

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

94 Buffalo Road, East Aurora, NY 14052

(716)652-8664 & (ueeastaurora@gmail.com)

<http://www.ueea.org>

Church Officers:

Board: Keith Owens; Chair, Barbara Brooks,

Steve Kress, Maggie Smith, Mike Hart,

Amy Sheehan, Jeff Maris

Secretary: TBA

Treasurer: Joe Armbrust

Religious Education: Patricia Herold

Newsletter: Charles Wightman <cwytman@verizon.net>.
(716-537-2051)

The mission of this church is to support and encourage:
Personal inspiration for spiritual and intellectual growth,
The active and ongoing search for truth,
The embracing of diversity and freedom of belief,
Outreach and engagement in our neighborhood and community,
A vital and nurturing congregational life for all.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS, SEPTEMBER 2011

<<<See Inside for Program Descriptions>>>

Times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time

September 11; 10:30 AM; "Water Ceremony"

---Barbara Brooks

This is an intergenerational program—there will be no RE today!

September 18; 10:30 AM; "Religious Education"*

10:30 AM; "Stuff: The "Things" We Fill Our Lives with"

---Michelle George

September 25; 10:30 AM; "Religious Education"*

10:30 AM; "Forgiveness"

---Donna Evans-Deyermond

**Note: Young People meet with the Congregation Before Going to their Classes*

CALENDAR

September 12, Monday, 9:30 AM @ Church

September 16, Friday, 10:30 AM @ Church

September 19, Monday, 7 PM @ Church

September 21, Wednesday-----
October 1, Saturday, 9 AM to 3:30 PM @ May Memorial, Syracuse
October 7 & 8, @ UU Church, Binghamton, NY

Sunday Services Committee

Friday Morning Book Club (See Inside)

Board Meeting

October Newsletter Deadline

SLD Leadership Conference (See Inside)

NYS Convention of Universalists

THANKS

"Thank you", to Barb Brooks, Steve Kress and Maggie Smith for planting the spruce tree on the side lawn and for spreading mulch.

Church Membership

People who are interested in joining this church and becoming legal members should make your wishes known and sign the church register. Membership requires knowing what Unitarian Universalism is about and making a financial pledge commitment.

It allows one to vote at congregational meetings and to be considered for Board membership. There will be an opportunity during a future Sunday service for signing the church register. Please make your wishes known to Connie Camnitz at church or by emailing ueeastaurora@gmail.com

Suggestion Box

Interested persons may use the suggestion box at the rear of the sanctuary to show their feelings concerning the programs of the church. Please write up your concerns, anonymously if you wish, and place them in the box. This information will be valuable to the Sunday Services Committee.

Friday Morning Book Club News

The Friday Morning Book club was begun in September 2005 and to date we have read and discussed 30 books. The book club attendees choose titles for the next year at our May meeting, and over time we have selected an eclectic mix of fiction and non-fiction, almost all of which we have appreciated on one level or another. There have been very few ringers! Although UUEA members founded the club, participants do not have to be church members to attend and join in our discussions.

The schedule of books for 2011-2012 was chosen at the May 2011 meeting and is as follows:

September 16, 2011	<i>Unbroken</i> by Lauren Hillenbrand	
November 2011	<i>My Antonia</i> by Willa Cather	
January 2012	<i>The History of White People</i>	by Nell Painter
March 2012	<i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i>	by Muriel Barbery
May 2012	<i>The Woman Behind the New Deal</i>	by Kirsten Downey

CHAUTAQUA INSTITUTION - Ask Joyce Hinshaw about the many speakers she heard this season and topics for 2012. The UU House is now accepting requests for reservations. Go to: www.uufchautauqua.org.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY

The books and audiovisual materials in our church library are available for all church members and friends to circulate. Items can be signed out for a period of 3 weeks at a time. Sign-out procedures are simple and a description of them is located in a plastic frame in the reference area of the library. Suggestions for purchase are always welcome and can be given to me or any member of the Library Committee.

Judi Geer, Church Librarian

Library Committee Members: Sue Marom, P.J. Fraser, Keith Owens, Carol Odle, Dianna Colligan, Maggie Smith

The Smart Church; Excerpts

(from Connie Goodbread, SLD Interim District Executive)

The evolution of Religious Education to Faith Development is happening at all levels of Unitarian Universalism. The issue that comes up in our congregations is the discomfort around the word faith. We have intellectualized education. It is a technical word - void of emotion - something we do for others. We provide an education for those who need it. We have become comfortable with "religious" because of the word "education" - we could ask, "Why are we comfortable with the word religious and uncomfortable with the word faith?" Is it because we think that religious education is teaching about every faith other than our own? Do we think there is nothing to teach about our own faith? If we do not teach Unitarian Universalism who does?

Look these words up in the dictionary and think how you might apply their true meaning to Unitarian Universalism. When I apply these two words to Unitarian Universalism I find them useful in helping me to define our spiritual discipline.

DRILL ANYONE?

Many years ago a group of members of the church spent many hours modifying the old church building on Douglas Lane at Grey Street. At that time we purchased a Milwaukee Hammer Drill that did yeoman service for us. This drill is still owned by the church and may be borrowed by members—contact Russ Utz (655-0126) if you have a need.

The Sunday Meetings

September 11; “Water Ceremony”---Welcome back to our regular Sunday Services. We will celebrate our community and the year ahead. Please bring a small amount of water from your summer travels or symbolic of your summer experiences. We will mingle our waters and share our news, good or bad, focusing on the way we care about each other and our world.

September 18; “Stuff; The Things We Fill Our Lives With”---Why do we keep it, and compile it? How do we organize and/or let go of it? Join me to consider some lessons I’ve learned from housekeeping and moving, and how these “things” are so interconnected to our non-physical space.

September 25; “Forgiveness”---From childhood we learn we need to “forgive others for their trespasses against us”, but as we grow we find how difficult it is to put that phrase into practice. What makes forgiveness so difficult? Why should we forgive? Can we ever forgive and forget? Bring your thoughts to contribute.

Speakers Notes:

Donna Evans-Deyermond has her Masters in Pastoral Ministry from Christ the King Seminary. She has been a regular speaker at the Hamburg UU Church for more than 10 years. She is Communications Director for two nonprofit organizations and is a regular contributor to Buffalo Spree Magazine. On the personal side, she has three grown children, daughters, Nathalie and Blythe and a son, Seth, plus a granddaughter, Skye.

Michelle George has been attending UU Church of Amherst off and on since first grade. Michelle is starting her third year at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School. She has recently been give title of Chaplain and authorized by the UU Church of Amherst to conduct life rituals such as weddings memorials and child dedications.

Social Justice/Social Action

Anyone interested in being part of the Social Justice/Social Action Committee, please contact Maggie Smith or Joyce Hinshaw. We welcome your input on related topics and projects.

“The Climate Reality Project” by Al Gore, to be delivered once per hour, Sept. 14-15, shows the reality of climate change with accounts of extreme weather including floods, droughts and storms. Go to: www.climateproject.org .

Family Promise: Barb Brooks and Maggie Smith recently assisted families at St. Matthias Church of East Aurora. Ask about their experiences and consider volunteering when **St. Matthias hosts again, in October** (date TBA).

FOOD COLLECTION: Please bring in non-perishable, food items and put them in the basket in the sanctuary. (Peanut butter, beans, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, baby food.) Your donations will go to a local food pantry.

FISH of East Aurora accepts clothing donations on Tues. & Thurs. from 9am to noon. For Meals

on Wheels, call 822-2002. Applications for Food Stamps are accepted the first Saturday of each month. Food pantry, clothing, and Social Services are available. **Call FISH Director, Judy Lamb, at 652-7272 for details.**

St. Lawrence District Leadership Conference; Leading at the Edge

Spend a crisp, fall day with leaders from across the St. Lawrence District as we explore new ways of approaching leadership in this exciting, changing world. Rev. Renee Ruchotzke will help us Catch Fire in the Burnt-Over District, and leaders from across the District and the Central East Regional Group will offer workshops to help you lead your congregation in the 21st century. The conference is for the congregation's current and emerging leaders—adults and youth!

The conference will be held on Saturday, October 1, at May Memorial in Syracuse, from 9am to 3:30pm. Please see our brochure or visit sld.uua.org for registration and details. Presented by the Leadership Development Team of the St. Lawrence District.

The cost is \$30 for adults, \$15 for students and childcare is available. See the brochure or online registration for details. Register and pay online at sld.uua.org

Keynote Address: Catching Fire in the Burnt-Over District

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

Two hundred years ago the western part of the St. Lawrence District was a hotbed of religious revivals, theological reinterpretations, heresies, utopian experiments and the birthplace of more than one new religion as the region faced almost continuous change. During that time, and continuing through to today, the Unitarians and the Universalists have held the religious liberal center and offered a radical message of Love – tempered with Reason and grounded in experience – that has outlasted fads and follies. Our keynote speaker will share her vision of how we can better articulate and spread our good news as leaders in our congregations as we prepare for the changes we'll see the next 200 years.

SCHEDULE

A: Adaptive Leadership, Renee Ruchotzke

An overview of a leadership framework that can help you face our toughest challenges: the ones we don't have ready answers for.

B: Growing the Spirit of a Leader, Patricia Hall Infante

This workshop will focus on applying a spiritual maturity lens to the work of leadership along with a variety of tools to facilitate maturational growth in the congregation.

C: Lessons from Breakthrough Congregations, Mark Bernstein

What are the common factors that make congregations BREAKTHROUGH congregations?

D: 21st Century Stewardship, Joan Van Becelaere

Why is it so difficult to talk about money?

E: Building Good Pastoral Care Programs, Phyllis Smith-Hansen

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca has built a successful, joyful and widely supported Care Team.

F: Leading through the Generations, Kimberley Debus

You may be looking around your congregation wondering "who are these people, and why can't I lead them

G: Learning Tools for Building a Multicultural Community, Patricia Hall Infante

Building a truly multicultural faith community requires us to engage all ages in learning opportunities and community experiences that affirm a positive anti-racism, anti-oppression, multicultural (ARAOMC) perspective.

H: Commissioning Lay Leaders, Christina Neilson

Strong lay leadership is a hallmark of our faith tradition.