



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

June 2012

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Our Outlook

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Sunday Services | June 2012

June 3 | *For Everything There Is A Season, A Time For Every Matter Under Heaven*

Join us as we spring into summer by sharing a favorite poems or a short prose paragraphs about either spring or summer. Bring your selections to church that Sunday, and we will weave together two seasons.

-- Patti Goodwin

June 10 | *The State of the Church*

A service for the Annual Meeting day, celebrating who you are and who you yet may become. We will recognize those who have joined the congregation in formal membership this year.

-- Rev. Martha Munson

June 17 | *Flower Communion*

This service affirms unity in diversity. **Please bring a flower with you to this service** (showy or not, wild or cultivated). We will amass them together and each take a different blossom home.

-- Rev. Martha Munson & Worship Associates

June 24 | *Multigenerational Service: Are We There Yet?*

How do we navigate our way into uncharted territory or know when we have arrived?

These are significant questions to ponder for our religious journey as a people of faith. Please join us for this interactive service as we set our sails and explore some of the tools necessary for the journey ahead! This is a great service for older children and teens as well as adults! We hope you will join us for this fun and meaningful service. Nursery care is available for infants and children up to age 4+years.

-- Rev. Lori Staubitz and Rev. Martha Munson.

Picnic to Follow





Walking With You

Submitted by Rev. Martha Munson

June brings First Universalist's Annual Meeting. Few things are as important in the life of the free church. On June 10th, you will exercise the precious right of the congregation to govern itself. Members gather to receive and review reports, and to ask questions. You will pass a budget for the next fiscal year, dispensing the pledges that you have made. You will elect new leaders.

By the time you receive the next Outlook, the Annual Meeting will be history. To "be history" means that it has become part of the journey. It is something to look back upon, to ponder for its meanings and its lessons. I hope that you will take a moment to appreciate what you have done as individuals and as a community this year. For it has been a year of twists, turns, and surprises. You have weathered them well. I hope that you will thank one another, thank those who are continuing, thank those whose formal service is ending, thank those have agreed to take over the work that makes your beloved community hum.

Two hallmarks of healthy congregational life are gratitude and generosity. Gratitude: saying "thanks" regularly and often. Generosity: of spirit for mistakes past, of time to enhance the present, and of talent to make things better. As I see it, part of this year's history is growing gratitude and generosity. Here's to your continuing good health! ❖

Martha



Gleanings

from Religious Growth & Learning

Submitted by Rev. Lori Staubitz,

Director of Religious Education

A few years ago a member of my former congregation rushed up to me saying "Here, this one is for you!" In my hands he placed a small brown container filled with damp earth and a single seedling.

"What is it?" I asked. "A beautiful cherry tomato" he replied.

"Oh boy, just what I love!" I said with a smile.

This lay leader had been helping the children plant seedlings as part of our community outreach efforts. He turned to leave saying, "I have to hurry because I don't want these other little seedling to get too cold" and off he went.

I stood with my new little seedling in hand, filled with the sudden realization that I too had a responsibility.

Then it happened.....I leaped to say YES! It is like that with those things you just know will be worth the effort.

However, now I had it and the full force of saying YES! was in my hands.

It is like that with seedlings and it is like that with ministry; especially one that is ripe for change.

It takes thoughtful planning, nurture and all around commitment to raise vegetables. This same kind of attention is needed to cultivate a vital congregation. Well worth the effort when the harvest comes in!

These past months I have worked to help plant the seeds of renewal in Religious Education. As you know, tending to ministry is a partnership effort between religious professionals and committed lay leaders. I owe a special thanks to those who have been welcoming and supportive; especially when making changes has involved taking on new aspects of lay ministry and leadership.

Here in June, I come to you with seedlings of renewal in hand saying "Here, these are for you!"

They are the beginnings of a wonderful Sunday morning small group children's worship experience, a developing Adult Religious Education program and a refreshing and bright Nursery to welcome in the very youngest new members.

I hope you will reach out and hold them saying Yes! Yes! These will be very good indeed! May your harvest be joyful and plentiful! ❖



UUA Considers Relocation

Submitted by Michael Scott

“25 Beacon Street” has been synonymous with UUA Headquarters since 1961, and with Unitarian Headquarters since 1927. The location is historic and prestigious (immediately adjacent to the Massachusetts State House), but not very practical. To start with, there isn’t enough space, so half the staff is located a long block away at 41 Mount Vernon St. Both buildings are old and dark, and only partially accessible to visitors and staff with disabilities. The Mount Vernon address lacks fast Internet access. Needed repairs and improvements are expected to total nearly \$10 million over the next few years.

At the same time, the Boston real estate market is badly depressed at the moment—everywhere other than Beacon Hill. Selling the current facility (including a 20-room Bed & Breakfast located between the two administrative buildings) would raise sufficient funds to purchase dramatically better space elsewhere in the Boston area, with an estimated \$10 million left over to add to the UUA endowment.

The UUA has considered moving before—most recently one year ago, when it placed a preliminary bid on space being sold by Hebrew College in the western suburb of Newton. When the Hebrew deal fell through, denominational leaders undertook a highly detailed study of current and future building needs. The resulting report (available at www.uua.org/documents/leapfaith/120402_spff.pdf) was received and approved by the UUA Board of Trustees at its meeting in late April.

New quarters have not yet been identified, but the requirements are clear. A candidate site can be expected to bring all staff together in one building, with an open office plan, lots of natural light, excellent accessibility, and wiring appropriate for modern office equipment. Like the current location, it will need to have easy access to mass transit. Unlike the current location, it can be expected to be energy efficient and to have at least a bit of room for parking.

For more on the possible move, visit www.uuworld.org/news/articles/199456.shtml ❖



Religious Growth & Learning: Children’s Program:

Nursery care for babies and younger children is provided throughout the service on the second floor. We also have seating in our second floor foyer, where parents can hold their little ones and listen to the service via speaker.

Children's Interactive Worship Experience

Children ages four and older join the adults every week in the sanctuary for the first portion of our worship service. Following the Message for All Ages, children 4 yrs and older will depart to continue a multi-aged, interactive worship time in room #31 on the third floor.

Parents and guardians are asked to accompany their infants and children to the community social time in the Clara Barton Lounge following worship. ❖

Drop-In Discussion, June Schedule

Submitted by David Damico

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church. You don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome.

June 3 | *How our religious upbringing shapes who we are.*
A sharing of stories about our religious upbringing. Facilitated by Shirley Bond.

June 10 | *Trayvon Martin*
George Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin. We'll discuss some of the issues raised by the case, including racial profiling, "stand your ground" laws, and the right to a fair trial. Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

June 17 | *Exploring Out Culinary Memory*
What determines the food we eat? Our ethnicity, our religion, our economic status, food availability, climate, education level, the generation we are a part of, to name a few. Join me in a discussion of the book *97 ORCHARD* by Jane Ziegelman. This book explores the culinary lives of 5 families, all living in one New York tenement building at different times during the 19th and early 20th century, German Protestant, Irish Catholic, German Jewish, Lithuanian Jewish and Italian, in that order.

We will then open the discussion to our own food memories and how they have affected our lives; and also, whether we still eat the way we were raised and if not, why? Facilitated by Janus Mary Jones.

June 24 | *The Effects of Bullying.*
This topic has recently taken front and center with many in our community and others across the Nation. What does it take to become a bully--nature-nurture? How do bullies usually keep their status? What happens when school systems sometimes don't address this behavior problem adequately? If you saw the documentary, *BULLY*, what is your impression? Has anyone ever experienced someone else being bullied? And yourself? Come discuss the scope of this problem, and help think about ways we can, in our own community, right this wrong. Facilitated by Janet Perregaux ❖

Board Happenings

Submitted by Shirley Bond

The board meeting on May 7th was packed full of work and decision making. Many loose ends had to be tied up and also discussions about what plans we have for September and beyond were under consideration.

Just to let you know on June 23rd the board will be passing on the torch to 3 lucky new members and saying a sad goodbye to 3 members who have completed their term. John Akers, Paul Brew, and Chris DeGolyer have dedicated hours and hours of service to First Universalist. The board is extremely grateful to have had such wonderful members on board the board!

The date for the annual meeting is June 10th. We encourage members to save the date as the 2012–2013 budget will need approval. Please take the time to look this over carefully. It is very important for the board and finance committee to be good stewards of your pledges.

The board was pleased that the Saint Lawrence District Assembly held April 27th and 28th was well received and attended by many members and friends from First Universalists. Dinner was served to over 90 friends in our Clara Barton lounge.

The next board meeting will be June 4th at 7 PM...
Please come. ❖

Mark Your Calendar!

Saratoga Springs hosts the annual meeting of the *New York State Convention of Universalists*, October 12 and 13, 2012.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Lee Barker, President, Meadville/Lombard Theological School, Chicago

Theme: Modern Ministry - in Its Many Forms

The host congregation expects to offer a day of eastern Adirondack tourism in advance of the meeting.
Specifics to follow.

Courter and McKanan scholarships are available to youth and young adult attendees.

Be a delegate and receive mileage and accommodation reimbursement, plus a stimulating weekend.

More details in next month's newsletter and from Joyce Gilbert at JTGilbert@frontiernet.net.

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



SARAH Cawthra Schoeffel undoubtedly experienced the most colorful life of any woman in this congregation's history. Born in England in 1836, the daughter of Isaiah and Nancy Cawthra, she came with her parents and siblings to Toronto about six years later on a small sailing vessel owned by an uncle who lived in that place. After two years there her father wanted to return to England. However, he became ill while traveling on the Erie canal. Getting off the packet boat at Rochester, he decided to remain—at a time when traces of animosity resulting from the War of 1812 were still evident this close to Canada. But he saw possibilities here, and soon had constructed one of the first woolen mills in the East. After it was destroyed by fire, he built a second that was ruined by a flood on the Genesee River. He died in 1857 at age 49. When Sarah was only 14 she took a job without consulting her family and soon became the leading saleswoman in a wholesale millinery business. At age 17 she was sent to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to manage a branch there, and a year later, accompanied by a brother, she went to Cleveland for the same purpose. After her brother's death she returned to Rochester and established her own business here. In 1860, when she was 24, she married Francis A. Schoeffel, who was associated at that time with the American Locomotive Works. At President Abraham Lincoln's first call for troops he enlisted in the Civil War and was injured at Bull Run. Sarah set out immediately for the front and after a

number of adventures found her husband recovered and back on duty. While she was with his regiment she served in Washington, Maryland and Virginia as a war nurse, and at one point her officer husband had charge of a slave camp in Alabama. Back in Rochester, an urgent need for treatment of wounded soldiers resulted in the expansion of St. Mary's Hospital in 1863, and Sarah raised \$17,000 toward new construction and volunteered as a nurse. Later on, she visited her husband's regiment in Georgetown. She met President Lincoln during this time and he invited her to accompany him on reconnaissance balloon trips some 5000 feet above Fredericksburg to view Confederate movements—the excitement no doubt occasionally augmented by occasional gunfire from angry soldiers below. Returning home, Sarah was entrusted with \$30,000 from the pay of soldiers, which she sewed into the folds of her dress, to distribute to their families in the city. She then re-established her millinery business, but a flood on the river washed it away—just as her father's mill had been wiped out. Sarah had been born a Quaker and as an adult was affiliated with the Universalist church, but her charitable endeavors were always nonsectarian. She died in 1937 at the age of 101 years, six months and 26 days. She and her husband were the parents of three sons and four daughters. ❖

Gather The Spirit, Nurture the Future

Love Music? Story? Art? Spirituality?
Interested in Growth and Learning?
Apply to serve as a
Worship Leader for our Sunday Morning Children's Experience

Sign-Up Begins June 3, 2012
Location: Clara Barton Lounge

Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 24th

Submitted by Joy Leccese

Get out those Frisbees, Badminton and Bocce sets, folks! It's time for our annual all-church picnic! Come enjoy a plethora of goodies: good company, good food, good music and all kinds of games: board games, card games (even a Euchre Play-off), slow-pitch baseball, Frisbee throw contests, all amid a wonderland of greenery at Ellison Park. We'll convene at the Circle Shelter, and directions will be posted on flyers around the church.

Bring your favorite dish to share, grilling goodies such as hots, hamburgers, chicken, veggies (whatever pleases your palate), and we'll supply the dinnerware, charcoal and beverages. Check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge so we'll have a variety of

tasty dishes. We'll bring makings for Ice Cream Sundaes in the Park for dessert. (We won't turn down other desserts, though – cookies, brownies, etc.)

You won't want to miss a minute, so come to our multi-generational Worship Service in your Best Picnic Pantaloons, ready to dash out the door afterwards straight to the park.

It's a great way to celebrate the beginning of summer, so mark your calendars and get your supply of sun screen and 6-12! (that's mosquito repellent, for all you young'uns.)

See you there! ❖

Our People

Bernice Cook's son, Chaz Mitchell, graduated from SUNY Albany Sunday, May 20, 2012.

Greetings can be sent to Chaz at:

332 Maple Ave.
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Jowanna, on RAIHN

"RAIHN made me feel at home. The volunteers are an excellent group of people."

First Universalist is one of 15 Host Congregations in the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) which houses homeless families with children for a week at a time, 3 or 4 times a year. The week is "staffed" at First Universalist from 5PM until 8AM each day by trained volunteers from First Universalist and from St. Mary's, our support congregation.

You can nurture the spirit, serve the community and be a source of hope for homeless families by becoming a RAIHN volunteer. Here's how –

Training – On Wednesday, June 13th, from 6:30 PM until 8:30PM at New Life Presbyterian Church, 245 Rosedale Street, Nancy Elliott, RAIHN Director,

will lead a training session that will orient attendees to the philosophy of RAIHN and provide skills in building appropriate relationships with our guests. Ample time is provided for questions and discussion.



Hosting – Our next Host Week begins on Sunday, June 24th. By completing the training on June 13th, you will be ready for this week, and will be joining a dedicated and joyful team of volunteers. If you have questions and/or are planning to attend the training, please see Sarah Singal or Marti Eggers. Thank you! ❖

House Report Highlights - May 2012

Submitted by Alain Perregaux

Steam Consumption

The problem of the unusually high steam consumption has not been solved. In spite of three different recording thermometers placed at different locations in the sanctuary, we have not been able to corroborate the anecdotal evidence of randomly high temperatures. With the summer season approaching, we will not be able to test different hypotheses. However, as part of the sanctuary renovation work, the old thermostat will be replaced while the steam lines and radiators are checked. We will resume the monitoring exercise in the fall.

House Committee

The House Committee has not met for several months in its traditional format. Instead, all its energies have been funneled into the planning of the sanctuary renovation. Time is short, the schedule is aggressive and the challenges are many. The only time out that we took was for the planning of the Spring Clean-up Day on Saturday May 19.

One piece of good news, John Morgan has decided to join the House Committee. He will be introduced to the team when we resume our regular meetings in the fall.

Sanctuary Renovation

At the early April meeting of the Renovation Committee, the architect Kevin Trout presented a tentative schedule for the work between April and September. According to this time line, the bidding documents will go out at the very end of May and the physical work in the sanctuary will begin the first week in July.

While the architects face their own challenges to meet this schedule, the Renovation Committee is facing two key challenges: the selection of carpets and cushions, and the choice of lighting fixtures. We are currently being helped by an interior designer and by a lighting specialist. Progress is happening but we cannot afford to miss a beat. In the meantime, the Worship Committee has decided to hold the Summer Services in the Clara Barton Lounge.

Spring Clean-up Day

Another piece of good news is that, thanks to Eric vanDusen's contacts, five members of the Occupy Rochester movement have agreed to help us on May 19 as a gesture of thanks for the hospitality that we offered last winter. It is community involvement at its best! ❖

Calling All Musicians!

Submitted by Ann Rhody



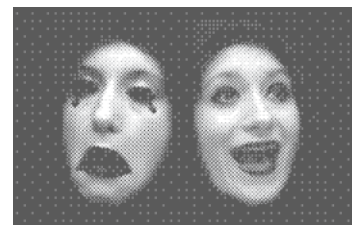
Summer is coming..... and we need YOU!

We are currently scheduling volunteers to provide music for our summer services, beginning with the July 1 service. We need people to provide special music (prelude, postlude, offertory) as well as hymns. Even if you have only one piece of music you'd like to perform, we'll find a place for you on the schedule! If you are interested or you have questions, please contact Ann Rhody at annrhody@yahoo.com. ❖

Fun and Frolic for Theater Buffs

Here are two opportunities to attend theater productions with your fellow UUs. All are welcome to participate. Contact Connie Valk if you:

- Subscribe (or are planning to subscribe) to GEVA for the 2012-13 season, and you want to coordinate dates with fellow UUs to attend productions.
- Get a kick out of Gilbert and Sullivan, and want to attend summer performance on July 21st at Gates Hall in Pultneyville (we can car pool). ❖



First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

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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.

Worship services and Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Martha Munson

Director of Religious Education | Rev. Lori Staubitz

Music Director | Josiah Armes

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Kris McCarty White

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

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