

IN THE BUUF, The Newsletter of the
BUFFALO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2019



Compassion, Humanism, Idealism

*Our regular meetings are held at the Buffalo Community Center from September through May and begin at 7 p.m.
Please enter through the rear door.*



NEXT MEETINGS

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| <u>Sunday, August 18</u> | SUMMER SOCIAL at Sturgis Park on beautiful Buffalo Lake* |
| <u>Sunday, August 25</u> | SUMMER SOCIAL at Ellison Park in Monticello on the Mississippi* |
| <u>Wednesday, September 11</u> | Regular BUUF meeting at the Buffalo Community Center |
| <u>Thursday, September 19</u> | BUUFalo Gals meet at 11:30 a.m. |
| <u>Wednesday, October 9</u> | Regular BUUF meeting at the Buffalo Community Center |
| <u>Thursday, October 17</u> | BUUFalo Gals meet at 11:30 a.m. |
| <u>Wednesday, November 13</u> | Regular BUUF meeting at the Buffalo Community Center |
| <u>Wednesday, December 11</u> | Regular BUUF meeting at the Buffalo Community Center |



SUMMER SOCIALS*

Two Socials in August? What's that all about?

We had trouble finding a date that would work for our last Social of the summer, so we decided to give you a choice. Come to the appropriate park (or parks!) on either August 18 or August 25 (or both days), bring your own lunch, and enjoy a late summer picnic with people who never lack for interesting conversation.

Sturgis Park in Buffalo is just south of downtown off State Hwy. 25.

Ellison Park in Monticello is harder to find. From Buffalo, go north on State Hwy. 25 to CSAH 75 (Broadway) in Monticello. Turn right (east) and go about ¾ mile until you get to Washington St. You will see a sign point left to the Care Center (the Middle School is on the right). Turn left, go one block, then turn right onto River Street. Look for the first driveway on your left for the entrance to the parking lot and picnic area.



REGULAR BUUF MEETINGS RESUME SEPTEMBER 11

September 11 At this first regular meeting after our summer break, we will complete the election of officers, vote on changes in our bylaws to reflect our new meeting schedule (once a month on the second Wednesday), review the Treasurer's report and discuss our budget, discuss programming by members, and discuss our future as a small group. In addition, Bill Weir will talk about Camp UniStar, and we will invite others to talk about their interesting summer experiences. The donations in our offertory basket will benefit the St. Cloud Chapter of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA, pronounced "moose jaw").

October 9 Judy Foster from the St. Cloud UU church, will speak about MUUSJA; minister Danny Givens has also been invited.

November 13 David Boyer will speak on “why I Am Drawn to Hinduism.”

December 11 Duncan Fowler will present the new BUUF website. (I’ve seen the first draft, and it’s great!)

January 8 Bill Weir will present “Preparing for AI’s Revolution,” based on an article by Henry Kissinger and others.

We’re hoping you will offer a program in the spring of 2020. It could be talking about an interesting book you read, showing a video, or leading a “Socrates’ Café” on a topic you care about. Remember, it doesn’t have to be polished. Just introduce a topic and, as you know, the BUUF folks will take it from there!



BUUFalo GALS

The women of the BUUF meet the third Thursday of each month for lunch and conversation. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 19 at 11:30 a.m. Please let Louise Markve know if you plan to attend so we get a big-enough table! Phone her at (763) 682-4616 or email loumar937@gmail.com.



CRONING - AM I READY?

By Debbie Czarnopys-White, published in the Summer 2019 issue of Voices of Women,
The newsletter of the UU Women’s Connection

From a UU World publication, the following is paraphrased: In pagan traditions, women’s lives were divided into three phases: Maiden, Mother, and Crone. Croning is the ceremony in which women celebrate the end of their years as Mother (which may or may not have involved the rearing of children) and the arrival of old age and wisdom. When a woman becomes a Crone, “she lets go of mothering and, perhaps, the fears she may have of aging. Her energies are now directed towards spiritual goals, healing, guiding, teaching, and being a living model for girls and women.”

These three phases of our life can be viewed as the waxing, full, and waning moon. The Maiden is our youth, our coming into Being. The Maiden represents a promise of new beginnings, youth, excitement, and being carefree. The Mother is an actual mothering, or nurturing, time for what we feel we can contribute to. The Mother represents ripeness, fulfillment, stability, and power. The Mother Goddess can represent wellspring of life in all its forms, giving, and compassion. To become a Crone, one decides, regardless of a specific age, that she is ready to move on to the time of wisdom and sharing, leaving the attractions of youth behind and moving on to more etheric goals. The crone represents wisdom, repose, and compassion and openly sharing who she has become with others.

Having decided to go through the croning ceremony with my UU Connection sisters at a fall retreat several years ago, I can share that I felt a profound shift in my energy – the energy moving from a deep nurturing to a lightening but deeper opening to slowing down, sinking deeper into the mystery and beginning to release my former involvement with Mother. My ceremony was meaningful to me, but we’ve held another sine mine where the participants shared something significant to them that they felt called them to the croning ceremony. At our retreats, we may not always do the same type of ceremony, but what’s more important is your own personal commitment to becoming a Crone.

There’s no urgency to become a Crone – ever – but when you feel so called, listen to that beautiful and wise voice.

Curious about UU Women’s Connection? Contact Marie Smith and read the Summer 2019 newsletter, or check them out at www.uuwomensconnection.org.



INTERESTING STUFF FROM THE AUGUST 209 ISSUE OF MIDAMERICA MESSENER,
the newsletter of the UU MidAmerica Region...

A Year of Learning and Connection for Smaller Congregations, brought to you by your Regional UUA Congregational Life Staff.

We know that small congregations are sharing the Love and Grace of Unitarian Universalism with their people and their communities every day. We also know that small churches can be faced with big challenges. Together we can help small congregations reach toward their greatest potential. We are offering four Webinars:

- Smalls Making a Big Difference, October 16
- Right Sizing Your Congregation's Operations, November 13
- Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long Haul, January 15
- Being a Beloved Community, February 12

Also, on Pi Day (March 14), there will be an "in-person" event. Why Pi Day? Small number, infinite possibility!

Facilitated by our regional staff with a video welcome from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, you will have the opportunity to meet other small congregation leaders; have meaningful conversations; share support, ideas, and resources; explore opportunities for collaboration and ongoing shared learning; and, of course, there will be pie!

Registration opens August 15. The \$45 cost per congregation gets you: access to all four Webinars for any number of your members, offered twice on each date at 7 p.m. eastern and 7 p.m. pacific times; recordings of all Webinars to share; access to your Regional Congregational Life staff live on each Webinar; and an invitation to in-person Pi Day gatherings (locations and costs to be determined).

Questions about these events? Contact Phil Lund at plund@uaa.org.

Dismantling Systemic White Supremacy – Brilliant Bits from last summer's UUA General Assembly (GA) in Spokane. Watch some of the best moments of GA 2019. These two videos are recommended:

Sunday morning worship service with a mighty and moving sermon, It Is Time Now, by Rev. Marta I. Valentin at <https://www.uaa.org/ga/off-site/2019/worship/sunday>

Co-Moderators' Report at <https://www.uaa.org/ga/off-site/2019/business/i/co-moderators-report>



And this from Louise Markve...

You never appreciate what you have until it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.