



# Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

June 2016

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## Our Outlook

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## Sunday Services | June 2016

### June 5 | *Flower Communion*

Join us for this beloved annual tradition. Bring a flower or two from your garden to share. (We will also have plenty of blooms available.)

— Celie Katovitch

### June 12 | *Working Together*

On this annual meeting Sunday, we will look both backward and ahead, asking where we may be called as a congregation, and what Universalism might mean for our time and place.

— Celie Katovitch

*The annual meeting for First Universalist will be held Sunday, June 12, immediately following the service. All members are encouraged to attend. Friends are welcome. Key agenda items include approval for the 2016—2017 budget and elections for key positions.*

### June 19 | *“When the Summer Sun is Shining”*

In celebration of summer as a window into a different kind of time.

— Celie Katovitch

*Church picnic to follow. See page 3 for more details.*

### June 26 | *It isn't About YOU*

We all have fragile egos, and nagging insecurities. But we don't loom anywhere nearly as large in the psyches of others as we hope, or fear. We will explore the liberating aspects of being insignificant.

— Summer Minister, Peter House

*[Service begins at 10 am—first day of summer schedule.]*

Our regular morning service begins at 10:30 am.

Summer services will begin at 10 am starting June 26. ❖





## Pastor's Perspective

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

Thank you to all who attended the conversation on homelessness after church on May 22. Many of you have felt called to do something to support those struggling with homelessness—whether helping us host RAIHN families several times a year, or working with REACH, or making a contribution to House of Mercy. I am excited to announce another ministry that will build on this commitment, and on our church's foundation of radical hospitality.

Some of our closest neighbors here in Washington Square live on the street. We receive several knocks on our door each week inquiring about food. Luckily, we are able to point to nearby agencies that provide case management and resources. Nonetheless, our administrator Melissa and I were struck by the immediacy of need. This led us to an initiative we are calling "Clara's Cupboard"—named, of course, after Clara Barton. The project has two parts:

First, the preparation of a few bagged lunches to have on hand during office hours each week. We are

getting started using generous donations of funds from Wegmans.

Second, the construction of a Little Free Library in front of the church. We hope this will be a resource for the entire Washington Square community, from EOC students to Geva-goers to Xerox employees. It also connects us to a national movement (you can learn more at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org)). Ours will be unique among Little Free Libraries, however, in that it is designed to be half library and half free store. One shelf will be stocked with books, and the other with supplies, such as garden vegetables in summer, socks and mittens in winter, for anyone to take. We will be throwing an unveiling party, complete with ribbon-cutting ceremony and lemonade, on June 20 at noon. Please come join us!

Meantime, if you would like to help with either part of this new ministry, please let Celie or Melissa know.

We know this is just one small effort. Yet, as the late activist Daniel Berrigan said:

"The difference between doing something  
and doing nothing  
is everything."

This summer, may you also be inspired to find your something—and to do it, with gusto.

See you in September!

With love,

– Celie ❖

## Neighborhood Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage need not take place in a faraway holy city. Rev. Celie invites you on a neighborhood walk, to see a new view of our own downtown surroundings. We will be led by Deacon David Palma, of St. Mary's Church. Our walk will take us a distance of about 2 miles, and will lead us to encounter places "on the margins," where beauty and great need exist together, hidden in plain sight.

Tentative date: a Saturday morning in late August. If you think you might be interested in participating, please e-mail Rev. Celie ([minister@uuroc.org](mailto:minister@uuroc.org)) by June 19. ❖

## Calling All Musicians!

Submitted by Ann Rhody

Our summer services will be starting on June 26, and music for those services is provided by volunteer musicians. Could you be one of them? Even if you have just one piece you've always wanted to try to perform, we'll make a time and place for you to do it, whatever your voice or instrument. Please contact the summer music coordinator, Ann Rhody, at [annrhody@gmail.com](mailto:annrhody@gmail.com) for more information. ❖





## Walking Together:

**Director of Life Span Faith Development**

*Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE*

Annual Reports can be a kind of spiritual practice. Stay with me on this...

With the rhythms of life, I've always identified more with the academic year or "church year" than the January to December model. The "church year": starting in September, ending in June, with two months in between to buffer one ending from the next beginning. Annual reports remind us to pause from the headlong tumble into what is next to consider, "What had I hoped would happen this year?", "What actually happened?", and "What do I hope will happen next year?"

As we come up on the end of this church year, and the annual meeting with all its annual reports, I encourage you to write, yes, actually write, you own personal annual report. Seeing all the items in front of you has a profound effect that you cannot get just thinking about it.

**What had you really hoped for** this past year of your life? Did it happen? Did you forget all about it? Did you change your mind to hope for something else? Are they things you will still hope for in the year to come? Consider your hopes for involvement with our church community.

**What actually happened** this past year? Most people forget or don't give themselves credit for all they have accomplished or experienced. Honor and appreci-

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## Annual Picnic— Save the Date!

*Submitted by Ed Deller*

The annual picnic will be held Sunday, June 19, starting about 1 pm at the Riverbed Shelter in Genesee Valley Park. Map and details will be coming. Questions? Contact Karl Abbott at karl47@frontiernet.net. ❖

ate yourself for doing and getting through all you have. What does it feel like to look at all those experiences? Have you tried your best? Are you proud, disappointed, or satisfied? How does that affect what you will hope for in the next year?

Given what happened this year, **what do you aspire to** for next year? Consider how you can build on your strengths, and ask for support in areas where you struggle. Develop a list of goals. If they seem, complex break them down into smaller goals that build on each other. Try to put some dates on the calendar so these goals keep moving forward and don't get forgotten. Again, consider what goals you might have regarding our church community.

**Talk to others about your hopes and goals.** This is a great way to put your intention out into the Universe, to figure out the details and steps in making your aspirations a reality, and to enlist support.

"Believe in your dreams. They were given to you for a reason." — *Katrina Mayer*

"Let your dreams be bigger than your fears, and your actions louder than your words..." ❖

## Adult Religious Education Offering

*Submitted by Michelle Yates*

### ***Race: the Power of an Illusion***

Will meet the following Thursdays from 6—8 pm

**May 26** — Part 2: The Story We Tell

**June 9** — Part 3: The House We Live In

We will have the opportunity to watch the rest of California Newsreel's three-part documentary about race in society, science and history, to be followed by facilitated discussion and conversation. Teens are welcome and encouraged to attend "Adult RE" programs!

Feel free to come to one or all sessions as you can.

Please RSVP to Michelle Yates at [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org) or 585-310-2484, so we can plan for enough space/seating.

**Childcare available** if requested a week in advance. ❖

# Advocacy Day Report

*Submitted by Dick Gilbert*

Over 35 members of Interfaith Impact gathered in Albany on Monday, May 9, for our annual Advocacy Day. The session began with an invocation by Dick Gilbert—“Beatitudes for Justice Makers” by the Rev. Lindi Ramsden.

The three focus issues on the agenda were:

- Support for all-renewable energy by 2030
- Raise the age for prosecution as an adult and pass the Humane Alternatives to Long Term Solitary Confinement Act
- Opposition to the Education Investment Incentives Act

Go to the website, [www.interfaithimpactnys.org](http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org), for copies of these position papers.

Group members provided the expertise for the renewable energy issue. While this goal was acknowledged as ambitious, it was the clear feeling of those present that liberal people of faith must stress the urgency of moving from fossil fuels to renewables. This perspective must, at the same time, stress the long range ethical horizon of providing a sustainable environment for those who follow and the necessity of taking strong action now. We need not to “subdue” the earth, but “replenish” it—both being Biblical terms. (Note: See Dick Gilbert’s background paper “On Becoming Stewards of the Earth: A Moral Responsibility.” If it is not on the website, [www.interfaithimpactnys.org](http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org), request a copy from Dick at [Rsgilbert@uuma.org](mailto:Rsgilbert@uuma.org)).

The CEO of the Raise the Age New York Campaign briefed the gathering on legislation to raise the age at which youth are treated as youthful offenders rather than adults from 16 to 18. Exceptions are made for the most violent crimes. Only New York and North Carolina treat juvenile offenders ages 16 to 18 as adults. This often places youth alongside adult felons in New York’s prisons, although efforts are underway to retrofit a prison specifically for youth.

Robb Smith, Executive Director of IINYS, summarized the Education Investment Incentives Act, which provides huge tax breaks for those who make private contributions to favored schools, including parochial schools. IINYS opposes this because it provides an unfair tax break for those who pick and choose schools, because it violates separation of church and state, and it siphons

off money from needy public schools. The Senate has already passed this measure, but it is likely to fail in the Assembly.

Participants broke into small groups to visit staff of Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Senator Patrick Gallivan, Assembly Member Daniel J. O’Donnell (the member was present), Assembly Member Steven Englebright, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, Senator Joseph Griffo and Senator and leader of the Independent Democratic Conference, Jeffrey Klein.

The day concluded with a debriefing. Among points made were: (1) one member felt the whole atmosphere of the meetings was more cordial; (2) “drops”—distribution of our three position papers in each Assembly and Senatorial office—were important to introduce IINYS positions to legislators, and often result in lively conversations; (3) follow-up letters and emails were important as a means of reiterating positions; (4) following up with congregation-based letter and email writing sessions after worship were effective in civic engagement.

The day concluded with thanks to Julie and Robb Smith in particular for their work, and a word from the late songster/activist Pete Seeger. Seeger sailed his ship up the Hudson for many years to protest pollution of its waters. He likened this work to a teeter-totter: on one end is the status quo of injustice represented by a basket full of rocks weighing down one end. At the other end are a group of determined activists pouring spoonfuls of sand into a bucket. One day, said Seeger, the tipping point will come, the rocks will be spilled and justice will prevail. It is a word of wisdom for justice makers in all times and places.

P.S. Although IINYS does not have an official position on end of life choices legislation, there is a background paper available on the website: “Medical Aid in Dying: The Right to Die with Dignity.” Two local members of IINYS, Dick Gilbert and Carole Hoffman, participated in the press conference of Compassion and Choices to introduce a new bill. See the website for more information. ❖



# Ode to the End of School

Submitted by Bill Elwell

I am getting ready to finish the sixth or seventh year of volunteering at School 7. I resist using the phrase, “what a blessing” it has been, but I cannot find better words to describe my experience with these second and third graders.

I have shared on Sunday morning’s some of the more memorable comments these kids have made to me: “Gee, how old are you?”, “You are fat”. “What are those bulky lines on your hands?” And my all time favorite was when I asked one student, “Why are you moving away from me? Do I have bad breath?” His reply was, “Yes, yes, you do.”

Every year some of the students make me sad because of their home life. Let me share what I wrote after one recent encounter:

*He rejoiced in hearing  
That he was rubber, not glue.  
His eyes sparkle,  
The laughter is real.*

*He is burdened by a family  
Not wholly there;  
A father who rejects him.*

*He moves quickly to give a hug  
To the volunteer who has given him  
Some moments of caring.*

I hope our church continues to encourage volunteers at School 7. If you have some spare time or even if you don’t have spare time, find the time anyway. We are proudly an urban church with an urban mission to “serve the community.” The school building will be closed next year for needed changes and the staff and students will be housed in the Jefferson High School building. ❖



## Six Big Questions

Submitted by Marti Eggers

**Who?** You  
**What?** Nurture the spirit; serve the community  
**Where?** First Universalist Church  
**When?** April 3—10 and July 10—17  
**How?** Volunteer for RAIHN\*  
**Why?** Because you are needed!

On any given night in Rochester, as many as 100 families with children are homeless. The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN), a consortium of faith communities of which First Universalist is a part, provides a safe place for families to stay while they work toward returning to sustainable independence.

During the weeks of April 3 and July 10, First Universalist will be hosting RAIHN families, and many volunteers will be needed. You can learn more about volunteering for RAIHN by attending a two-hour training session on Tuesday, April 12, at the United Church of Pittsford at 6:30 pm. In the meantime you can shadow a trained volunteer during our April Host Week to see firsthand the power of RAIHN. For more information, or to ask about shadowing, please see Chris DeGolyer, Sarah Singal or Marti Eggers. You are needed!

\* Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network ❖

## Garden News

Submitted by Sarah Singal

**Growing from last year:** Chives, strawberries

**Spread:** Mulch on the concrete, compost in the raised beds

**Planted:** Seeds of zucchini, cucumber, radishes, Swiss chard, snow peas, bush beans, kale, jalapeño peppers, basil, tomato seedlings, more herbs

**Removed from flower garden:** Poison ivy. Thank you Shirley! Be nice to her.

**Planned:** Watering—want to take a week? How to present our harvest as public food—ideas?

Love from the garden people—Shirley, Connie, Marcia, Shelley, Phyllis, Ginger, Sarah and more! ❖

# Living Our Values, Making A Difference

*Submitted by Newcomb Losh, Communications Committee*



**PASSOVER SEDER:** Lew Ward-Baker, with his wife Pat Ward-Baker at his right and Rev. Celie at his left, led more than 50 members and friends through a potluck Passover Seder in Hebrew and English in the Clara Barton Lounge on April 22. This special meal emphasized freedom for all and concern for the stranger.

Some of the Seder attendees.

**EARTH WEEK—ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE:** Rev. Celie (right) and John Akers led an animal blessing service open to the public in Washington Square Park on April 23 to close Earth Week.



Jared Elwell, Becky Elwell, and Lois Baum (l to r) joined about a dozen others from the public and our congregation to have their live, stuffed or photographed animals blessed by Rev. Celie (at right).



*Photograph courtesy of Lois Baum.*

**RAIHN'S CAR CITY:** Michelle Yates, our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, and her children Julie and Eli, pause in decorating the family car they slept in for RAIHN's Car City overnight event on April 30 to gain a better understanding of the plight of homeless families.



*Have an action photo or two of our members and friends being inclusive, living our values or making a difference?  
Send them to Newcomb Losh at [jnewcomb.losh@yahoo.com](mailto:jnewcomb.losh@yahoo.com).*

**CLEAN SWEEP:** Karl Abbott, Jacque Cady, Richard Reed, Sarah Frey and Newcomb Losh (not pictured) joined the Washington Square Neighborhood Association folks and a number of others to clean Washington Square Park during the City of Rochester's Clean Sweep on April 30. What a great community event!



**BRIDGING CEREMONY:** On May 8, we formed a bridge to ceremonially usher high school senior **Adriana Wellin** to adulthood.



**IINYS ADVOCACY DAY:** Carole Hoffman (left) and Robert Remley joined others supporting Interfaith Impact of New York State's Albany Advocacy Day to review legislative position papers in a briefing room on May 9.



**RACE WORKSHOP:** Members and friends learned there are no genes for race in Part 1 of Race: The Power of an Illusion, a program led by **Michelle Yates**, our Director of Lifespan Faith Development.



*All photographs by Newcomb Losh unless otherwise noted.*

# Finance Report

*Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Team*

## *Of Coffee Pots and Water Pipes*

June is the month of the church budget—we approve a spending plan for the coming year and wrap up the current year.

Budgeting is not an exact science; it's a plan based on the best information we have, including our spending history and anticipated needs. This past year, we overspent in several budget categories... what else do you do when the coffee-making machine breaks (a true crisis in any church!!)? Or when a water pipe bursts or leaks?

Fortunately, other areas of the budget were kind to us: we didn't spend nearly as much on heat as we had anticipated, and we had more income from fund-raisers, plate collection, and contributions.

Overall, we are in good shape, new coffee-maker notwithstanding! Please come to the annual meeting on June 12 to vote on the proposed budget for 2016—17. You'll feel good to know that we are on solid financial ground!

## *Many Thanks for Growing Together!*

Thanks so much to Rachael Baldanza and John Akers, this year's stewardship co-chairs. Their creative spirit and willingness to share their joy at being part of this beloved community helped to make the stewardship campaign a success: As of this writing, we had 95 pledges totaling \$189,993—an increase in number of pledges and total amount pledged over last year! Thanks for your generosity! We are still missing a few pledges from last year... did we miss yours? If so, it's never too late to make a pledge. Please contact Bill Jones at [jones@chem.rochester.edu](mailto:jones@chem.rochester.edu) or see any member of the finance team. ❖



# Social Justice Plate Collection

*Submitted by Shirley Bond*

Our Social Justice Plate Collection recipient for the month of June is the Judicial Process Commission. JPC is a non-profit community organization that helps people in need of a lawyer receive no-cost or low-cost legal aid for a variety of reasons. Some of our community members benefit greatly from this service.

Also the Social Justice Plate Committee is pleased to announce that due to our wonderful congregation we were able to send a check for \$176 for "Mothers Out Front" in April and also a check for \$421 to Writers and Books summer scholarship program in May!

The committee is speechless and overjoyed. Thank-you! Shirley Bond, Becky Elwell, and Sarah Singal. ❖

## Roc/ACTS Initiative

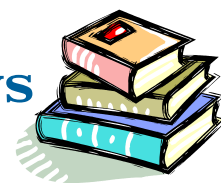
*Submitted by Shirley Bond*

Roc ACTS and other urban churches are partnering with First Universalist to have serious one-on-one discussions about race relations here in Rochester. Roc/ACTS (Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society) works to build a multi-racial, county-wide, faith-based coalition of urban and suburban congregations to address critical issues in Rochester. To really make a difference is our goal and we will be meeting in groups at different worship sites locally.

More information will be forthcoming shortly. ❖

## Book Club News

*Submitted by Shirley Bond*



Who doesn't love the summer? Yippie! By the way, we will not be meeting in June, but we are hoping to have a book selection choice by June 1. Our first fall gathering is September 25th!

Questions happily answered by Shirley Bond at [bondshirl1@gmail.com](mailto:bondshirl1@gmail.com) or Sarah Singal at [ssingal@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ssingal@rochester.rr.com). ❖



# Drop-In Discussion Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held at 9:15 am (except during the summer) each Sunday in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church. Sometimes our discussions are based on certain books or articles, but you don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome to make presentations or join in the discussions.

## June 5 | *Who Was Harriet Tubman?*

Phil Ebersole will discuss the life and achievements of the person whose face will soon replace Andrew Jackson's on the \$20 bill.

## June 12 | *CPR and AED*

Janine Casillo will discuss how to use cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and automatic electronic defibrillators in the event of a medical emergency, such as the one that happened in our church a few Sundays ago.

## June 19 | *DREAMers Among Us*

Beth Ares will discuss the New York Dream Act, which gives young unauthorized immigrants who were brought to this country as children an opportunity to pursue their educations. She will show the 21-minute documentary *DREAMers Among Us* made by the Hudson Dreamers Committee of the Youth Arts Group of Rural and Migrant Ministry.

*Start of the summer schedule.  
Drop-in discussions start at 11:15 am.*

## June 26 | *Success and Luck*

How much success is due to hard work, how much to ability and how much to luck? Bill Elwell will lead a discussion.

## July 3 | *African-Americans and Independence Day*

In 1852, Frederick Douglass gave a speech here in Rochester on "What to the slave is the Fourth of July?" He said the fine words of the Declaration of Independence applied only to white American citizens and not to black American slaves. In 2014, a black woman, Danielle Allen, published a book, *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence*, in which she argued that the Declaration's ideals were relevant to black people. Phil Ebersole will discuss the ideas in her book.

# House News

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who helped with the Spring Cleanup day! In addition to a lot of cleaning, many other tasks were completed. These included installation of exterior light fixtures at the court street door, replacement of a leaky toilet valve, securing tippy storage shelves, and prepping the garden area, just to name a few.

In other news...

- The Clara Barton Lounge has been completely converted to LED light bulbs. Not only does this reduce our carbon footprint by an estimated 1,300 KW hours per year, but it will also save approximately \$150/year.

- The sanctuary carpets were shampooed for the first time in late April.

- In preparation for the upcoming renovations, network wires in the church office were re-located. Estimates were also received for refinishing the floors in both the church and volunteer offices.

- In researching the sign requirements, it was determined that the towing company previously used for our parking lot is no longer in the towing business. A new company has been found and they will provide their own sign. This should be installed soon.

As always, if you are interested in the above or have any other repair or project you would like to see completed or would like to take on, or if you would like to join the House Committee, please let anyone on the committee know. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (tom@ruganis.net), Karen Dau, Ed Deller, Marcy Klein, Michael Scott Sarah Singal, and Mike VanArsdale. We would love to hear from you! ❖

## July 10, 17, 24 | *To be announced*

## July 31 | *Millennials*

The Millennial generation—men and women born between 1980 and 2000—are changing the USA. Steve Farrington will discuss the values and thoughts of this rising generation.

If you have a topic you'd like discussed or, better still, would be willing to lead a discussion during the summer, speak to Phil Ebersole or David Damico. ❖



## News

Submitted by Keith Stott

### Devotion to Freedom

What did Rochester's anti-slavery leader, Frederick Douglass, and our own Patricia Stott have in common? They both learned to play the violin and both their spouses played piano!

The story of Douglass' devotion to bringing slaves up north to freedom is told in *Frederick Douglass and the Underground Railroad* by Richard Reisem, with photos by Frank Gillespie. Described are 44 documented stops of the Underground Railroad in Rochester and more stops in outlying towns. Find out if one of these towns was yours.

Douglass was the first black military officer during the Civil War. His statue in Highland Park faces due north to freedom. Let us all continue to find continued devotion to fairness and freedom. Call number is **326 R.** ❖

### Another Church Author

Keith Stott's novel *Unless The Sky Falls* has been published. It tells the fictional story of Clora, a Native American, who is chosen as the spiritual leader of her league of five tribes. She travels to the whiteface world through a secret "Magic Snake Hole" (a tunnel), and helps the whitefaces deal with social, emotional, and environmental issues using Native American wisdom and practices. Along the way she has many interesting adventures. The book is liberally (no pun intended) sprinkled with UU theology and philosophy.

Keith will donate a copy to the church library. You may also purchase your own copy by contacting Pat Stott. ❖



### Additions to the Church Library

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The following books have been acquired by the First Universalist Church library. Our library books are available for borrowing by members and by friends who have attended long enough to get permanent name tags.

The library and bookstore will be open for borrowing, browsing and buying during coffee hour through June 19. Some of these titles also are for sale. The books are arranged along the wall shelves in order of their Dewey decimal numbers.

• *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (343). This is a memoir by the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative about his experiences in defending prisoners wrongly condemned or wrongly sentenced—most but not all of them black. It is a picture of a broken criminal justice system, and of a young lawyer's discovery of the meanings of justice and mercy. Recommended reading for 2015—2016 by the UUA.

• *The Seven Principles in Word and Worship* edited by Ellen Brandenburg (230.9132). Perspectives on the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism from seven ministers. Includes essays, prayers, chalice lighting, litanies, meditations and worship readings on each Principle.

• *Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse* by Kenneth W. Collier (289.1). A story, a poem and a brief essay about each principle, for all ages.

• *Stories in Faith: Exploring Our UU Principles and Sources Through Wisdom Tales* by Gail Forsyth-Vail (289.1)

• *Elite: Uncovering Classism in UU History* by Mark W. Harris (289.1)

• *A Short History of Islam* by William M. Watt (297)

• *Becoming Vegan: The Complete Guide to Adopting a Healthy Plant-Based Diet* by Brenda Davis and Vesanto Melina (613.2)

• *Rochester Knockings: a Novel of the Fox Sisters* by Hubert Haddad (843.914)

Our church bookstore includes new books, mainly from the UUA Bookstore and other Unitarian Universalist sources, which are sold at our cost, usually at a discount, and also used books, donated by members and friends, which are sold for 25 cents or 50 cents. We also have a free magazine exchange.

We will have an inventory clearance of used books before the bookstore reopens after June 19. If you see something on the used-book shelf that seems appealing, keep in mind it may not be there beyond June. ❖

# Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



This is the second of two columns highlighting the decade of the 1980s, a busy and productive time for this congregation.

**March 1987:** The organization Arts for Greater Rochester is vacating the three rooms which they have been renting in the second floor Religious Education area. They have a need for larger quarters.

**May 1987:** A ground-breaking ceremony is held on the 29th for the new skyway to be built over land where part of Cortland Street was formerly located. The church has received \$22,000 from the Pioneer Development Corp. for the purchase of its air rights. The skyway will occupy space over part of the church parking lot.

**June 1987:** Maureen Thitchner concludes her term as intern minister.

**January 1988:** The church receives a \$5,000 grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy for the capital campaign.

**February 1988:** The congregation votes to hire the architectural firm of Handler & Grosso to conduct an engineering study of the building, in preparation for the upcoming campaign.

**April 1988:** The first of the four chandeliers in the sanctuary is carefully lowered from the attic on a winch for cleaning. The other three will get their turn over the next few years. This is their first refurbishment since the church was built.

**September 1988:** The Morrison-Reeds are candidating in Toronto and are expecting to take a co-ministry position there.

**October 1988:** The Capital Campaign Committee holds a press conference. S.A.V.E.I.T., or "Save A Valued Edifice in Time," is now the new moniker for the campaign.

**December 1988:** The Morrison-Reeds are going to Toronto. They conduct their last service here on Christmas Eve. It is more subdued and not as tearful as their final Sunday morning service had been. "Is there life after the Morrison-Reeds?"

**March 1989:** Restoration cost estimates provided to the church by Handler & Grosso total **\$881,860!!!** Can

this church be saved? Playcare Day Care Nurseries Inc. begins operation of a daycare center in main room of the church basement, formerly known as the Clara Barton Room. The first floor lounge will now receive the Clara Barton designation.

**April 1989:** A grant of \$210,900 will be awarded to the church by the New York State Commission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, subject to prior acquisition of a matching amount by the congregation. The main basement room has been rented to the Rochester Model Railroad Club, with a ten-year lease. The frame of the Sargent window in the sanctuary will be restored by the Stillbrook Company, and the stained glass in the sanctuary will be re-leaded and re-installed by Pike Stained Glass Studios.

**May 1989:** The *Upstate* magazine section of the local Democrat and Chronicle of the 21st features an article about the Landmark Society in which the church is noted as one of the top ten Rochester landmarks. Also the church is featured on the TV Channel 10 program *Positively Rochester* and on the Channel 10 *Morning Show*.

**August 1989:** Rev. Virginia Knowles begins as interim minister on the 1st.

**November 1989:** The S.A.V.E.I.T. campaign is awarded \$3,000 from the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

**Winter 1989-90:** The daycare rental arrangement is definitely not working out and will not be renewed. One issue is the agency's persistent and unauthorized habit of setting the thermostat at 80°. ❖



## **First Universalist Church**

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

# **First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY**

*Nurture the spirit and serve the community*

First Universalist Church is a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Association, a liberal religion with historical roots from the Jewish and Christian traditions.

**Worship service begins at 10:30 am Sundays**

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**Minister** | Rev. Celie Katovitch

**Director of Life Span Faith Development** | Michelle Yates

**Music Director** | Carol Xiong

**Sexton** | Brandon Fagan

**Nursery Care Provider** | Carol Williams

**Office Administrator** | Melissa Davies

*Office hours, Monday – Friday, 9:30–2:30. Telephone 585.546.2826*

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### **Board Of Trustees 2015–2016**

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Editor, *This Week at First Universalist* (digital): Melissa Davies.

Monthly newsletter *Our Outlook*, David Damico, Marcy Klein. Church photo on cover by Tom Ruganis.

More information is available on our website: <http://uuroc.org>.