



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

June 2013

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Our Outlook

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Sunday Services | June 2013

June 2 | *In Praise of Wisby Washy Agnostics*

What is the place of honest doubt and tentativeness among us?
– Rev. Martha Munson



June 9 | *Thus Do We Covenant*

In anticipation of the Annual Meeting to follow, this service will focus on the meaning and nature of being a covenantal (vs. a creedal) people, the meaning of membership, leadership, and professional ministry.
– Rev. Martha Munson



June 16 | *A Celebration of Men*

On this Father's Day, the service highlights the importance of "male energy". Homer Simpson or Father Knows Best, or something else/more?
– Rev. Martha Munson



June 23 | *Flower Ceremony*

This is a service for all ages. *Please bring with you a flower*, wild or cultivated, showy or small. We shall amass them together, and then each take a different one to our home.
– Rev. Martha Munson

Picnic to follow - June 23

See page 6 for details

June 30 | *Summer Services* begin at 10 am. TBA

– Summer Minister, Peter House

Our regular morning service as well as Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am. Summer services will begin at 10am starting June 30.





Walking With You

Message from the Interim Minister

Like most congregations in the “free church tradition”, Unitarian Universalists have been in the forefront of upholding what is known as the separation of church and state. It’s likely by the time you are reading this, the Supreme Court of the United States will have made a decision about whether or not to hear a case from the Town of Greece. No matter what that decision, this is an ongoing issue.

On Wednesday June 5th at 6 pm, the Genesee Valley NYCLU will have their annual meeting and the theme speaker will be Gregory M. Lipper. Mr. Lipper is Senior Litigation Counsel at *Americans United for Separation of Church and State*. This event will take place at Downtown Presbyterian Church • 121 N Fitzhugh Street • Parking available at City Hall. Light Refreshment at 6 PM • Meeting Begins at 6:30 PM RSVP Appreciated • 585-453-4334 • GeneseeValley@NYCLU.ORG This is the information about the talk.

GREECE PRAYER CASE

“Galloway v. Town of Greece” Will the Supreme Court hear the case?

Thirty years ago, the Supreme Court authorized legislative bodies to open legislative meetings with prayers, provided that the government does not exploit these prayers to advance one particular faith to the exclusion of others. Many legislative bodies, however, have sought to push the envelope – by repeatedly leading Christian prayers or inviting predominantly Christian clergy to deliver predominantly Christian prayers. Americans United confronted the latter situation in *Galloway v. Town of Greece*, challenging the town’s practice of opening meetings with Christian prayers delivered by Christian clergy. Gregory Lipper will discuss the trial court’s decision to dismiss the lawsuit, the successful appeal to the Second Circuit, and the Town’s attempt to obtain Supreme Court review. He’ll also describe how Greece fits within the larger body of legislative-prayer cases.

As with so many things, “It’s our watch now”.

And it’s our watch now at First Universalist. I look forward to seeing you on the corner of S. Clinton and Court. You’ve been faithful to your congregation in this time of transition, and this time of renovation.

Bravo for you! ❖

Faithfully, *Martha*



Gleanings

from Religious Growth & Learning

Rev. Lori Staubitz, Acting Director of Faith Development

Over the course of this past year, we have “grown in spirit” as we have expanded our Religious Education program to encourage deeper reflection and meaningful action. Children’s worship included making UU meditation beads, songs and prayers, reflections on stress, loss, bullying, truth telling and universal love. Our youngest were tended by loving Nursery staff member Carol Williams and wonderful volunteers.

Adults engaged in wide exploration through discussions, workshops on sustainable gardening, right relations and community meals followed by deeper sharing and reflection.

Please join me in thanking our Religious Education Committee, Children’s Worship Team Leaders, Nursery Care givers & the newly formed Adult Faith Development Committee for their steadfast and creative service.

The RE / ARE Committees will be looking forward to next steps in our Lifespan faith development. Regular RE programming will start again in September. In the meantime, I invite you to join me in a daily spiritual practice. It does not require organizational planning or committee meetings... only your open eyes, heart & mind.

Mary Oliver explains it best in her poem, “The Rapture”

“All summer
I wandered the fields
that were thickening
every morning
every rainfall,
with weeds and blossoms,
with the long loops
of the shimmering, and the
extravagant-
pale as flames they rose
and fell back,
replete and beautiful-
that was all there was-
and I too
once or twice, at least,
felt myself rising,....”

May the beauty and bounty of summer fill you with awe and wonder and may the unfolding of life around you be equaled by the unfolding of life within you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Many Blessings, Lori ❖



The International Association for Religious Freedom

Submitted by Michael Scott

Here in the United States, we tend to think of the Unitarian Universalist Association as the top-most level of organized liberal religion, but there are other liberal groups in almost every part of the world, affiliated with almost every major faith tradition. Many of these groups remain in touch with one another, and interact—at least to some degree—through the International Association for Religious Freedom.

The seeds of the IARF go back 120 years, to the 1893 World Parliament of Religions, the first truly global attempt at interfaith dialog. Held in conjunction with the Chicago World’s Fair, the Parliament showcased the diversity of human belief, and suggested, at least for some, the possibility of a new age of global understanding. Inspired by that vision, attendees at the 75th anniversary meeting of the American Unitarian Association, held in Boston at the turn of the 20th century, came together to create an organization they dubbed the “International Council of Unitarian and Other Liberal Thinkers and Workers.” Originally dominated by (white, Western, male) liberal Christians, the organization evolved over time into a much more genuinely diverse endeavor. In the process it changed its name, first (in 1910) to the “International Congress of Free Christians and Other Religious Liberals,” then (in 1930) to the “International Association for Liberal Christianity and Religious Freedom,” and finally (in 1969) to simply the “International Association for Religious Freedom.”

Today the IARF encompasses some 90 member groups in 25 countries, representing a very wide range of faith traditions, including Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Shinto, Sikh, and Zoroastrian. The North American IARF affiliate was part of the UUA Department of Overseas and Interfaith Relations until the late 1960s, when it was spun off a separate organization. Today the US and Canada have separate national chapters, as do about a dozen other countries. The international headquarters is currently located in Japan, where it enjoys strong support within the liberal Buddhist Rissho Kosei-kai movement.

Arguably the two most valuable IARF programs today are its World Congress meetings and its presence at the United Nations. The World Congress, held every 3-4 years, brings together several hundred representatives from around the globe for four days of sharing and celebration. The most recent Congress was held in Kochi, India in September 2010. Keynote speaker was His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who received the Albert Schweitzer Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Liberal Religion. Our own Dick and Joyce Gilbert were among the American participants.

At the United Nations, the IARF is one of only 140 organizations to hold official consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It plays an active role on behalf of human rights—and the rights of oppressed religious minorities in particular—in both Geneva and New York. This work directly upholds Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his [or her] religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest [that] religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

For further information, visit iarf.net or iarfus.org ❖

Introducing:

Our New Ministerial Search Committee!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I am happy to announce that the following individuals have been selected to be our congregation’s Ministerial Search Committee. In alphabetic order, they are: **Dolores Dalomba, Chris DeGolyer, Lisa Gwinner, Tom Ruganis, Sarah Singal, Connie Valk, John Wellin, and Laurreta Young.**

If you are counting, you’ll see that there are 8, not 7 individuals as originally planned. The Board is grateful for their willingness to step up and commit the time, energy and thoughtful discernment to the process of calling our next settled minister. Congratulations, all!

Joy Leccese, Moderator ❖

Annual Meeting Notice

Submitted by John Wellin

- 1) There is one position on the Nominating Committee's slate that still needs to be determined, and may be before the annual meeting actually occurs. If available, that name will be publicized via other means of announcing the meeting.
- 2) Childcare will be provided.

First Universalist Society Rochester, New York

Annual Meeting June 9, 2013 Agenda

Call to order
Quorum count
Chalice lighting – John Wellin
Opening reading – Ed Deller
Treasurer's report
Vote on proposed 2013 – 2014 budget
Brief outline of annual reports
Revised committee structure per new bylaws
Elections
* Board of Trustees: Michael Van Arsdale
* Board President: Ed Deller
* Nominating Committee (5)
- Tom Williams
- Santosha Kuykendall
- Cathie Grisley
- Marie Sidoti
- (To be determined...)
Other business
Adjournment
Closing reading
Extinguishing the chalice
Childcare will be provided ❖

The Transition Continues...

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Transition Team

What a year it's been! We've had some great dialogue with one another, made some positive changes, both formal (new bylaws) and informal (more attention to greeting visitors and empowering our leaders). This spring has brought a new adventure with services in the lounge as our beautiful sanctuary is renovated, a vigorous stewardship campaign, and the appointment of an energetic and committed search team who will soon begin their work.

This is what I call momentum!!

So if we are a "body in motion," can we remain in motion? Newton says yes, and so do I. Let's keep that momentum going! We've got a great summer session in store, with summer minister Peter House and guest musicians each week. We are busy planning for next year's fundraisers, adult and youth RE offerings, volunteer opportunities, social justice projects, and more.

So as we wrap up the year, let's all remember to:

- Show Up
- Step Up
- Stay Engaged!

Keep that momentum going!

The Transition Team will continue its work, with a few personnel changes, of helping the congregation to be well-positioned to call OUR next minister. We thank you for your commitment and high level of engagement this year. We look forward to continuing this journey with you!

The Transition Team

Karl Abbott, chair; Bill Elwell, Mary Louise Gerek,
Santosha Kuykendall ❖

**AND + NOW + ABIDETH + FAITH
HOPE + LOVE + THESE + THREE + BUT
THE + GREATEST + OF + THESE + IS + LOVE**

Stewardship 2013

Love Will Guide Us

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Stewardship Team

Our stewardship campaign is now behind us (but there is always time to make a pledge if we missed you!! Contact Bill Jones at (william.jones@rochester.edu), and there are a number of happy facts to share!

- We have 10 new pledges totaling over \$10,000
- Of the 68 folks who pledged last year and again this year, 55 have increased those pledges to the tune of \$24,800
- Several people have stepped up with additional one-time contributions to support our initiatives for next year- adult RE and staff support

As of this writing, we have 78 pledges, with a total of \$153,874. Since our budget for next year will be in the \$240K range, we do have a gap to close- so if we are missing YOU, please get in touch with Bill Jones at the e-mail address above.

Thanks to Bill and Heather Jones for co-chairing the stewardship campaign this year, and THANK YOU for your generous response and your commitment to our church's mission! ❖

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Summer 2013 *Calling All Musicians!*

Our summer service schedule will start on Sunday, June 30. This will mean three things:

1. Our services will begin at 10:00 AM instead of 10:30
2. Peter House will be our Summer Minister
3. Music will be provided by volunteers from the congregation!

We have many talented musicians who play hymns and/or provide special music during the summer. Are you 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@yahoo.com for a schedule or more information. ❖



Why RAIHN?*

A Mother's Day Answer

Submitted by Marti Eggers



This past Mother's Day we welcomed our RAIHN guests for the week, including two Moms with three teens, two of them sons.

In the Rochester area there are shelters for homeless women, and they can bring their children with them to the shelters, unless they have sons over the age of 12 or 14. Those boys have to go alone to a shelter for men or find other arrangements, but they cannot stay with their mothers.

RAIHN was established 9 years ago with the mission of keeping homeless families together while they seek to return to living in their own place again. How fitting that we were able to provide a safe place for these Moms and teen sons to be together on Mother's Day. As these Moms left us the following Sunday, they expressed their gratitude for our warm hospitality and for keeping their families together. This is "Why RAIHN."

* RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a consortium of 14 faith communities that host families in temporary need of housing, and 27 faith communities that provide volunteers and other support to the host congregations. First Universalist is a host congregation, supported by St. Mary's, the Church of Love, and Aldersgate United Methodist. Four times a year, for a week each time, volunteers from all 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. ❖



Drop-In Discussion, June Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church except during the summer. 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. Here is the schedule.

We meet at 9:15 a.m. during the regular church year.

June 2 | *Prayer*

The current issue of the "UU World" has two articles on prayer, that which UUs practice and then another on prayers of atheists. In this discussion, we'll explore both articles and your opinion or practice of prayer. Does it move mountains or matter at all?

Go to <http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/283999.shtml> and <http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/284018.shtml> to read the articles. David Damico will facilitate a discussion.

June 9 | *Stupidity Theory*

Two management scholars argued in their paper, "The Stupidity Theory of Organizations," that the functioning of large hierarchical organizations requires a suppression of critical intelligence. Phil Ebersole will discuss basic concepts, including functional stupidity, stupidity management, stupidity self-management and the "how could I have been so stupid" syndrome.

If It's June, It's Picnic Time

Once again we will celebrate the end of our church year with a picnic, and again at Ellison Park. On Sunday,

June 23rd, we have the Sycamore Shelter reserved for us: we'll have the "advance team" go out and set up and get the fire going. After coffee hour, we'll depart and head for fun, food and fellowship. We'll provide the dinnerware and beverages. Please bring a dish to share, and your favorite grilling goodies. We ask that you also bring any lawn games and board games (badminton, croquet, Bocce, Scrabble, Password, etc. or your kids' favorites.)

Folks are welcome to bring guests as well: the more, the merrier! There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge, and don't be

June 16 | *Unidentified Flying Objects*

The subject of UFOs won't seem to go away. Two recent movies, THRIVE and SIRIUS, talk not just about UFOs, but alien technology to solve the energy crisis. What's going on? Hank Stone will facilitate a discussion.

June 23 | *Open Forum*

We'll meet and talk without a set topic.

We'll meet at 11:15 a.m. during our summer schedule, which begins June 30.

June 30 | *Anarchism Lite*

Political scientist James C. Scott, in his book *Two Cheers for Anarchism*, says contemporary U.S. society needs more scope for individual freedom and voluntary cooperation. He advocates "anarchist calisthenics" to break the habit of blinding obeying pointless laws and rules. Phil Ebersole will facilitate a discussion.

If you have a topic you would like discussed or, better still, would like to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole ❖

CHURCH PICNIC

June 23rd, 2013

Where: Ellison Park
Sycamore Shelter

When: Cooking fires will be provided
Plan to eat about 1:00pm

Provided: Plates, utensils, cups

What To Bring:

- Dish to pass
- Meat if desired
- Drinks
- Lawn Games

Questions: Call Janet Rothbeind 288-4897

surprised if our Picnic Planners come around and ask if you're attending; we'll need to know numbers so we can provide adequate supplies! Food prep / grilling will begin at 12:30, and we hope to eat at 1:00, so families with small children might need a little snack after services to tide them over. Maps will be provided, and signage at the entrance to the Park will guide you to the Sycamore Shelter. We hope to have a big turnout! See you there! For more information, contact Janet Rothbeind at 288-4897 (janetrothbeind@yahoo.com) or Joy Leccese (coaching-joy@gmail.com) – or 317-8870. ❖

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist

OUR CHURCH did not always support itself by the method of a pledge campaign. In the 19th century, in accordance with the contemporary custom of virtually all churches, we rented our pews. The issue of Our Outlook for October 2, 1908 shows a diagram of all the pews in the then-brand new sanctuary and their rental prices, according to their locations and the number of “sittings.” The front pews were among the cheapest, and the ones in the center were the most expensive. There were pews in the sanctuary at that time all the way back to the Court Street entrance, and I don’t know when the ones in the section nearest the doors were removed, except that it was before 1969. The practice of pew rental came to an end around 1919, when a notice in Our Outlook on February 28 that year said, “All seats in this church are free and strangers are cordially welcome. We would be glad of financial aid through the envelope system.” By 1922 the Every Member Canvass and its subsequent incarnations had become a way of life. ❖

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Library News

Submitted by Keith Stott

Do the names Jennifer Bosveld and Kenneth Patton ring a bell? What about Ric Masten? What do they have in common?

They’re all UU Poets and Jennifer was the editor of *The Unitarian Universalist Poets: A Contemporary American Survey*. Until her death a few years ago she was also editor of *Pudding Magazine: The International Journal of Applied Poetry*, copies of which you may have seen on our library magazine rack. “Applied”? Jennifer felt that writers must “work jobs or somehow be involved in their communities in order to write what matters.”

To read some poetry that matters check out *The Unitarian Universalist Poets*. **Call number is 811 B.** ❖

House Report Highlights - June 2013

Submitted by Alain Perregaux

Sanctuary Renovation - Electrical Lights

A few connections to the control system still need to be completed. The wood panels on which the lights will be mounted and the safety hooks for the servicing of the lights are all expected to be installed by the end of May

Fire alarm

The last task to be completed by the electrician is the telephone connection to the monitoring company. Two lines will be needed: one for the main connection and one for the back-up. Of the four lines that are now entering the building, two can be used for the fire alarm without jeopardizing their other functions such as fax, voice mail, elevator emergency, etc. Barring any unforeseen functional conflict, we will not need to add a fifth line.

Sanctuary Renovation – Pews & Floor

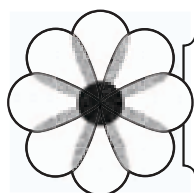
All the pews are now repaired. The seven pews that needed to be shortened to make space for wheel chairs and aisle width have been cut and re-assembled. The last step will be the repair of the mounting blocks at the base of the legs of the pews. Roughly 20 of them are in such bad shape that they will need to be replaced.

As of this writing the repair of the balcony stairs is in progress. The purpose of this work is to make these stairs less noisy so that people can walk up during an event without causing major disruption.

The plan is to have the floor refinished by mid June and the new carpet installed by early July.

Routine Maintenance

During the winter, several roof shingles were blown away by the wind. It is a sure sign the we need to plan another roof job. The present roof was installed in 1988. As a short term measure, the roofer who re-did the gutters in 2008 will do some temporary repairs this spring. ❖



Please bring with you a flower, wild or cultivated, showy or small for the June 23, Flower Ceremony service.

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 | Bryan Holten

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