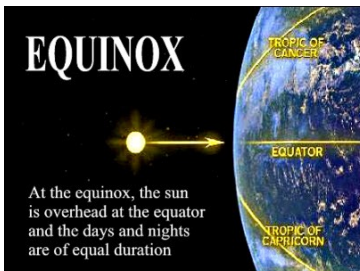
Karen LoBracco, Interim Director of Faith Development

The Toddlers are Happy to welcome Kimmy Martinez and Jackie Senders as Nursery volunteers! And Karen LoBracco is happy to welcome Anne Hibbert as Nursery Assistant Scheduling Coordinator! And there are plenty of opportunities for you too to be happy playing with our delightful little ones! To find out more talk to Anne Hibbert or Karen LoBracco (dfd@uuamherst.org).

Iron Needed – The Spirit Play group has fusible plastic beads to fashion into original designs, but is lacking an iron to make it all work! If you have an old iron – nothing fancy needed – please bring it to the Faith Development office and we will put it to good use.

Senior High Youth are a forward thinking group. In January they voted to make Valentines for patients at our local VA Hospital – a much appreciated gesture. You may notice them sitting together in worship – paying attention to all the interwoven parts as they prepare for Youth Sunday in June. And our fingers are crossed that registration will be sufficient to host the March 3-5 Peer Chaplain Training for youth and supportive adults from all over the region – in addition to our caring high school youth. Check out our website for more information: <http://www.uuamherst.org/events/peer-chaplain-training/>

Interim Director of Faith Development is traveling to Nicaragua with the UU College of Social Justice and Equal Exchange on a justice learning trip. Karen will be taking vacation leave February 17-27. If something cannot wait until she returns to her office on February 28, please contact a member of the Faith Development Committee or Rev. Michelle.



Equinox Celebration

The sixth Source that informs Unitarian Universalism is the spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. Come and celebrate one of Earth's holy days, the Vernal Equinox: **Friday, March 17** (7pm, Chapel) and find the balance in your life.

Stewardship Campaign: Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to the “Soar into the Future on the Good Ship Stewardship” Campaign! There is still time to get your pledge card into the pledge box or call the office with your pledge information (634-3010). Sunday, March 5th is Stone Soup Sunday. Bring a dish to share with your fellow UU's after church. All are welcome (even if you forget to bring something to share) to join in the celebration!



TAKE ACTION!

The latest addition to the home page of our website is a Take Action Quick Link on the right hand side. Clicking on that button will bring you to a page that connects you to notifications from Green Sanctuary and Social Justice about hot issues needing immediate action. These will change often. In addition, there are links to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Western New York Peace Center & Voice Buffalo (Contact the office or a member of the Website Crew with suggestions/questions).



Photo Directory and Free Portraits!

Thank you to all the families who came out & had their pictures taken. We had a great turnout! Each family who participated will receive a free photo directory and free 8"x 10" portrait. Photos and Directories should be here by the beginning of April—Stay tuned!

Thank you also to the set up and clean up crew, the phone committee, the entire caring for one another committee, and the hostess team for helping make the event run so smoothly. It couldn't have happened with out you!



Share The Plate

One of the ways that UUCA lives its mission of fostering more compassion and justice in the world is by supporting groups and agencies that are doing the work of social justice. This month we will offer our support to **Gerard Place**, a Transitional Shelter for homeless families (<https://gerardplace.org/>), in a share-the-plate offering on Sunday, March 19. All undesignated cash and all checks made to UUCA with "Gerard" in the memo line will be collected and sent to Gerard Place to support the important work they do in the community. Please share as generously as you are able. Thank you.

Thank You



for your Kindness

" My sincere thank you to The Caring Committee and friends at the UUCA for your kind cards, rides, dinners and thoughts & prayers. Your kindness has gotten me through a difficult time in my life. I thank you with all my heart."

~ Darlene Digati



Been to the bathroom lately? You may have noticed new paper towel dispensers in the downstairs bathrooms. Due to efforts by our Green Sanctuary committee, the UUCA has updated its bathroom paper towels and toilet tissue. We now use recycled products that are unbleached (just de-inked using a high heat and steam process) and thus better for the environment. We have also replaced the center pull paper towels with hands-free mechanical dispensers to generate less waste. Little steps for a greener Earth. For more information, see <http://www.vondrehle.com/> and <https://marcalpaper.com/learn/recycling-process> or contact Bunny Malone on the Green Sanctuary committee.



GREEN TIPS:

DRIED LATEX PAINT CAN BE TOSSED IN THE TRASH- Usually cans of paint 1/2 full or less can be dried out with kitty litter, scooped out and cans set out for trash . Cans of latex pain 1/2 full or more can be donated to a building project or for a fee Hazman will accept. Visit <http://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-pain/>

~ Pat Burke for Green Sanctuary Committee



Adult Faith Development

Adult Faith Development has several programs to offer over the next month.
All are welcome!

February 28th - 1:30 p.m. - Women's Afternoon Study Group:

Meet in the Living Room to read and discuss an article from Marie E. about the florist shop at the center of a controversy about gay rights. Very interesting and timely.

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

March 7th - 1:30 p.m. - Women's Afternoon Study Group: As part of women's History Month, meet in the Living Room today to read a short biography of Sarah Grimky, a 19th century Unitarian activist against slavery and for women's rights.

Friday, March. 10 – 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”. (Note the date change from March 3, advertised last month.)

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

Thursday, March 16: Love Feast Thursdays

Third Thursday of each month! This month during Vespers, we will consider what it would mean to reclaim the traditional Communion in a UU context. All are welcome.

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

Sunday, March 19 - Three Spiritual Cinema Short Films, followed by discussion; 9:15 AM, Living Room. This month, we will show 1) “Chasing Daycare”, which could be subtitled “Don't Mess with an Expectant Mom”; 2) “Mother Earth” about “an inspiring artist, Louise Pentz, “who found her real calling late in life and now dedicates all her artistry and passion to it”; and 3) “Albertine” whose main character by that name “illustrates for all of us that it's never too late (and you're never too old) to find love or face your fears of opening up your heart again”.

March 28th - 1:30 p.m. - Women's Afternoon Study Group: We will continue our discussion of women who persevered (!). This week we will talk about Mother Jones, an Irish immigrant, who worked tirelessly for worker's rights and worker's unions. She is the namesake of the magazine published today. A truly remarkable woman. There will be a brief summary of her life available at the meeting.

Sunday, April 2 - Ted Talk - “Because I Said I Would” (17 min) by Alex Sheen, founder of a social movement about making and keeping promises, using a “promise card” that went viral on social media.

If you have any questions, contact Lauraine Marcus or Diane Bofinger



BOARD NOTES:

Hi again, from your Board of Trustees.

The effort to discover our *UUCA Vision and Mission* is continuing. Please speak or write to Rev Michelle or

myself with any questions or ideas or concerns. Remember your participation in the process is essential to our defining our mission well.

Black Lives Matter the new curriculum is starting and all who can should participate however they can – education is the key to bigotry reduction and eventually elimination. From the feedback I have received many of you are thinking about the issues and considering actions you might take

The Network of Religious Communities (NRC) met for their Annual Meeting February 9 at the Jaffarya Muslim Center, when it was officially announced that Maria Ceraulo will receive the grant in support of *Little Free Pantry*. Please consider helping Maria in this interfaith effort (with our sister congregation – Havurah.) Many hands make light work!!

Thanks once more to Bunny and her elves who have organized the 'green' paper products for the washrooms and kitchen. If you look at the towels and toilet tissue – it doesn't look green nor is it white but it is all recycled office paper which is deinked without the use of nasty, harsh chemicals – just steam, and the toilet tissue is soft too!

The picture sessions for *our directory* will be completed by the end of February. Thanks to all who have participated.

The *new phone system* is being installed – so we will have a real phone system in a few days – Jaime will no longer have to run up and down stairs to relay messages. More about this next month.

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

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

Nominations for the UUCA Board of Trustees

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

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

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

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

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



Choir Notes

Choir will sing in worship on 3/12. If you would like to sing, please contact Fran Landis so she can prepare accordingly. Rehearsals are Sundays at 9:30am unless otherwise noted: 3/5 and 3/12.



Warm Welcome to New Members
and Their Families:

Liz Miller

Nancy Faery

Katherine Czechowski

Please take time to have a conversation with them and include them in our various activities.



Potluck

In-home Suppers Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6 pm

Potluck Suppers.

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

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

Look for sign-up sheets at the welcome desk . You can also register by calling Lauraine Marcus or Jackie Senders. RSVP by March 5th NOON



“Baking for Dollars”

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

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



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

Donation: \$12 per person

Maximum participants: 8 –10

Contact: Marie Evans



UUCA Green Sanctuary committee presents:

DO THE MATH with Bill McKibben

Monday, March 27, 2017 in the Emerson Room

6:00 pm Potluck

7:00 Film

As much as we would love to have Bill McKibben come to speak to us at UUCA about climate change, the second best option is to watch this 44 minute film. **Dr. David Kowalski** (<http://renewnrg.blogspot.com>) will lead the discussion and field questions after the film.

From the website (<http://math.350.org>):

To grasp the seriousness of the climate crisis, you just need to do a little math. Fossil fuel corporations have 5 times more oil and coal and gas in known reserves than climate scientists think is safe to burn. We have to keep 80% of their fossil fuels underground to keep the earth in livable shape. Here are the three numbers you shouldn't forget:

2 degrees— Almost every government in the world has agreed that any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe. We have already raised the temperature .8°C, and that has caused far more damage than most scientists expected. A third of summer sea ice in the Arctic is gone, the oceans are 30 percent more acidic, and since warm air holds more water vapor than cold, the climate dice are loaded for both devastating floods and drought.

565 gigatons — Scientists estimate that humans can pour roughly 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and still have some reasonable hope of staying below two degrees. Computer models calculate that even if we stopped increasing CO₂ levels now, the temperature would still rise another 0.8 degrees above the 0.8 we've already warmed, which means that we're already 3/4s of the way to the 2 degree target.

2,795 gigatons — The Carbon Tracker Initiative, a team of London financial analysts and environmentalists, estimates that proven coal, oil, and gas reserves of the fossil-fuel companies, and the countries (think Venezuela or Kuwait) that act like fossil-fuel companies, equals about 2,795 gigatons of CO₂, or five times the amount we can release to maintain 2 degrees of warming.

Fossil fuel companies are planning to burn it all — unless we rise up to stop them. In November 2012, Bill McKibben and 350.org hit the road to build a movement strong enough to change the terrifying math of the climate crisis. The Do the Math Tour was a massive success, with sold out shows in every corner of the country.

The USA tour is now over, but the campaign it launched is just getting started and the tour has gone global.

[Join the Fossil Free Divestment Movement at www.GoFossilFree.org](http://www.GoFossilFree.org)

David Kowalski, PhD, is a retired research scientist and environmental advocate. He serves on the planning committee of the Climate Justice Coalition. Dr. Kowalski is a member of the Buffalo-Niagara Sierra Club's Executive Committee. He runs the blog Re-ENERGIZE Buffalo, which lists environmental events happening around Western New York and focuses on climate change action. David gives talks to interested groups and organizations about fracking and climate change. Read more about David Kowalski at <http://fedgreen.org/climate-change-regional-case-study-david-kowalski/>



Amherst Little Free Food Pantry Meeting Planned

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, March 5** at noon at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst (living room) regarding the Amherst Little Free Food Pantry, a joint venture of UUCA and interested members of Congregation Havurah.

It is official—we have been approved for a grant from the Network of Religious Communities (NRC) to assist with first year costs to initiate the Amherst Little Free Food Pantry in the front of the UUCA grounds in spring/summer, 2017. Modeled after the highly successful little free library concept, this is a grass roots effort to reduce hunger in our community. Basically, the pantry is a wooden box (sizes vary but about 3 feet by 3 feet) on a post dug in the ground and filled with non-perishable and canned food items and basic toiletries (think toothpaste, soap etc.). The box would be outdoors at the front of the property near the UUCA sign. It would be accessible to those in need 24/7, 365 days a year with no questions asked, no residency

requirements and no forms to fill out. Users can be low income families with children, the working poor, the unemployed, disabled residents, seniors, low income individuals with a chronic illness, teens at risk, college students, recent immigrants and refugees, the mentally ill and the homeless.

Don't think there is hunger in Williamsville? Think again. According to an article in *The Buffalo News*: "Buffalo may be one of the poorest cities in America, but a majority of the region's poor now live in suburbia. Of the 159,000 people in the region living below the poverty line, more than half -- 52 percent --reside in the suburbs of Erie and Niagara counties."

Of course, anyone either from the suburbs or the city who can get to UUCA can access the food in the pantry. Anyone may also donate food to the pantry and we hope to engage the community to support our project.

The creator of the first little free pantry said it has been so successful (duplicated nationwide) because it is a relatively easy way to tackle a huge, hopeless problem.

You can help. We need help in conceiving of the box and building it, engaging community support and involvement, securing donated or wholesale food supplies, publicity and marketing, notifying social service agencies, indoor overflow food storage conception and developing a plan for checking and stocking the pantry daily. Interested? Please plan to attend to contribute your ideas, talent and skills to help reduce hunger in our community. Many hands make light work.

For more information or to express interest, please contact Maria Ceraulo

WE WANT YOUR OLD, UNUSED STUFF!

Give your old items a second chance by donating them to the Annual Church Rummage Sale. While spring cleaning, please save any old items in good shape that need a new home. This year's sale will be Friday April 28th and Saturday April 29th. We will be collecting items closer to that time. Contact Pam and Jerry Kent



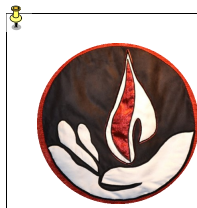


Music Notes with Wendy Scott

The upcoming music events are, most notably, the Hal Walker concert on March 3 at 7:30 PM. His group, "You, You, and Me," will do a CD release concert for the album *Life Wonderful*. Says the Akron Beacon Journal, "He possesses amazing, if sometimes carry-on awesome talents... audaciously interesting music." Free will donation.

On Friday, March 24, a music-themed movie, to be announced, will be shown at 7 PM, with light refreshments; cost \$5 at the door.

The next coffeehouse, on Saturday, April 1, features our friend Kathy Moriarty and the Field Hands, newly expanded from three to four members. Details to be announced in mid-March.



Pathway to UUCA: Come Find out more about UUCA and how you can get connected! Not just for new members-all welcome! Dates and Sign up sheets are in the Church Lobby.

This comes via Jacque Babka:

St. Amelia R. C. Church has an out-reach program which lends medical items such as wheelchairs, walkers and canes free of charge. Contact: 832-2542 from 10 - 3 p.m.



Endowment Trust Update

At the January 2017 meeting, the Endowment Trust Board accepted with regret the resignation of the Nanette Cosby who had been a trustee since 2013. During her term, she had held several officer positions including Chair and Vice Chair and designed an informational brochure about the Endowment. Her financial expertise was truly valued.

Since Nanette's term was to end in 2018, the Endowment reached out to Doreen Park who graciously agreed to serve on the Endowment Trust for the remainder of the term.

Other action that the Endowment Trust took was to move funds invested in the UU Common Endowment Fund (a socially responsible fund) to Parnassus Endeavor Fund (PARWX—also a socially responsible fund) due to PARWX's long superior performance.

If you want to learn more about the Endowment, you can talk to the trustees: Dennis Bihl, Doug Funke, Jerry Kent, Lauraine Marcus and Doreen Park. An Endowment Trust brochure can be found on the pamphlet carousel in the lobby. It provides useful information about legacy giving, as well as about specific details about our Trust.

The Endowment Trust continues to meet quarterly--the next meeting is Tuesday, April 18 at **5:30 pm**. At the meeting, Mr. Angeluci of Angelucci Wealth Management reviews the status of our investments and explains the nuances of risk analysis and prudent investment strategies to assist the trustees in making informed and careful financial decisions on behalf of the Trust.

~Submitted by Lauraine Marcus on behalf of the Endowment Trust Board

Faith Community Nurse Corner

Eveline Hartz, RN BSN

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This past month I have been cleaning out old files, reports, etc. In doing so 2 pages (of more than a few) attracted my attention and went into the "save" pile.

The first is a summation of health in the US. Checking with the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid the numbers (updated 12/6/16) today are even worse:

The US continues to spend more money on healthcare than any other country.

17.8% of our GNP is spent on healthcare or \$9,900 per person!

You would think with all this money spent we would be the healthiest country in the world. Alas.

The US ranks 43 in life expectancy at birth.

A baby in the US is 3x more likely to die in her first year as a baby in Japan or Finland.

Additionally:

Chronic disease accounts for 70% of all deaths in the US

80% of chronic disease is due to lifestyle choice.

According to some resources iatrogenic causes of death (deaths due to medical error or to an adverse reaction to medication or treatment) account for 170,000 - 250,000 deaths. This puts it at the third leading cause of death. Granted this is disputable as it is estimated only about 5% of these cases are actually reported as such. In reality it could be better or even worse.

What does this mean for us? It means we could all become a little more reliant on ourselves to remain healthy by changing lifestyle choices, losing weight, exercising a bit more, eating healthier foods, etc. It also means that rather than relying on pills "for life" more time could be spent on changing habits that created the need for the pills in the first place. One step at a time.

That brings up the next page called the Circle of Life. The Circle of Life is about our primary food. The food we put in our mouth is secondary food. Being in a good place with primary food gives us the willpower, the desire to be able to make changes in our habits of daily living. The Circle of Life has 12 wedges/sections, each of equal importance - hence a circle. To create balance and joy each of these sections must be attended. Where one is lacking the others can not reach their full potential. By working on the wedge most lacking, all the other wedges will benefit. Here they are:



Where do you need the most work?

People sometimes ask why have a health ministry (referred to as a Parish or Faith Community Nurse Program) at church. This is the reason. Well being isn't just having a healthy body or just finding spirituality. Well being is an interweaving of physical, mental, emotional & spiritual health. When we support & uplift each other as individuals and as a community in all four of these aspects then we will live up to our full potential.

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start" ~ Nido Qubein



CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Volunteer Drivers Needed

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

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

The next Caring for One Another meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7th at 3pm in Emerson.

~Ron Palmere & Evelyn Hartz



Are you looking for resources on spiritual or social justice issues? Check out the **UUCA Lending Library** in the glass cabinet on the outside wall of the Emerson Room (our fellowship space)! It's free, and materials are signed out on the "honor system" in the spiral notebook. There are fiction and non-fiction works, mostly books, but some digital items, too. ~Marie Evans

BOOK CLUB

UUCA's informal book club meets the last Sunday of each month. On February 26, we're wrapping up discussion a common read, *ALEXANDER HAMILTON* by Ron Chernow, the book that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to write the hit Broadway musical. At that meeting we'll choose our next reading topic. Often we choose a broad category (such as food, a book that became a movie, or Chinese writers *other than Amy Tan*) and each choose our own book. Other times we pick one title to read together. See Grace Little or Marie Evans to find out our March reading topic. We'll gather on March 26, at noon in the Dining Room. All are welcome to join us, even if you haven't read anything lately!



UUCA Theater Lovers

Jewish Repertory Theatre's final production of the season is "The Great God Pan," will be on stage April 27 - May 21. Watch in mid-March for an announcement of our group outing date for the show and dinner. Discount ticket order forms are in the Theater Lovers folder at the bottom of the Church Life bulletin board in the church lobby. ~Marie Evans

What's Happening at UUCA ?

This Month's Featured Events:



Dominoes Club

After a short recess for the winter, Dominoes club is back in action! We will continue to meet on Mondays at 1:30pm in the Emerson Room. Anyone is welcome to join—no experience necessary. Come learn! Come play!

Contact Eileen McAllister

Bridge Club

Meets almost every Sunday after services in the Emerson Room. All are welcome—we will teach you how to play! Contact JoAnn Shafer for details

ROMEOs Men's lunch

March 2nd at noon—all men are invited to meet at Buffalo Brew pub for lunch and conversation. No agenda—all topics considered! Come relax with friends and good food,

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

On March 3, all those over 21 welcome for a night out! Come gather at the Brick House Tavern + Tap, 4080 Maple Rd, Amherst to relax and unwind with fellow UUs. Contact Ivy Yapelli

Current Events Discussion and Lunch:

March 14th - 12:30 p.m. - Bring your lunch to the Emerson Room and join us in a discussion of the events in the news. We will start with world events and finish with a statement or two from any representatives of church committees who are present.

Women's Lunch:

March 21st - 12:30 p.m. - We will be having lunch together today in the Emerson Room. There is no agenda, just chatting and laughing.



Concert at UUCA!

Friday, March 3 at 7:30pm: Hal Walker in Concert with Friends, an evening sponsored by the UUCA music committee. Freewill offering. Great, uplifting music with a UU vibe! Plan to attend and invite your friends! Contact Wendy Scott with questions or to volunteer with at the reception following the concert.

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

U.U.-U.N. NEWS



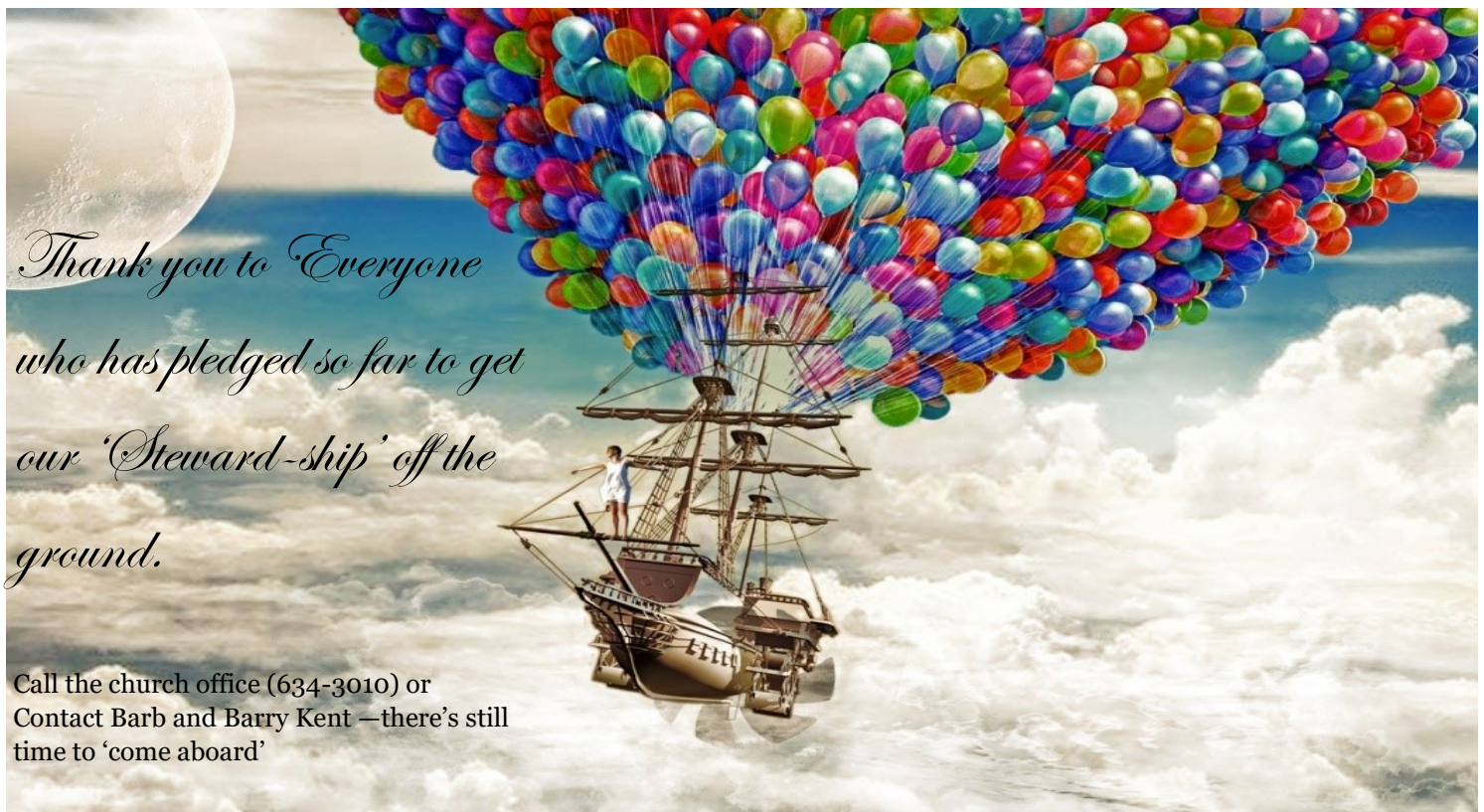
Unfortunately, a sword of Damocles is still hanging over the human family. Human beings are destroying the Earth's ecosystem. Universal disarmament and world peace are distant dreams. The United Nations does not possess the power to keep the peace through an effective system of collective security. All 193 U.N. Member States use the U.N. only when it is compatible with their own foreign policy interests. There are also many flagrant human rights violations throughout our interdependent world. The world's economic system is in a state of perpetual crisis. Most human beings are not capable of thinking critically and independently for themselves. There are also many other intractable problems confronting the human family.

A first-rate education for humanity can help to lead our interdependent world in a more constructive direction. The U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the case for a first-rate education extremely eloquently. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the following: "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace." Unfortunately, most of the world's educational systems promote chauvinistic nationalism and are not committed to Article 26 of the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

During September 2012, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced a Global Education Initiative. Its main purpose is to promote human development, human betterment and world peace. "Education opens doors to the job market, combats inequality, improves maternal health, reduces child mortality, fosters solidarity and promotes environmental stewardship. Education empowers people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to build a better world. Education is a priority for people around the world and it is my priority, too. My new Global Education First Initiative aims to provide all children with a first-rate education now and in the future." The Initiative focuses on three priorities: put every child in school, improve the quality of learning, and foster global citizenship. At present, many young people are being mis-educated throughout our interdependent world or not educated at all. This sad state of affairs must cease if world peace is to prevail. Education is a life-long process. It continues throughout a person's life. Formal schooling is just the beginning.

At the present moment in human history, there is nothing more important than achieving world peace and human betterment. A first-rate education can help achieve these goals. The primary purpose of the United Nations is to eliminate the scourge of war and promote human rights. A first-rate education for the human family can help to implement the U.N. Charter and the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights and thereby promote world peace. This is essential if the human family is to have a future. The United Nations and the human family must act now. There is no time to lose.

~David Slive, U.N. Envoy



*Thank you to Everyone
who has pledged so far to get
our 'Steward-ship' off the
ground.*

Call the church office (634-3010) or
Contact Barb and Barry Kent —there's still
time to 'come aboard'