

OCTOBER 2024

THE BEACON



Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

October Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM



October 6 Saying The Hardest Word Taylor and Cooke

The Jewish High Holy days are an excellent time for non-Jews to also notice and attend to the work of forgiveness and reconnection. This First Sunday, with the theme of "Deep Listening" will be our invitation into the season. (Join us after service for Workshops!)

October 13 Hope for the Holy Land - Prophets Among Us: Don and Maya Peretz Rev. Gary Doupe

Don Peretz taught Middle East Studies at SUNY-Binghamton from 1966-1992, retiring as Professor Emeritus. His doctoral dissertation was the first ever written about the plight of Palestinian refugees, following World War II and the declaration of the State of Israel as a political entity. Don, a pacifist, served in the U.S. Army and later volunteered with AFSC (the Quakers) to help resettle Palestinians in northern Israel. Don's wife Maya was a Jewish child born in Poland as the Holocaust was taking shape, and protected from harm by a Catholic family.

October 20 The Great Web Laine and Taylor

Our annual partnership service has Rev. Darcey and Rev. Douglas thinking about the many ways living beings are connected with one another in the great web of life. Together we celebrate the many subtle ways beings impact, support and depend on one another, in a web that holds us all.

October 27 All I Know, So Far Douglas Taylor

They say every preacher has only one sermon they keep repeating and reframing and revising over and over. I think mine might be something about healing or maybe grace. Or more likely it is about loving and being loved (I am a Universalist, after all.)



STAFF:

Minister: Reverend Douglas Taylor
Board President: Kate Thorpe
Director of Family Ministry: Dylan Cooke
Music Director: Vicky Gordon
Office Administrator and Membership Coordinator: Karen Manzer

HOURS:

Office Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm M-F closed on Wednesday

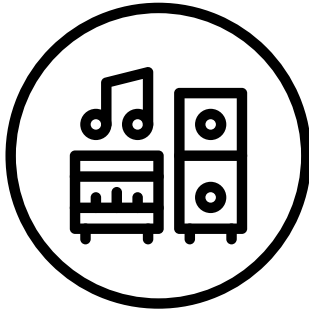
Worship Services: Sundays at 10:30am

Children and Youth Programs: Sundays at 10:30am
Nursery Care during services

HOW TO CONTACT US:

183 Riverside Drive
Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607.729.1641
Email: office@uubinghamton.org
www.uubinghamton.org

Beacon Newsletter
Deadline: Noon on the last Friday of each month.



New Sanctuary Sound System

Twenty five years ago, when Whitney Herriage was called to be our minister, we raised funds for a new sound system. It's had a few repairs and a couple components were replaced, but it's been very good. But before it dies of old age, we decided to replace most of the equipment now rather than waiting for a crisis. So it's happening in October!

Earlier this year we submitted a grant request to the New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) to help fund this renovation and we received a grant of \$2,200. Combined with funds leftover from our streaming system, we are able to get this new system.

The new system will give us greater reliability and flexibility, especially since we now have two audiences – one in our sanctuary and the other on Zoom. Those with hearing difficulties will be able to use an app on their phone & hear our services through their hearing aids. And our tech crew will be able to adjust all the audio from a laptop in addition to the controls at the back of the sanctuary.

Jeff Donahue

MONDAY YOGA AT UUCB



We have weekly FREE yoga classes every Monday with yoga instructor Irina Trubnikov at 5pm. Bring a yoga mat or towel, some water, and wear loose comfortable clothes.



Community Blood Drive at UUCB

Tuesday, October 1 1pm-6pm

We are excited to host our second blood drive at UUCB.

Make your appointment online at redcross.org





Adult Choir is Seeking New Members

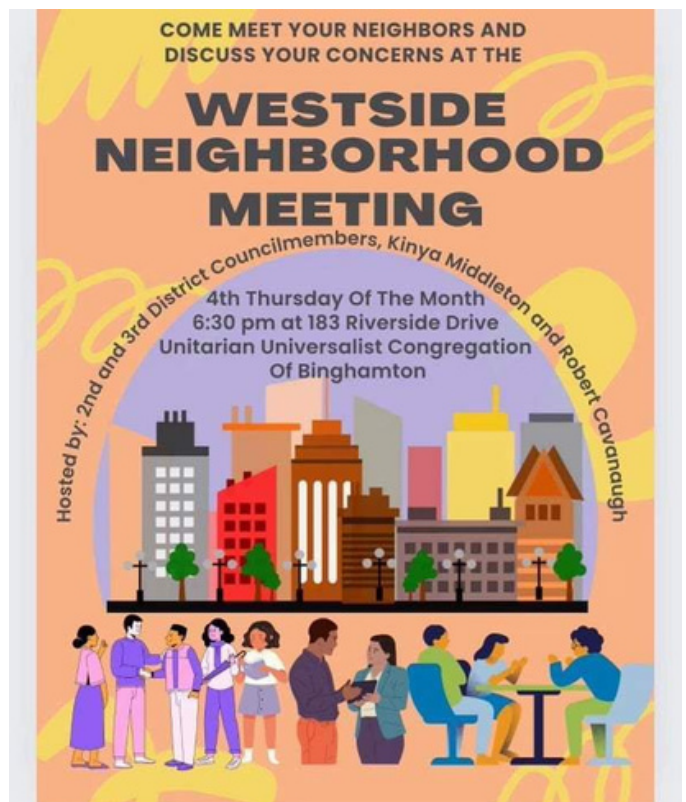
There is nothing more uplifting than being part of a vocal community, and the choir's contribution is a vital part of our Sunday worship together.

We are a welcoming group of enthusiastic and welcoming people who join in our love of music and desire to express ourselves through song. We embrace a variety of musical styles (e.g. spirituals, show music, classical, folk), and encompass a range of musical backgrounds. You need not have a "trained" voice to participate. The ability to sight-read is also not required.

Rehearsals are weekly from 6:30 – 8 on Thursday evenings in the sanctuary. Please consider joining us for our first rehearsal on August 29.

The choir typically sings twice a month. However, there is great flexibility. If you are only able to join us for one song or a few months, that is fine. You needn't feel that you have to make a long-term commitment (although that would please me!).

If you have any questions or just want to know more about the choir, please call or text me at 607-222-5836 or e-mail me at vgordon2763@gmail.com.

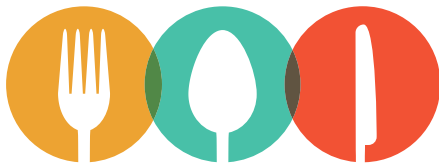


Westside Neighborhood Meetings

If you live on the Westside of Binghamton, you are invited to attend the monthly neighborhood meetings held at UUCB on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

These meetings are hosted by 2nd and 3rd district councilmembers Kinya Middleton and Robert Cavanaugh and are a good place to find out about changes and information about your neighborhood.





2nd Saturday Suppers

Our favorite dinner spot is opening again this Fall. UUCB will once again host a delicious and nutritious home cooked meal for a very affordable price on the second Saturday of each month. Thank you to Nancy Knipscher and Lisa Sienkiewicz for cooking these meal as a fundraiser for UUCB.

You may want to cut out the schedule below out so you can add it to your calendar or post it on your fridge.



October 12 – baked ziti, salad, coconut cake

November 9 – stuffed peppers, Texas toast, carrot cake

Format/prices will remain the same- \$6 main dish, \$3 side dish, \$3 dessert. Folks are encouraged to eat in or bring own containers for take out. Cash is preferred.

We will be taking December off as we will both be involved with the Art and Gift Sale kitchen again. Second Saturday Suppers will resume in January.

This will continue to be a general fund fundraiser.

"The Endowment Committee will be soliciting grant applications during October. Please refer to notices in our weekly emails and the Order of Service for more information."



Cranberry Coffeehouse

Cranberry Coffeehouse hosts a live music performance on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the UUCB sanctuary.

Suggested donated for these events is \$10 per person but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay.

Coffee, tea and treats are available for purchase and the proceeds form those sales benefits UUCB.

Please Note: Concerts have moved to 7:00 pm (they used to be at 7:30 pm).

Saturday, October 19: Andrew Van Norstrand

Saturday, November 16: Steve Strauss

Saturday, December 21: Bells & Motley (Sondra & John Bromka)

More information (including artist descriptions) is available at the website (cranberrycoffeehouse.org).

UUCB Family Ministry



Looking at this coming congregational year we will have offerings for children of all ages!

Nursery care will continue to be offered every Sunday morning unless specified otherwise. Our youngest kiddos can expect structured and unstructured time with our staff.

Starting Sunday September 15th Elementary and Middle classes will be kicking off using the Soul Matters Curriculum. Children will get to explore their curiosity with a dive into our newly voted in article 2 changes and how that interacts with our greater communities as we live out our mission.

Youth Group is looking to start up meetings again this year. Look out for more information to come as the group plots its course through the congregational year.

For more information contact Dylan Cooke at dfm@uubinghamton.org



Call for individuals of Trans or Gender non-conforming experience

Alex Compton is gathering a list of folks who might be interested in participating in a Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience service.

If you would like to help organize or participate in the service please email him at lexkae@gmail.com. Allies will be called to assist at a later date.



Last Sunday Lunches Return

Our popular “Last Sunday Lunch: themed potluck will resume on Sunday, October 27. The theme for the lunch is “Halloween”. Join us in the social hall after the worship service and bring something to add to our Halloween lunch.



Our full calendar of events is at uubinghamton.org

Dining for Dollars - Dinner and a Show

with Douglas Taylor and Amoreena Wade.

November 10th starting at 6:00 pm

Our play is "The Thanksgiving Play" by Larissa FastHorse. We will offer it in the Readers Theater style. "Good intentions collide with absurd assumptions in Larissa FastHorse's wickedly funny satire, as a troupe of terminally "woke" teaching artists scrambles to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage month."

Our meal will be Douglas' famous chili ("not too hot but full of flavor," with both a vegetarian and meat option) along with cornbread, salad, and desert.

This event is part of our 2024 Dining for Dollars and there is still room for others to "bid" and attend. The minimum bid was \$30, so anyone not already signed up can contact Douglas, make a \$30 donation to the congregation, and join us on the 10th!



Halloween Masquerade Ball Planned

The Annual Masquerade Ball Will be held Friday, November 1st from 7 to 11 pm. Join us for light snacks, a Costume contest, Tarot Reading, a Bonfire with smores, and Dancing. Adult drink tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Tickets are on sale after service in the cafe at \$10 for Adults \$5 for Kids under 12. We need help with this fun events! Anyone interested in helping create an amazing night can contact Adeee Wilson at just80w@gmail.com.



Last Sunday Lunches Return

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New Virtual Hymnal



The UUA has a task force to design and build a virtual hymnal! Their vision is "to build a living collection of song resources through an accessible, equitable, online platform grounded in UU values." The virtual hymnal will be full of resources never before available. In addition to the hymns, virtual sheet music will be available for different instruments and in different keys. Historical resources on each hymn will be included. Copyright permissions will be done. Slides will be available for congregations to display in their sanctuaries and online. Very exciting!

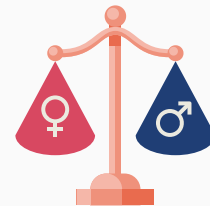
This task force asked for congregational teams to apply to beta test this new hymnal, so Jeff Donahue, Douglas Taylor and Vicky Gordon applied ... and we were accepted! We will review all these new features this fall. In December the task force will begin accepting recommendations for new hymns. The virtual hymnal will be unveiled next June at General Assembly in Baltimore.



First Sundays at UUCB

On the first Sunday of each month, our multi-generational worship service offers innovation in the Sunday Service experience. Designed to increase opportunities for connection and explore many different ways to tap into our intellectual, creative and spiritual depths, we gather for a shorter service in the Sanctuary and then spread out for different workshops. The hardest part is often deciding which experience to choose!

- Service 10:30-11:15
- Break 11:15-11:30
- All ages workshops 11:30-12:15
- Social Hour 12:15-12:45



NY Equal Rights Amendment info Session and Discussion with Carla Michalak

**Sunday, October 6
12:30pm in the sanctuary
(and on zoom)**

This amendment to the New York State Constitution would add to existing protections against discrimination, including for sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare and autonomy. To learn more or help with this program, contact Pat Chirumbolo at paccnm@stny.rr.com



ELECTION DAY CHILI AND CORN MUFFIN SALE

Hey UUCB'ers...did you know there is going to be a pretty big ELECTION on Nov. 5??? UUCB will be a polling place for 3 voting districts! We hope to see many visitors that day and welcome them to our building.

To celebrate we will have an ELECTION DAY CHILI AND CORN MUFFIN SALE as a fundraiser for our church. This will be available not only to voters who come in that day, but also for people driving by who see our promo out front.

Lisa Sienkiewicz will be our Chili Master Chef for the chili entree (vegetarian). Yet again, thank you, Lisa.

BUT can you help by baking some corn muffins??? We're going to ask you to use the muffin mix we'll provide (you'll add an egg, some milk, and veg oil) and to follow our simple instructions. While we know some of you have a terrific cornbread recipe, we're asking you to use this mix as we hope to have a standard (but also, a really good!) product to offer all our customers.

Starting Wednesday, 10/2), there will be boxes of corn muffin mix in a large bag in the UUCB kitchen, instructions on tweaking this mix just a bit, AND a sign-up sheet (so we'll know whom to thank).

Please take a box or two and plan to bring in the baked muffins Sunday, Nov. 3, or early on Election Day, itself. You may leave your contributions in the kitchen (please leave your name, too).

Thank you for all who will respond to this request and for all that so many in this congregation do to step up. We are blessed.

-Jean Rose-Klein



What Are You Reading?

As another way to build connection and a sense of community, Jan Fiore is offering to publish a list of things we have been reading and liking. You are invited to make your suggestion known by sending her an email at janicefiore@gmail.com Either fiction or nonfiction, something you thought was worth reading. I'll include it in the month's Beacon, e-Blast, and UU Facebook page for your consideration.

As a follow-up to this Monday's the talk introducing Braver Angels, I want to recommend I Never Thought of It That Way by Monica Guzman. It's in our library for you to borrow. The library is next to Reverend Taylor's office.



ONLINE CLASSES WITH REVEREND TAYLOR SCHEDULED

Our ABC Soul Matters SGM (Athens, Binghamton, Cortland “Soul Matters” Small Group Ministry) is a Multi-congregational online session. People are welcome to join any time. We will run 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 October through May. Co-led by Rev. Douglas Taylor and Becca Boerger. Contact Rev. Taylor for the zoom link.

“Our UU Values” – an ABC conversation

Join us for a multi-congregational online conversation about the “flower” of our new UU Values and Covenant statement. Co-led by Revs Darcey Laine and Douglas Taylor for the Athens, Binghamton, and Cortland UUs. Held on zoom on four Tuesdays from 1-2:30; October 15 & 29, November 5 & 19
Contact Douglas Taylor dtaylor@uubinghamton.org or Darcey Laine darceylaine@earthlink.net to let us know you plan to attend and to receive the zoom link.



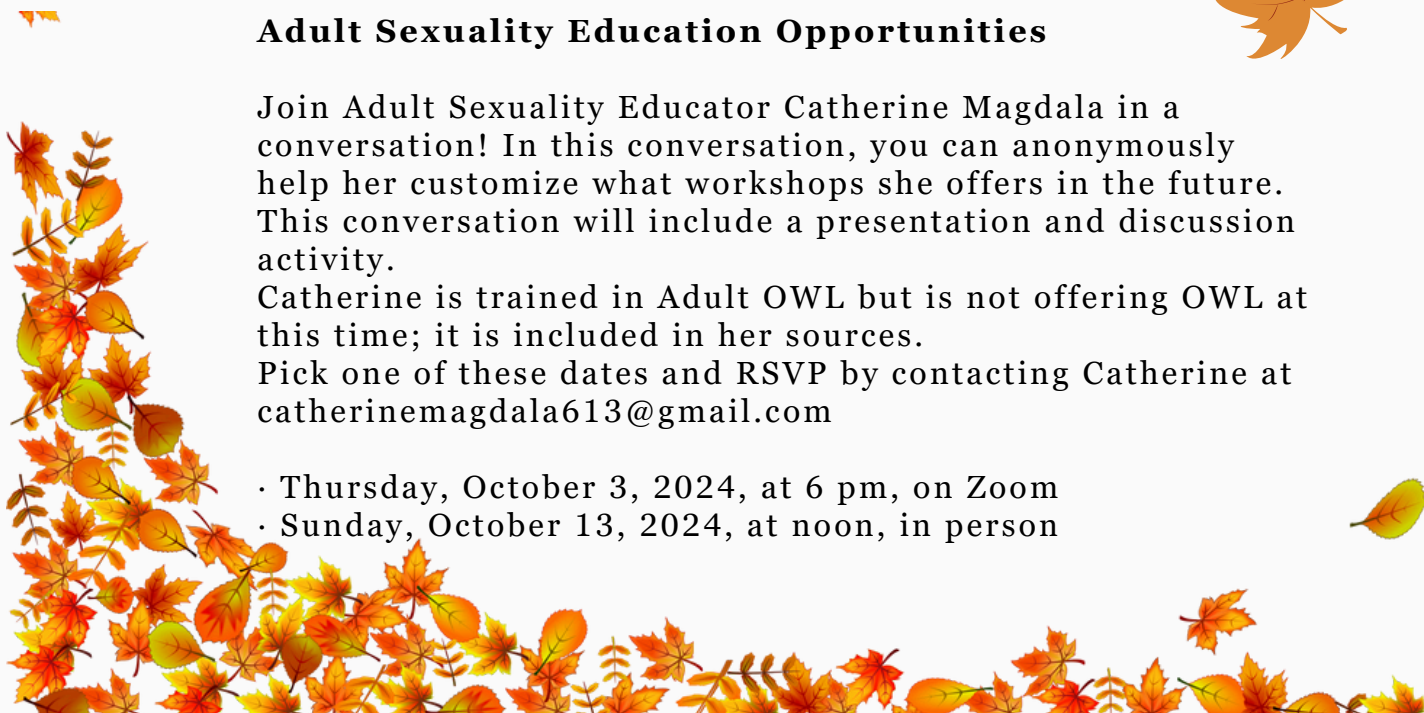
Adult Sexuality Education Opportunities

Join Adult Sexuality Educator Catherine Magdala in a conversation! In this conversation, you can anonymously help her customize what workshops she offers in the future. This conversation will include a presentation and discussion activity.

Catherine is trained in Adult OWL but is not offering OWL at this time; it is included in her sources.

Pick one of these dates and RSVP by contacting Catherine at catherinemagdala613@gmail.com

- Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 6 pm, on Zoom
- Sunday, October 13, 2024, at noon, in person





POST-ELECTION VIGIL

Wednesday, November 6 at 6:00 pm in the Chapel with Rev. Douglas Taylor. One day after election day, with the results in – which ever way things go, we have set aside time to gather and be together to take what steps we may need to move forward for what will come next.

Taking Action!

"Here at UUCB, social action is the congregation's work!

The Social Action HUUB exists to support the creation and maintenance of social action teams.

You can either brainstorm an idea for a social action project and then fill out an application on the HUUB bulletin board or sign up to be on someone else's team.

The teams are listed on the bulletin board. If you have any requests, thoughts, or questions, please get in touch with the HUUB at huub@uubinghamton.org.

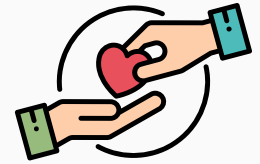
Please do not offer ideas or request things from HUUB members individually. Please email the whole HUUB. "

Building Bridges Periodical

Do you want updates on what is happening in our greater community? Do you like sharing your thoughts and opinions on social justice? Do you enjoy reading other people's thoughts and opinions about social justice?

The Social Action HUUB publishes a monthly periodical called **Building Bridges Periodical**. To subscribe and get the Submission Guidelines, email buildingbridgesmonthly@uubinghamton.org.

MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTION



October's 2nd Sunday Special Collection will include us joining the Stakeholders of Broome County, Garage Taco Bar, and other grassroots groups and local activists again in raising funds for a list of winterization items needed for our local homeless population.

There has been and continues to be a housing crisis that we here at UUCB are working towards responding to in multiple ways.

To learn more about the housing crisis in Broome County, please join us as we invite fair-housing expert Rebecca Rathmell to our congregation after service on Sunday, October 20th, from 12-1:30.

Here we will learn about the local housing crisis and learn how we can take further action. Please be as generous as possible to support our homeless population in preparing for the cold months ahead.



Second Saturday
of Each Month
9:30AM

see old friends and make
some new ones!

Centenary Chenango Street
Methodist Church
438 Chenango St., Binghamton NY
13901

Coffee, Teas and Pastries
All Are Welcome!



Each month, we choose a community organization that we can help by collecting donations of items they need. **The Giving Box** is set up in the coatroom and the monthly recipient is noted. If you have any questions about The Giving Box, or have an idea for a recipient who can use our help, you can contact Shawn Steketeer at stek@aol.com.



Cans and Bottles for Laundry

Bring your empty cans and bottles to the collection area in the back parking lot at UUCB. They will be turned in for cash and used to support the Church in the Wild's Free laundromat project. Find out more about the good work the Church in the Wild is doing at churchinthewild.org



Trunk or Treat and Halloween Party

Sunday, October 27 from 1-4pm. We are planning a fun afternoon of Halloween activities. Host a trunk and hand out candy, bring the little ones in your life, lead a craft or activity, donate cider, donuts and candy. Talk to Dylan Cooke if you would like to help out or have questions about Trunk or Treat.

Ongoing Events

UUCB Community Drum Circle

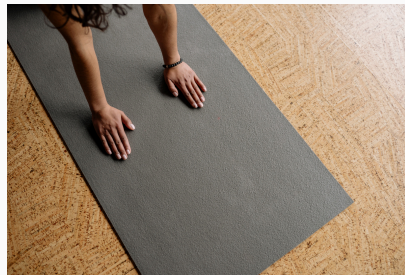
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 6:30PM

Create a sense of community by joining in our all ages drum circle. The drum circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves. Bring your own drum or borrow one of ours. Contact Jenne Micale at Jennemicale@gmail.com for more information.

Beginner Yoga

MONDAYS 5PM

Yoga instructor Irena Trubnikov leads us in a yoga class each Monday. All are welcome. Bring a mat or towel, a water bottle and wear loose comfortable clothing.



Role-Playing Tabletop Games

SATURDAYS 4-7PM

Join us for exciting and fun role-playing games (similar to Dungeons and Dragons) with Dungeon Master Peter Steketee. We meet in the classroom at the end of the hallway.

UU Pagans

UU Pagans is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies.

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at UUCB at 6:30pm.

Depression Support Group

Mondays at 6pm
Anyone who is affected by depression is welcome to join us.

You can find our complete calendar of events at <https://74087865.view-events.com>

If you have an event to add to the calendar, contact Karen Manzer at 607-729-1641 or office@uubinghamton.org



Get Connected

Easy Ways to Get Involved at UUCB



Help the outreach committee do their job! Share info about UUCB and our events on Facebook, in your social circles, and out in the community. Bring a friend to an event or to a UUCB service.

Bring a snack to share for social hour on Sunday.

Social Action: Our Social Action HUUB is looking for your interest and talent! Contact Catherine Magdala at catheriner1312@gmail.com to be on the UUCB social action mailing list.

Sunday Service Associates: We always need new folks to help make the worship service run smoothly. Talk to Kate Thorpe if you would like to help out on a Sunday morning.

Social Hour Team: Talk to Ron Clupper after service on Sundays or call him at 607-727-8516 if you would like to be a part of the team that hosts social hour on Sunday mornings after the service.

Join the Caring Team: Help us identify and reach out to those in our community who need it. Reach out to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org to find out more.

Sunday Morning Welcome Team: Be on hand on Sunday mornings to welcome visitors, show folks where the coffee is, and more. Reach out to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org to be a part of this team.

Make your own group or event: Do you have an interest that you would like to share with others? Would you like to start up a monthly crafting group, LGBTQ group, discussion, dance party, movie night? Talk to Karen Manzer about your idea and how it can get added to the UUCB calendar.

Find out about all that is happening at UUCB! Watch for twice a week emails, check out our Facebook group (UUCB Members and Friends) and our public Facebook page. There is a monthly newsletter, *The Beacon*, available too. There are printed copies of the newsletter in the wall file outside the office and at the info desk, or you can request that a copy be mailed to you at home by asking Karen in the office. Also, check out our calendar of events by clicking the “News and Events” button on our website.