



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

July 2013

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Our Outlook

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Inside

Page

UU Camps	2
Finance	2
Transition	3
Pride Parade	3
House Report Highlights	3
Garden Project	4
Summer Tutoring	4
Drop-In Discussions	5
Book Club	5
RAIHN	5

Sunday Summer Services | July 2013

July 7 | *The Hand Sanitized Sign of Peace*

We live in a world where we are becoming more and more isolated from each other. How can we find real connection?

— Peter House



July 14 | *It's Not That I Don't Care, It's Just That I Don't Care*

We are always taught that it's good to care. Is it possible to care too much (especially about the wrong things?)

— Peter House



July 21 | *Guest Speaker*



July 28 | *What I am Learning About the Beloved Community*

Peter will share his personal lesson about the value of community.

— Peter House

Summer worship services and religious education classes begin at 10:00 am Sundays.





UU Camps and Conference Centers

— Michael Scott

Did you know there are over two dozen UU camp and conference centers scattered around North America? Some are large, some small; some new, some with long and colorful histories. Some have extensive summer-long or even year-long schedules; others operate for just a few weeks a year. All of them provide the potentially life-changing opportunity to live and play, worship or work, in an all-UU community for an extended period of time—something most of us never get to do in our local congregations. Perhaps that’s why so many people fall in love with these special places, and return to them year after year.

My own family has been visiting Ferry Beach, on the southeast coast of Maine, for four generations now. Kelly and I will be out there in late July and early August for an intergenerational conference known as “Family and Friends.” Job schedules permitting, we’ll be joined by our two daughters, both of whom have worked as salaried members of the “crew” in prior years. Other major UU camps within a day’s drive include Rowe, in the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts; Star Island, ten miles off the coast of New Hampshire; Unicamp, a couple hours northwest of Toronto; and Murray Grove, on the New Jersey shore, where Universalist pioneer John Murray first set foot in America.

For most of the UU campers here in Rochester, however, Unirondack is the magic place. As I write this, eight of us from First Universalist have just returned from the 22nd Gathering of Men, held at Unirondack every June. The camp occupies a sandy, wooded bluff overlooking Beaver Lake, about 20 miles east of Lowville, New York, in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains—about a three-hour drive from Rochester. Adjacent to the camp are thousands of acres of forever-wild woods and rivers, for hiking, camping, and canoeing.

Unirondack was purchased in 1951 by the New York State Convention of Universalists, the principal denominational body for Universalist churches in New York State prior to UU merger. After the merger, the camp was operated by the Saint Lawrence UU District until 1966, when

it was legally incorporated as an independent, membership organization.

For those who haven’t visited, it’s hard to describe how lovely Unirondack is. The accommodations are rustic but inviting, and the place has a special appeal to children and youth. As of this writing, there are still openings in a few of the summer programs. There are also “work weekends” in late September and October that mix leisure with a modest amount of group activities to clean or repair facilities. For more information, point your browser at unirondack.org.

For a more intense (and less rustic) experience, you might also consider the annual UU Weekend at Silver Bay, to be held October 18-20, 2013, at a beautiful YMCA conference center near the north end of Lake George. See www.facebook.com/UUWeekendatSilverBay

Finally, for links to all the UU camps and conference centers, visit cu2c2.org. The summer is only beginning. Enjoy! ❖

A Friendly Reminder from your Finance Team

— Ann Rhody, Finance Committee Chair

Our fiscal year closes on June 30! Now is the time to be sure your 2012–13 pledge has been paid in full. Since we base our budget largely on anticipated pledge income, receiving those pledges is critical to a successful end to the fiscal year.

Pledge statements were mailed out in early June. If you have a question about what you may owe on your pledge, please contact collector Bill Jones at jones@chem.rochester.edu.

Even if we receive your pledge payment in the first few weeks of July, we can credit it to the 12–13 fiscal year.

Forget to pledge for 2013–14? We accept and encourage pledges at any time during the fiscal year. Please e-mail Bill Jones for a pledge card or to inform him of your pledge directly.

Thanks for helping to keep First Universalist in the black! ❖

To be Continued...

— *Ann Rhody, for the Transition Team*

We're going to be gearing up for a very special year! So, what is the most important work our congregation will do next year? Well, many of you might say that finding a new settled minister is our most important job. But I would disagree! We have elected and entrusted a search committee to take care of that. Our job as a congregation will be to prepare ourselves for that settled minister... to continue the transitional work of getting our own house in order.

That's where your Transition Team comes in! While the search committee does its important work, the Transition Team will continue to coach, cheerlead, and celebrate as we become an even more welcoming, efficient, vibrant, and loving community. Continuing our interim tasks with Rev. Munson will make us most appealing to great ministerial candidates and give us the best chance of success when we DO welcome and call our next settled minister.

Many thanks to Santosha Kuykendall, who will be moving on from the Transition Team next year. The remaining members—Karl Abbott, chair, Bill Elwell, Mary Louise Gerek, and me—will be up and running again in the Fall.

If you have any questions about the Transition Team or our plans, please contact chair Karl Abbott at karl47@frontiernet.net. ❖

Pride Parade: July 20

— *Connie Valk*

Wear your “Standing on the Side of Love” T-shirt, or other apparel, and march down Park Avenue with other UUs behind the GUUSTO banner on July 20.

The Parade starts at 2:00 pm, but we should be lined up by 1:30 pm. When you arrive, ask one of the Parade organizers—look for someone with a clipboard—to tell you where the GUUSTO group is lined up.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge. Tom Williams is the coordinator for the day. He can help with carpooling.

We usually have twenty or more First Universalists participate. If you have never marched with the group before, come join us as UUs continue to take this stand for social justice. ❖

House Report Highlights

— *Alain Perregaux*

Sanctuary Renovation: Electrical

Lights. The two panels with the Unistrut rails that will hold the new lights have been installed. The safety hooks that will be used by those who will service the lights are in place. The lights proper will be installed the week of July 8.

Fire alarm. All the detectors and connecting lines for Phase 1 of this project have been installed. The phone lines that connect the control panel to the outside world are in place. The control panel was activated on June 19 and the monitoring company came online on June 21.

Sanctuary Renovation: Pews & Floor

In May the stairs to the balconies were repaired and made less noisy. After they are carpeted, they will be nearly silent.

The week of May 20, all the pews were moved to the front of the sanctuary. In the week of May 27, the half of the floor that is facing Clinton Avenue was sanded and re-finished. On Monday, June 3, all the pews were moved to the finished part of the floor. The refinishing of the front part of the floor was completed on Friday, June 7. The pews were installed in their final locations on June 18.

The carpet was delivered on June 20 and the installation work has begun. The cushions were delivered on June 21 and their installation was completed the next day. As planned, the last nine cushions are back-ordered to fit the exact dimensions of the shortened pews.

The final days of the renovation are scheduled as follows:

- Parking lot reopened to renters July 1
- Carpet installed July 3
- First Sunday service back in the sanctuary July 7
- New lights installed July 11

Routine Maintenance

The Spring Clean-up Day took place on Saturday, June 22. Twenty-four people showed up. All planned tasks were completed. What a cool bunch!

The roofers came the same day to fix the roof. ❖

Garden Committee Outreach Project

— Sarah Singal

Several years ago there was some discussion of an out-of-the-way, neglected alcove on the southwest aspect of the sanctuary's exterior—growing weeds, ugly cracking sidewalk cement, something of an eyesore, and representing the only piece of our church campus that wasn't being used effectively. Marcy Klein helped us with a charrette, taking all of the various visions we had for this space and seeing what we could do with it. Then back in February of this year, an adult Religious Education offering on Permaculture highlighted urban forest gardening. The Garden Committee, a branch of the House Committee, and the Social Justice Committee are now sponsoring the transformation of this alcove land into the Rochester Lots of Food program.

Lots of Food is an organization run by our Religious Education Director, Rev. Lori Staubitz, and fellow gardener and permaculture expert Patty Love. They hope to “regenerate Rochester, NY, as the (Edible) Flower City.” The idea is to grow free public food on under-used plots of land all over the city. Check out the website www.lotsoffood.org to see how this concept is being implemented in a community in England and in central Los Angeles. Rochester Lots of Food installations are being planted at the Montgomery Senior Center, 10 Cady Street, and will be installed at the Episcopal Diocese on East Avenue, and we will continue with planning for our alcove this summer. The Lots of Food program will generate lists of participating gardens for the public to visit.

Now that the decision to proceed has been made, we will meet with Lori and/or Patty to assess the site, plan a garden design, and make an inventory of what is needed. Much of the items can be obtained for free from the city, from businesses, etc. There will be very little financial outlay. We will eventually probably have several raised beds sitting on the concrete, with stone or mulch pathways around them. Some of the beds will be wheel chair accessible. Our immediate plan is to go slowly, trying things out. Our goal is to invite passersby to our church campus, provide food in an attractive organic garden setting, teach children of all ages how to grow what they eat, and join the movement for urban gardening.

Anyone who is interested is more than welcome to become part of this adventure. We will need one or more carpenters to make the frames for the raised beds. We

will need volunteers for planning and for collecting the materials we will need. We will need gardeners to weed and water the plants when we get that far. Please see Shelley Adams, Shirley Bond, Sarah Singal, or Connie Valk if you'd like to join us! ❖



Summer Tutoring Opportunity

— Sarah Singal

If you've wondered about tutoring but didn't want to make a big commitment, if you are a high school student who has some extra hours over the summer, if you love kids and kids' books, and other scenarios, please consider the opportunity below:

School 52 and Temple B'rith Kodesh partner again to hold a large Summer Program at School 52, 100 Farmington Road, 14609 (off Winton Road, just south of Irondequoit). Volunteers are needed! Program will run for 4 weeks, 9 am to 11:30 am Tues/Wed/Thurs on these dates:

July 9, 10, 11

July 16, 17, 18

July 23, 24, 25

July 30, 31, Aug. 1

The 2012 program had 80 students and 92 volunteers to cover all of the dates. Volunteers can work one session or all 12, but ideally sign up for at least once a week.

Each morning is divided into three parts: one-on-one reading support, literacy games, and readers' theater. During the reading support session, volunteers read to students and students read to volunteers. School 52 teachers prepare folders for each student with materials to use. When a student finishes a reading assignment, they get an achievement coupon. Students also get coupons for reading at home. Each morning, students receive prizes for reading achievements. At the end of the program, each student receives a stuffed animal “reading buddy” and a book. Students enjoy the program because it is more like going to camp than summer school.

To sign up or get more information, contact Bruce Pollock, bpollock@freepartnerships.org. ❖

Drop-In Discussion July Schedule

— David Damico

Summer Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday after the service at 11:15 a.m. 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.

July 7 | *Emotions and Emoticons*

Through use of punctuation, emoticons and icons, we can control the expression of our emotions over the Internet. Wouldn't it be great if we could do the same thing in real life? **Shirley Bond** will lead a discussion.

July 14 | *Predictably Irrational*

The topic is based on a book by the same title. Through a series of studies, Dan Ariely shows how irrational our behavior often is and how marketers especially know how to exploit our irrational behavior. **Bill Elwell** will lead a discussion.

July 21 | *Gardening, an overview and philosophy*

You're welcome to share gardening memories or flowers from childhood or from memory in general. Questions are also welcomed. **Monica Beck** will facilitate.

July 28 | *Book Club*

The Book Club discusses the autobiography "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor. See below for details.

Topics are subject to change. For updates, check the bulletin board in First Universalist Church's Clara Barton lounge. If you have a topic you would like discussed or, better still, would like to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole. ❖

Book Club

— Connie Valk



The Book Club will meet on July 28 at 11:30 am in the Adult Lounge. We will discuss the autobiography "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor. The author, now a Supreme Court Justice, traces her life as a child living in poverty to her appointment twenty years ago as a judge. She says that her purpose in writing the book is to let people in difficult circumstances know that "happy endings are possible." ❖

Rebecca's Story

— Marti Eggers



Rebecca came into the RAIHN* program with her four-year-old son and six-year-old daughter in December 2012 and was hosted at First Universalist in January 2013. She and her two children had become homeless after her home was foreclosed on in Webster, NY. Rebecca was facing losing her children, deportation, and feelings of wanting to give up.

At the time she entered RAIHN, Rebecca expressed that she felt that she could no longer love. After coming into the program, she said that she was able to learn to accept the things that happen. She added that the most supportive part of this program was the encouragement that she felt she received from everyone—staff and volunteers alike.

Rebecca lived in Ghana until she was 9 years old. Then she moved to Austria with her mother and stepfather. She speaks 5 languages and was attending nursing school before she moved to America. Now a successful RAIHN "graduate," Rebecca has her own apartment, is working in Webster as a Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) until she can return to school and complete her nursing requirements, has obtained her United States citizenship, and has JUST passed her NYS road test! Her children are doing exceptionally well in school and are very happy.

She was asked if there was anything she wanted to say to the volunteers now, and she said, "A *BIG* thank you! I could not have made it without the people in this program!"

RAIHN Dates

Host Week: August 11–18

Training: Wednesday, August 21, 6:30–8:30 pm, Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1010 East Avenue

** RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a consortium of 14 faith communities that host families in temporary need of housing, and 25 faith communities that provide volunteers and other support to the host congregations. First Universalist is a host congregation, supported by St. Mary's. Four times a year, for a week each time, volunteers from both congregations work together to provide a welcoming, safe place for these families to come home to after a day at the RAIHN Center where they get help looking for housing and, for some, new employment. We prepare and serve a hot evening meal, help with homework, offer a lap, a story and a hug, a listening ear, a word of encouragement, overnight presence, breakfast and whatever else might be needed before the families return to their jobs or to the Center for another day of hard work. ❖*

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue
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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.

Summer worship services and religious education classes begin at 10:00 am Sundays

Summer Minister | Peter House

Director of Religious Education | Rev. Lori Staubitz

Music Director | Bryan Holten

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Kris McCarty-White

Office hours, Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 am–2:45 pm. Telephone 585.546.2826

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Editor, Weekly *eOutlook*: Kris McCarty-White; Editor, Monthly paper *Our Outlook*, Marcy Klein / David Damico. More information is available on our website: <http://uuroc.org>.