

Issue

AUGUST 2024

The Foreword



UU AMHERST

*Fostering Justice
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
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Office Hours Tues.—Fri. 9am to 2pm www.uuamherst.org

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Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 AM

Sunday services are continuing as dual platform—both in-person and livestreamed. A link to our YouTube channel, UU Amherst, is available on our website. You can view the recorded service anytime on the channel. Invite friends and family! Remember that coffee hour follows.

Supervised care for children ages 3-18 is available in the Faith Development Room located in the Admin Wing, to the right of the lobby when entering the building. Additionally, there a dedicated quiet room adjoining the Atrium for children and caregivers.

8/4 *Your Smiling Face*

John Snodgrass

The human face is a jumbled mishmash of sensory organs, but it can also be quite pleasant to look at, and can communicate in ways beyond words. Much of our communication today is faceless and voiceless, like text messages and email, and the lack of tone and expression can make it harder to understand what is really being conveyed. So we'll be celebrating the art of in-person conversation.

John is a frequent and popular speaker at UU Amherst. A prolific playwright and author, John teaches religion courses at Canisius University and resides with his family in Buffalo.

8/11 *Poetry as a Spiritual Practice*

Rev. Michelle

What is it about poetry (including song lyrics) that gets right through the clutter of our minds and lands in our soul? Come and find out!

8/18 *Poetry as a Spiritual Practice:Your Turn*

Rev. Michelle

Bring a poem that speaks to your soul (or submit it to minister@uuamherst.org by 8/12) and we'll share in a virtual potluck of mind and soul. No *Epic of Gilgamesh* or its ilk, please. Submissions should be appropriate for a Sunday morning.

8/25 *Walk With Me*

Julie Taylor

When you find yourself lost on a road you've traveled 100 times before, how do you find your way out? Will you wait for the sign that gives you direction? What spiritual practice will help you heal? Come, walk with me, and let's find ourselves. Bio on page 11.

Our 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

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe, but we are beginning our 10th year together! I first came to this congregation in August of 2015 as a Developmental Minister, with a 3-year contract, to join together to do the work of shared ministry. The congregation had been through some bumpy times that had eroded trust in one another and in the possibility of a brighter future.

We spent the first year getting to know one another and s-l-o-w-l-y building trust. We took our time and had deep conversations about what it meant to live together in covenant, and by the end of that program year, we had a congregational covenant that still guides how we interact and understand ourselves as a congregation.

The second year was focused on creating a mission statement. Again, we held meetings and workshops to discern what we felt would be a statement that described UU Amherst, and that would inspire our shared ministry in the community.

In Year Three, we took all we had learned about being in respectful relationship with one another and with a sense of mission, and we hammered out a strategic plan. And I mean, *hammered out*. We enlisted a local organization to help us in the effort, and by the end of the program year, we had a strategic plan (which we actually accomplished!).

It was during that third year that we also decided that we worked pretty well together, and the congregation affirmed that by calling me to be your settled minister in 2018. Since then, we have done some really good work together, weathered some storms, and have worked really hard to make UU Amherst a truly welcoming spiritual home. I am so grateful for all we have done and all that we are visioning for the future.

Always,
Rev. Michelle

Please note: If you are approached at church by someone asking for money, please direct them to Rev. Michelle for assistance from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Contributing to the fund is our shared ministry to help those in need.

Upcoming Staff Vacations in August: Rev. Michelle will be on vacation (inaccessible) August 22nd-31st. The Office will be closed August 19 and 20th. Katie will be out of the office July 20th-August 4th and September 11th-28th.

HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

This is a reminder that if you are experiencing financial hardship, you can reach out to Rev. Michelle, minister@uuamherst.org, for assistance from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This Fund is made possible by the generosity of fellow congregants, and just one more way we demonstrate that no one is alone. We care

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: administrator@uuamherst.org
For Newsletter: by 10:00 am on the 16th
For Website: two weeks prior to event
For All Church list serve: daily during the week.
For Weekly Update: Fridays by 10:00 am

**Administrator/Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

BOARD REPORT

I hope you are enjoying your summer. Your elected Board of Trustees is continuing to meet as it seems there is always some business that needs attention.

The task force for the new boiler project has met with three different HVAC contractors and we are awaiting proposals. We learned different things from them all and have decided that the best place to put the new boiler is in the former coat closet where the pantry used to store their food.

The contractors all agree on that location, and we now must check in with the Town of Amherst Building Dept. to see what requirements must be met in order to obtain the proper permits for construction.

We hope to decide on a plan to bring to the congregation soon. It may be September before we are able to have the congregational meeting to authorize the plan and the spending needed to get it done.

Randy Kent, Board Chair (linrkent@yahoo.com)



Facilities Reminders

Admitting Unknown Visitors: Please be cautious about admitting non-members/unfamiliar visitors to the building. Be sure to ask the nature of their visit and always encourage them to make an appointment if there is someone specific who can assist them. As a precaution, you should not admit unknown individuals to the building who are: not here for a maintenance/ service call; who do not have a pre-arranged appointment; or who are not attending a meeting or event. Also, if they are here for a service call, they should be able to identify themselves in uniform, name of the company, or a business card.

Additionally, if you are a member visiting the church and have not yet met our staff, please understand that you may be asked to identify yourself before you're admitted to the building. Unannounced drop-in visits from unfamiliar members are always treated by the staff with caution. This is a safety measure. It's ALWAYS recommended that you call the office on business days to let staff know that you plan to visit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
New York State Convention of
Universalists

ANNUAL MEETING
October 25 and 26, 2024

Here at UU Amherst!
The Art of Helping—and Being Helped

*Reinvigorating ourselves and our congregations as
we work toward justice, compassion, and equity,*

**Registration information will be available in
August.**

Watch for details on volunteer opportunities!

Contributing to UU Amherst

1. The **Giving** option on the church website (uuamherst.org)
2. A NEW phone app "GivePlus+" for your phone
3. Texting a donation to phone # **833 987 1968**
4. Mailing a check [remember to fill in the Memo]
5. There is the traditional Sunday Plate
6. Don't forget Legacy Giving – in your will

FAITH DEVELOPMENT



“Transformation Board” Day August 18th 12:30pm Murray Meeting Room

Come play arts and crafts for an hour after Sunday service and design your transformation board! We'll have Katherine Horning and Katie Cosgrove facilitating a fun, easy-going activity for people of all ages.

If you're not feeling up to making a transformation board, try out drawing and coloring a creature! Transformation boards are posters of anything you want to transform or grow in your life. The power of manifestation and release through this exercise is something you don't want to miss.

OWL Collaboration with UU Buffalo

UU Amherst will be partnering with UU Buffalo this coming fall to offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for kids in grades Kindergarten-2nd and 4th-6th. OWL is a sexual education initiative for all ages to dismantle stereotypes, build self-esteem, create healthy relationships, improve decision making and potentially save lives. We're beyond thrilled with this partnership and opportunity for children to learn about boundaries, private places, positive messaging about self worth and more. In terms of logistics, the first half of the sessions will take place at UU Buffalo and the second half at UU Amherst. Dates are TBD but the program will be offered during on Sundays service. Have questions? Reach out to Katie, Director of Faith Development, at: dfd@uuamherst.org.

3rd Annual LIVING GREEN FESTIVAL
Saturday, Sept. 28
12:00 to 6:00 PM
Free Admission

Fun for the Whole Family!

Celebrate!
• Bounce House & Folk Dance
• Let's Goat Buffalo (landscaping)
• Animal Rescue Groups

Participate!
• Basket Raffle, Green Café & Rummage Sale
• Walk the Labyrinths (Ecology Center)
• Vendors Row: Non-Profit & For Profit

Educate!
• Hands-on Crafts, Scavenger Hunts
• Native Plants & Composting Tips
• Aeroponic Gardening and more!

UU Amherst
Fostering Justice & Compassion
6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY
Cosponsored by WNY Peace Center
EMAIL: Livinggreen@uuamherst.org

LGF 2024-
UUAmherst.org

*Free raffle ticket for every two canned or boxed goods for Amherst Little Free Pantry



ENDOWMENT TRUST

Articles about the Endowment Trust appear monthly in the *Foreword*, generally focusing on status and actions. However, its history is important.

The Endowment Trust was created in 1989 and in 1994 it became a separate 501c3 organization. The purpose of the trust is to invest and manage gifts and bequest made to the Church by its members and other individuals and entities with the goal to sufficient principal to generate income that may be used to assist the Church in operating and capital expenses.

In 2008, the Endowment Trust created a Legacy Society—getting commitments from Church members to include UU Amherst in their will. This is a project that went dormant and is being reenergized.

However, a more visible representation of supporting the future of UU Amherst is the Endowment Tree that can be found in the Atrium. Since its inception, the Endowment Trust also grew through small donations in memory of a loved one or honorariums. In 2010, the Endowment Tree (crafted by Hinni Martens) became a fixture in the Atrium. Donors' contributions are accumulated and as a specific donation level is reached a different color leaf is added to the tree with their name on it (\$4,500+ yellow, \$2,000 light gold, \$5,000 Bronze, \$10,000 Steel, \$20,000 Gold). Stroll up to Atrium and see if you can find it. This month we added four leaves to the tree: \$2000 Dick Ott; \$500+ Elaine & Joe Cusker, Jayne & Brian Murray, and Gilbert Jordan.

The value of the trust on June 30 was \$1,136,881.85.

The next scheduled meeting for the Endowment has been changed to **Tuesday, Oct. 15** at 6:00 pm in person at UU Amherst, in the Emerson Room. If you are interested in attending our meeting, please let one of the trustees know.

Lauraine Marcus, on behalf of the Endowment Trustees John Thompson, Dian Tucker; Barry Kent, Tammy Kofke

Photos from CERSI

Left: The Groats, Buhites, and Connollys. Right: Eric Groat providing transportation services.



AUGUST 2024 CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: Some meetings are virtual-only; others are dual platform (Zoom and in-person); and some in-person only. See the notation after the meeting. Zoom links for general groups are published in the *Weekly Update* unless they are hosted on a private account. Zoom events taking place in the Zadmin or Zrev rooms are identified with the abbreviation.

Room abbreviations: EM (Emerson Room); LR (Living Room); Bul (Bulfinch-FD Wing); EC (Ecology Center); Murray Meeting Room (MMR)

Friday, August 2nd

7:15 pm: Lammas Bonfire EC

Tuesday, August 6th

12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch EM

Saturday, August 3rd

10:00 am: Lace Guild Meeting BUL

Saturday, August 10th

12:00 pm: Living Green Festival Craft Day & Pizza Party EM

12:30 pm: Eckankar Meeting (rental) LR

Tuesday, August 13th

7:00 pm: Insight Series: Harvesting Compassion

Wednesday, August 14th

7:00 pm: Finance Committee MMR

Thursday, August 15th

2:30 pm: John Rex Talk EM

Sunday, August 18th

12:30 pm: Transformation Boards MMR

Tuesday, August 20th

6:30 pm: Lace Guild Meeting BUL

Wednesday, August 21st

7:00 pm: Board Meeting MMR

Tuesday, August 27th

7:00 pm: Insight Series: Our Water

*Poetry a Practice and the UU Amherst Book Group are on summer hiatus. Look for them to return in September.

RECURRING:

UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions continues M-F 8:30 am.

All "tree" names are for Village groups

Saturdays, August 3rd-31st

7:00 pm: Birch Bunch Zadmin

Sundays, August 4th-25th

9:30 am: Church of the Wild EC

10:30 am: Sunday service—in-person and livestream; coffee hour following

8/18 (3rd Sun)

12:00 pm: Faith Development MMR

Mondays, August 5th-26th

**7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapples Zadmin (weekly)
L. Marcus**

Tuesdays, August 6th-27th

12:30 pm: Women's Group (weekly) Zoom

8/20 (3rd Tue)

7:00 pm: Living Green Fest Meeting Zoom

Wednesdays, August 7th-28th

8/14 (2nd Wed)

1:30 pm: Caring Team Zoom

7:00 pm: Marlana's Covenant Group LR

8/21 (3rd Wed)

1:30 pm: 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group

7:00 pm: Northtowns Village

Thursdays, August 1st-29th

8/1 (1st Thr)

**12:00 pm: Men's Lunch (aka ROMEOS)
(Buffalo Brew Pub)**

**7:00 pm: Living Green Fest Meeting
In-person LR**

Reminder: Groups, please restore rooms before leaving. Return chairs to their places and take any papers (etc) with you or dispose of them properly.

Kitchen Storage: All opened packages must be enclosed in plastic containers or Ziplock bags before placing in cupboards.

Ministry Train Update

All aboard the Ministry Train! Truly, all are welcome to attend the meetings that bring the various areas of ministry together for mutual support, encouragement, and generating new ideas to enhance our connections and live into our mission as a congregation. The next meeting is Saturday, September 14th, 10-12 noon, at church. Our focus will mainly be on the upcoming Living Green Festival, although if time allows, we'll brainstorm a bit about the 2024-25 program year.

Tuesday Women's Group

This month our in-person meeting will be Tuesday, August 6th. We will meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage. Other meeting dates via Zoom are: August 13th, 20th, and 27th. See the Weekly Update for Zoom link and pass code.

Special Presentation: Unitarians in India Illustrated Talk and Conversation

Rev. John Rex (retired)
Thursday, August 15th, 2:30 pm
Emerson Room

An invitation from John Rex: When UU Amherst ordained me in 1995, you probably didn't realize your outreach might extend to India. It has been my honor and privilege to work with three distinct groups in India, two of which call themselves "Unitarians," the third of which qualifies in another way. It's all very complicated. With stories and pictures I'll introduce you to these three very different groups and tell of some of my experiences with them.

Save the Date

Memorial Service for Maria (Ria) Martens
Saturday, September 21st
Late afternoon (details to come)

Coordination of Caretaker Duties—August

Sunday, July 28 - Saturday, August 3 - Barry Kent
Sunday, August 4 - Saturday, August 10 - Don Tucker
Sunday, August 11 - Saturday, August 17 - Dian Tucker
Sunday, August 18 - Saturday, August 24 - Bruce Becker
Sunday, August 25 - Saturday, August 31 - Bob Johnson

MINISTRY & MORE

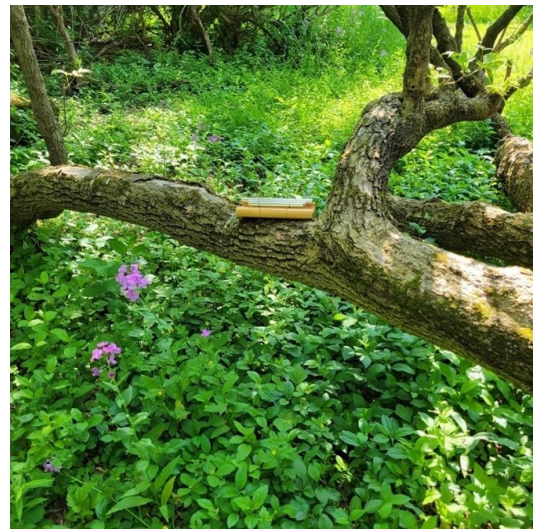
Music at UU Amherst

Choir Call-Out & Rehearsals

If you are a singer in search of a song, join the choir! Regular rehearsals will resume in September. Questions? Contact Linda Delorey (lmscapecod@yahoo.com) (note that the first letter is a lower-case "L") for information.

Instrumentalists Wanted

Do you play an instrument? Would you like to be part of a pick-up ensemble or even a soloist? Great! Contact Rev. Michelle (minister@uuamherst.org).



Church of the Wild Continues on Sundays

Bring a chair, a poem, your wonder of nature. Gather for a brief period of sharing, then go walk the trails or labyrinths or meditate quietly in an area of your choosing. Return for a few moments of shared experiences before moving on with your day—whether it's the morning service or whatever else that calls you. Lauraine Marcus will meet you at the edge of the Ecology Center at 9:25 am, near the basketball court at the back of the parking lot. Church of the Wild is an all weather event (except a torrential downpour).

Did you know that we have a gender-neutral restroom? This private restroom can be found on the second level of the house portion of our building. If you're offering a tour to a newcomer, be sure to mention that we have this accommodation.

UU AMHERST BOOK GROUP

UU Amherst's Book Club meets in the church Library/Living Room at noon on the last Sunday of the month (September through May). We alternate between picking a general TOPIC for the month (for which participants can choose any relevant book they'd like to read), and choosing one "common read" BOOK. All are welcome to attend our meetings, whether or not you've "done the reading."



For September, we will have the rare opportunity to be "first readers" of a new book written by our UU Administrator, Elaine Harrigan. The working title is *Wild Bliss! How Nature Unleashes Our Inner Wisdom and Restores Our Wholeness and Well-being*. Along with being a UU staff member, Elaine is a contributing writer on nature and mindfulness for the Religious Naturalist Association and the story platform, Medium, and is a Certified Intuition Practitioner. She previously self-published a book titled *Seeing Differently* on the theme of mindfulness through nature. A PDF of Part One of the book will be distributed to members and Elaine will join us for the September meeting.

For October, our TOPIC will be DISABILITY. Read any book you'd like that fits the theme, then join us on Sunday, October 27, to share yours and hear what others read. One suggested title is *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole* by Julia Watts Belser, who was the Ware Lecturer at General Assembly 2024.

Marie Evans Evans.marie@gmail.com, 716-636-5770

AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the pantry at our Midsummer BBQ at One-eyed Cat Brewing! Special thanks to Doreen Park for having the idea and pursuing it, to Rosalie Riforgiato and Pat Burke for making many visits to local businesses soliciting raffle donations, and to Meg Sabella for creating original design tote bags to sell. Raffle donations were also received from Eileen McCallister, Debby Berg, Kim Diana Connolly, Jill Fondiller, Marlana Rice, and the Tuckers.

We have a new way to donate stock to the pantry – an Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/ciX7RaL>
You use your own Amazon account to order and have the items shipped right to UU Amherst.

Save the date for our next event: Witch Dance on Saturday, October 19, at 4:00 pm. Details coming next month on how you can Sponsor-a-Witch!

Our next general monthly meeting will be September 1.

Marie Evans, ALFP Ltd Chair



SAVE THE DATES

Family Game Night & Potluck

October 4, December 7

5:30-8:30 pm

Emerson Room

NOMINATING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee members completed the Slate of Nominees for 2025. The Slate will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval by BOT liaison, Linda Gardner, at their next meeting. The slate once approved, will then be announced to the congregation.

We have started an outline for our committee's policy and assigned sections to members to complete and be reviewed at our August meeting. This will be prepared in accordance with the UU Amherst Bylaws, Article VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.

In August we will also review the current bylaws for this committee to insure they remain, since our church year changed at a past Annual Meeting

Suzanne Christ, on behalf of Committee members: Jacquelyn Senders, Chairperson; Marlana Rice; Marjorie Buscher; Jacqueline Babka; Linda Gardner, nominee of the Board of Trustees

FUNDRAISING TASK GROUP: Preparing for the Living Green Festival

Basket making is underway, but we still need your donations. Even if you don't think, "this would make a good basket", we might find a use for it! We create themed baskets and look for colors, holidays, locations, use, age, family relationship, etc. If it is new or like new, we can find a basket for it. We will be finishing the baskets by the end of August, so all donations should be in ASAP. They can be left in the blue, clothing ministry baskets.

In September, we will collect rummage. Please do not bring clothing (that should be donated to the clothing ministry—see below), electronics, large or broken items. If it does not easily fit in your car, don't bring it as we do not have the space for these items.

We will set up in the newly refurbished administrative wing and have reserved the rooms for the entire month of September! We will be busy but look forward to a successful event with little disruption of the daily activities of the church. You can help make this happen! If you'd like to help in September, contact Dian Tucker, (diantucker17@gmail.com).

Barbara Kent Gauger, bgturbo44@hotmail.com

CLOTHING MINISTRY

Thank you all for your generous donations to the clothing ministry. We are amazed at the need in our community. We service the rack on an almost daily basis to keep it full and to straighten up. When we had empty hangers and items left for donation under the rack, we try to cleanup quickly, especially in the wet weather. In August, we will start to put out "school clothes" and any school supplies we have collected over the year. They fly off of the shelves and rack. In today's world, every little bit helps. We are in service to our community and we help, a lot. Thank you for being part of it. If you want to be more involved, contact Dian Tucker or Barbara Kent Gauger for more information on how you can help.

Clothing Ministry Team, Dian (diantucker17@gmail.com) and Don Tucker, Pam and Jerry Kent, Barry Kent and Barbara Kent Gauger

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER RECIPES Provided by Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham

Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham are sisters and dedicated members of our Caring For One Another group. They provide occasional meals to UU Amherst members on an as-needed basis. With the meal they generally include a “goodie bag” and a card on behalf of the Caring Group. Each month you’ll find one of their healthy recipes here in *The Foreword* often incorporating fresh vegetables and even gluten-free.

Broccoli Salad with Cranberries and Bacon

1/2 cup plain fat free Greek yogurt
1/4 cup lite mayonnaise
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
8 cups broccoli florets, chopped (1Head), blanched
1/2 cup dried, low sugar cranberries
1/3 cup red onion, chopped
5 slices of bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled
1/4 cup sunflower seeds (kernels), toasted

In a large bowl whisk together the yogurt, mayonnaise, vinegar, salt and pepper. Add the rest of the ingredients and toss well to coat. Serve fresh or refrigerate for up to two days for flavors to blend. For a vegetarian/vegan dish, substitute as appropriate the yogurt, mayonnaise and bacon with vegan products.

Enjoy!



Church Custodial Team Request for Assistance

The Custodial Team is grateful for Rev. Michelle’s call for thanks to the team and its efforts. The Team consists of Bruce Becker, Don Tucker, Dian Tucker, Bob Johnson, Barry Kent, and Randy Kent.

While it may seem like there are many of us, we can’t be everywhere at all times and so we are requesting help from the congregation in a few areas:

1. Last people to leave, please turn the lights off. They have been left on in the welcoming area, the hallways, and occasionally the Emerson Room.
2. Emerson Room Audio-visual: Both the TV/monitor and the speaker’s microphone need to be turned off. Use the power button on the remote for the TV/monitor and the switch on the bottom of the microphone.
3. Emerson Room Air-Conditioning: The AC is usually turned off and activated for meetings and Sunday service. Please use the wall mounted thermostats—there are two of them. Press the “system” or “mode” button and set it to “cool,” if needed and “off” when the event is over.
4. If you unlock the main church door (Chapel entrance) by releasing the crashbar on the inside, PLEASE be sure to reset it. Before leaving, pull the handle from outside to make sure both the right and left-hand sides of the door are locked.

As a side note, we have learned that the Carriage House does not meet Town of Amherst Fire Code as there is no fire escape. That will have to be remedied before anyone can be housed there.

LIVING GREEN INSIGHT SERIES: Journeying Towards Harmony with Nature

Sustainable Food Choices! Water! Mushrooms! The Living Green Insight Series is offering three tantalizing topics and informed speakers in August and September that help us celebrate the beauty and resources of WNY and learn to live in harmony with Earth and participate joyfully with one another and the natural world. Put the following dates in your calendar so you don't miss these lively presentations. The sessions will begin at 7:00 PM and light refreshments will be available.

Tuesday August 13, 2024

Harvesting Compassion: Empowering Change with Sustainable Food Choices

Speaker: Vanessa Dawson penelopesplacethesanctuary.com

In this talk we will explore the profound impact our food choices have on the environment. Discover how compassion and conscious decisions at mealtime can sow the seeds of change, nourishing not only our bodies but also the Earth. We'll unravel the interconnected web that links our forks to the health of the environment and the welfare of animals. Learn how you can become a catalyst for transformation, one meal at a time.

Tuesday August 27, 2024

Our Water: Why it's so precious, ways to protect it, drainage issues With Q&A

Speaker: Sheryl Davies Lizardtaildesign.com

Sheryl is the owner of Lizardtail Design, a design and consulting firm focused on ecologic design, wildlife supporting landscapes and native plant communities. It specializes in stream banks, riparian buffers stormwater solutions, children's play and education landscapes. Sheryl found herself immersed in both the theory and practice of ecological landscaping. A scientist with far too much excess energy and a passion for education, Sheryl left academia and focused her energy on educating and innovating in ecologic design.

Tuesday September 10, 2024

Mushrooms

Speaker: Elaine Barnett heartland-organics.com

Elaine is the owner of Heartland Organics in Niagara County. Located in the heart of Niagara County, NY, her farm was founded in the early 1800s. Although it is gone now, for decades the family's business, Fink's Flower Shop and Greenhouse, was a staple for countless local families. In 2017, Elaine restored her family's farm and renamed it Heartland Organics. The farm's new focus is on certified organic specialty mushrooms and vegetables (in season), and carries on the tradition of fresh, cut flowers (also in season).

BIO: Julie Taylor, Guest Speaker for Sunday August 25:

Julie Taylor is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo where she volunteers as a worship associate, supporting the worship hour and occasionally delivering sermons. She has been a UU since 1994 when she walked into her first UU church—the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamburg—and found a spiritual home that she continued in the Buffalo church. She has taught religious education, served on the Nominating Committee, the Personnel Committee, and the Board of Trustees. Her current passion is spreading a spiritual message for Unitarian Universalists. She lives in North Buffalo with her husband, three children, and way too many grandcats.

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES



UU AMHERST

Fostering Justice and Compassion

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