

Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

November 2012

Minister

Rev. Martha Munson

585.325.5092 (minister's study)

minister@uuroc.org

Director of Music

Bryan Holten

music@uuroc.org

Director of

Religious Education

Rev. Lori Staubitz

dre@uuroc.org

Office Administrator

Kris McCarty-White

585.546.2826

office@uuroc.org

Our Outlook

Newsletter Editor

David Damico

uurocnews@gmail.com

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue

(corner of Court St.)

Rochester, NY 14604

Visit us online www.uuroc.org

Inside

Minister's Message Pg. 2

RE News, *Gleanings* Pg. 2

The UUA Moderator Pg. 3

Transition Time Pg. 3

Board Happenings Pg. 4

Universalist Notices Pg. 5

RAIHN Training Pg. 6

Drop-In Discussions Pg. 6

Auld Lang Syne, Part 3 Pg. 6/7

Sunday Services | November 2012

November 4 | *How to Vote*

The election is now 2 days away. How will you vote? Today is Bring-a-Friend Sunday. Please do invite someone to accompany you to First Universalist today.

-- Rev. Martha Munson



November 11 | *More Veterans*

Today is Veterans Day, which honors all of those who, when called to serve, have done so. None more than veterans want peace.

-- Rev. Martha Munson



November 18 | *Let Us Give Thanks!*

A Multi-Generational service for Thanksgiving.

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



November 25 | *Home for the Holidays?*

The poet Robert Frost said, "home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." Where do you feel at home? What makes somebody "family"? A service about how we make ourselves at home in the world.

--guest speaker, Bridget Watts



Our regular morning service as well as Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am.

This year's Union Service on Thanksgiving Day will be at 11am at Temple Brith Kodesh.





Walking With You

Message from the Interim Minister

Some of you have asked to know more about my spiritual practice. For some time now, I've tried to use two prayers to frame my day. Both are from *A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book* by William John Fitzgerald.

At the end of the day, if I can manage it before I fall asleep, I recall this one:

Prayer at the End of Day

May the sun go down on anger, stress and worry.
May the sun go down on problem solving and planning.
May the sun go down on rush and deadlines.
May the sun go down on this day's work, now done.
May the sacred circle of the sun frame our day with blessing.
May it signal brighter days ahead, new energies and emerging hopes.

My morning devotional time takes varying forms. Most often I end with this:

Prayer at Rising

Bless our work this day, from morning's waking till night's unfolding.
Bless our comings and our goings, the spinning of our labor and our lives.
May the ones we meet be better for it.
Bless this day, bless this journey, bless the work.

Especially in these anxiety-filled times, I commend to you some time early in the day to "set your intention". And I commend to you a peaceful blessing of yourself at day's end. ❖

Faithfully,
Martha



Gleanings

from Religious Growth & Learning

Submitted by Rev. Lori Staubitz,

Consulting Religious Educator

I am old enough now to say "remember when." I do remember when the sight of a single Eagle would have been very rare indeed. What a lethal combination all those years of poaching and poison did make on the environment. Too bad we weren't as "far-sighted" as these Raptors. We would have seen it coming. Today, it is a joy to be in their presence here in the Great Lakes region.

The Eagle, our national symbol of freedom, is an icon of hope and strength. The sight of Eagles reminds me that it is not too late. Anything can happen given the chance. This month I will vote. I will cast my fate and lot with all who still believe that we can make a difference. I will not focus on what has been lost, but on what can be restored. Here at First Universalist will share our values with our children. We will speak of participation and responsibility in our democratic process; And yes, we will say "WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"

Marge Piercy says it best here in excerpts from "To Be of Use"

"I want to be with people who submerge in the task, who go into the fields to harvest and work in a row and pass the bags along, who are not parlor generals and field deserters but move in a common rhythm when the food must come in or the fire be put out."

This season, let us bow our heads in thanksgiving. Let us look for ways to continue to increase beauty in the world we share. Let us not be overwhelmed by what has been destroyed but find strength in the sure knowledge of possibility.

For we know much CAN be done for there are Eagles over the water. ❖

—Blessings this season and always, Lori





The UUA Moderator

Submitted by Michael Scott

Our denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association, is led by two key elected officials: the President and the Moderator. The President is the chief executive officer and de facto spiritual leader of the UU movement. The position is full-time (more so, really) and salaried. All Presidents to date have been ordained UU ministers, though the Association Bylaws do not require this.

The Moderator is the Association's top volunteer position. The Moderator presides over meetings of the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly, serves on the Finance Committee, and travels extensively to promote the welfare of the Association and its member congregations. Past Moderators have had highly varied professional backgrounds. Joseph Fisher, for example, who served from 1964 to 1977, was an economist with a Ph.D. from Harvard. He served as U.S. Representative from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia from 1975 to 1981. The current Moderator, Gini Courter, who has served since 2003, is an information technology consultant and author, and partner in TRIAD Consulting of Buckley, MI.

Until recently, both the President and the Moderator were elected to four-year terms, and could run for re-election once. Almost all have chosen to seek the second term, and have done so unopposed. Under changes adopted to the UUA Bylaws in 2010, both senior officers

will henceforth be limited to a single six-year term, beginning with the election of a new Moderator in 2013 and a new President in 2017. (Peter Morales is currently running unopposed for a second four-year term.)

Election of a new Moderator will take place at the UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY, this coming June. Two individuals are currently running. Our church's delegates will need to choose between them.

Tamara Payne-Alex, 47, of San Jose, CA (and with family roots here in Rochester), served for many years on the UUA Board of Trustees and Ministerial Fellowship Committee (the group that credentials UU ministers). Her professional background includes a wide range of positions in minority and women's affairs, strategic planning, and early childhood education. A life-long UU, she currently works as area manager for a large education company, helping school districts provide on-site childcare and programming.

Jim Key, 72, of Beaufort, SC, has served as president of the Southeast UU District, and is currently chair of the UUA Audit Committee. He spent much of his professional career in management at IBM before founding his own consulting firm. He discovered UUism in 1999, and helped to build his local congregation from 30 to 100 members. A self-described "policy wonk," he played a major role in the recent decision to pare down the size of the UUA Board of Trustees, and helped guide his District through the difficult decision to change its name from the previous Thomas Jefferson District.

To find out more about the candidates, visit their websites at tamarapaynealex.com and jimkeyuu.com. You can also find a transcript of the "candidates forum" from GA 2012 at uua.org/ga/past/2012/business/200368.shtml ❖

Transition Time and the Interim Process

Submitted by Ann Rhody

Transition Work: Looking *Inward* Before Looking *Outward*

Well, we've had our PEP (People Engaging People) rallies, now what? Our PEP rally sessions were the beginning of a process during which the Interim Minister can help us to look inward- to frame the work we have to do in our own congregation- prior to looking outward for a settled minister. As you know if you attended one of the sessions, each of us has ideas about our strengths and limitations as a congregation. After the results from these discussions are compiled, recurring themes will be

noted, and we'll need to decide, as a congregation, on how to move forward. How can we better capitalize on the strengths identified? Are these strengths evident to others -visitors, community, or a minister searching for a congregation, for example? Do we want to address or accept the limitations identified by the congregation? Is there anything we are missing in our look at ourselves from within? How are we perceived by others who may be interested in our congregation? The transition team is excited about this work, although sometimes taking a look at one's self can be tough. We look forward to the dialogue as we continue this journey of transition!

Ann Rhody for the Interim Transition Team: Karl Abbott, chair; Bill Elwell, Mary Louise Gerek, Santosha Kuykendall ❖

Board Happenings

Submitted By Shirley Bond

The Trustees who were present were: Shirley Bond, Ed Deller, Joy Leccese, Janet Rothbeind, Howard Spindler, Mike Van Arsdale, and John Wellin.

Martha Munson was present. Margaret Gallagher and Michael Scott were absent. Ed Deller graciously offered to take the minutes. We all thanked him profusely.

There was somewhat of a lengthy discussion about the format for the Semi-Annual Meeting which will have been on Sunday Oct 21st. John got it all together and the notices went out the same week.

Joy played a communication tape which was enthusiastically received by all. The Board is considering guidelines and a policy concerning information that is shared via Facebook, the Website, Paper Outlook, etc. Will keep you posted.

Just to let you know the August 27th minutes were approved and are up on the Bulletin Board so everyone can be up to date. Of course a copy is also kept in the volunteer office for your reading pleasure.

Martha encouraged us to keep the date of Saturday November 10th open for a Leaders Day.

Shirley Bond volunteered to approach the Dean/ Executive Director of the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center, so see if it is possible to park in their parking lot on Sundays.

So that is about all for now. Thanks for listening and as usual I will close by writing that all are welcome to come to the Board Meetings. The next one is November 5th. Lauretta Young has been a trouper and her presence has been most helpful. ❖

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Submitted by Carol Williams

Carol Williams, our nursery care provider, is in need of volunteers to assist in the nursery on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 12:15. If you are able to assist and would like to sign up for a rotating schedule, or a one time slot, please contact Carol at 663-4362. ❖

Please Welcome Aboard the Board Ed Deller

Submitted by Shirley Bond

In the August issue I was pleased to introduce you via the paper outlook a new member of the Board Janet Rothbeind. This month it was my pleasure to interview Ed Deller. We met on a summer afternoon in August in Fairport. I offered him a cool summer drink of his choosing and he asked for a glass of water- no- ice. What an easy going guy I said to myself! Below is his story:

In 1976 Ed arrived in Rochester, New York. As he settled in, he didn't decide on any religious affiliation. Ed had grown up in the Catholic faith in York, PA, but after attending college and getting different religious points of view, he decided to take a break for a few years.

Ed and Newcomb Losh were married in 1982 by a community Unitarian Universalist minister who had been recommended by a friend. Shortly before the birth of their first child, Ed and Newc began to look for a place that would allow them to have significantly different religious views, yet be together in one spiritual community. Remembering the minister who married them, they explored UUism and arrived at the First Universalist Society on the corner of Clinton and Court Street in downtown Rochester!

They connected with the sermons of The Revs. Donna and Mark Morrison-Reed. They were both made to feel welcome. Ed especially remembers Jerianne and Larry Barnes as early UU mentors.

In 1987, they became members, and that is when the fun began for them! They both taught Sunday School for many years. Their commitment to our Society continued at a rapid pace and continues today.

A little secret Ed told me is that he was thrilled when, in 1994, a member of the choir asked him to join. He has been singing ever since. Sometimes all you have to do is ask. RAIHN volunteering is important to him, as well as participating on the Stewardship Committee. And now he has joined our Board of Trustees.

We spent a fun hour and I hope I didn't forget any of his many other contributions over the years. I think he is the kind of guy who keeps his accomplishments low key and I doubt he would even mention them. After he left I realized I didn't even offer to refill his glass of water-no-ice. That was not nice. He is a nice guy. We are lucky to have him. Next time I will be sure to bake a cake. ❖

RAIHN

(Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network*)

Submitted by Sarah Singal



This Outlook will surely arrive during our next host week, October 29 to November 4. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who make this happen! If you have never participated, feel free to ask a volunteer this week what they did in the program and what it was like. You will probably hear that it was not difficult and was fun, too. There may be some surprises for our guests on Halloween.

The next training session will be in February, details to be announced, at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 3000 Dewey Avenue, Greece. Our hope is that every volunteer will take part in a training session; many return for another session after volunteering several years. You will meet the director, Nancy Elliott, and also meet volunteers from other congregations, as you learn about how RAIHN works and special hints about how to make our guests feel welcome as they work through the program.

The ever popular event Shop Till You Drop will be held on Monday, November 26. One World Goods is a favorite store for finding Christmas gifts; proceeds help RAIHN close the budget deficit, and One World Goods purchases also help artisans around the world. Other participating stores can be found on the RAIHN Facebook page.

*RAIHN is a non-profit organization of faith communities assisting homeless families in achieving sustainable independence. This is done by supporting them with resources of food, shelter, personalized case management, and a broad network of caring volunteers. Every fifteen weeks in rotation, a faith community hosts RAIHN guests in their place of worship for one week. ❖

Virgil I. Grissom School 7

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Thirteen volunteers, mostly members and friends of First Universalist Church, are volunteering at School 7 this year. Most of the volunteers work on literacy, either as one-on-one tutors or as classroom aides during reading time. One tutor helps with math. One tutor has moved with the same child for three years now. Three volunteers are new to the program this year. Our volunteers are in almost every grade level of this k-6 elementary school. If you are interested, there is always room for more volunteers!

Also, the School 7 Librarian needs help re-shelving books. It involves bending down and getting up, as some shelves are low to the floor. No previous experience required; school hours, at your convenience. Every little bit helps--thank you! Contact ssingal@rochester.rr.com.

Our People

Submitted by Eileen Fernandez

We mourn the passing of Jean Menzies, mother of Heather Jones, who frequently attended church with her family. There will be a memorial service for her on Oct. 27 11am at the Fairport Baptist Home.

Jane Mason is recovering well from surgery. She would appreciate afternoon phone calls and cards.

We are also saddened to report that William Klein, the father of Marcy, passed away on Oct. 10. There will be a memorial service for him at the 1st Unitarian Church on Nov. 24 at 1pm. ❖

Universalist Notices



Submitted by Joyce Gilbert

A hearty thanks from the New York State Convention of Universalists to the generous people of Rochester 1st Universalist who sent contributions to Shelters of Saratoga as part of the NYSCU "Caring - for Others" program. Saratoga Springs folks were overwhelmed by this response.

For calendars: Next year's 187th Annual Meeting of the NYSCU will be held at the Little Falls church (St. Paul's) in October 2013. ❖

Drop-In Discussion, November Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held 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. Our discussions are held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m., preceding the Sunday service. Here is the schedule.

November 4 | *Election 2012*

We'll discuss who should be elected, and who will be elected. Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

November 11 | *The Highly Sensitive Person*

An HSP is a person who learns to thrive in his world, even when that person finds himself overwhelmed by the life around him at times. Are you one of these people? If so, this trait of sensitivity could have been with you for all your life. It is expressed in your relationships, in the way you concentrate deeply on things (but these people do best without distractions) and the way you may think deeply about your own thinking. Come to the November 11th discussion group before church and discover more about yourself, whether you are or are not an HSP. It is truly not an either/or question, but one of degree. Janet Perregaux will facilitate the discussion

November 18 | *What Is Freedom?*

Does being subject to government and law make you unfree? Does poverty? Ignorance? Belief in an authoritarian religion or political ideology? Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

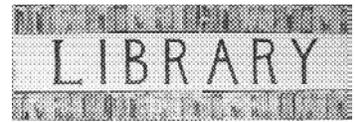
November 25 | *Open forum discussion or to be announced.*

Topics are subject to change. For updates, check the bulletin board in First Universalist Church's Clara Barton lounge or the Schedule of Drop-In Discussions on <http://philebersole.wordpress.com>. ❖



Library News

Submitted by Keith Stott



How long have African-Americans been attending Unitarian and Universalist churches? Peter H. Clark, a gifted educator and speaker, who became assistant editor of Frederick Douglass' newspaper, joined the Unitarian Church in Cincinnati in 1868. Amy Scott was involved in the organization of the First Universalist Society in Philadelphia in 1801. For many biographical sketches of "Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism" read *Darkening the Doorways*, edited by Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed.

Call number is 289.1092 M. ❖

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist

SECOND Universalist: Part 3 of 3

But Mrs. Heberling ended up having her day in court. When her husband's suit for divorce came to trial on September 27 that same year, the judge, in a non-jury trial, not only ruled against his divorce request but also ordered him to pay for the support of his wife. This time the outraged Second Universalist parish wasted no time angrily dismissing Kirkpatrick from the ministry. But still their troubles were still not ended.

In the following November, Rev. Henry B. Taylor was called to the church from Pennsylvania. At first it seemed that the congregation could survive the Kirkpatrick disaster. Then two years later Taylor delivered a highly critical sermon titled "Non-enforcement of Law in Rochester and the Sovereign People," in which he claimed that local liquor laws in the city were not being observed and violations were not being prosecuted. And a year after that flap, Rev. George A. Kratzer of Middleport, in a pulpit exchange with Taylor on December 18, 1898, preached a scathing and divisive message on temperance—one of his hearers happening to be a prominent man in the liquor sales business who soon began receiving threats from customers. First one controversial sermon and then another related one so offended him and a minority of other members—who were also the largest financial contributors—that

Continued on page 7

House Report Highlights - November 2012

Submitted by Alain Perregaux

Sanctuary Renovation

The anticipated schedule has not changed except for the fact that the contract for the sound system has been signed and work is expected to begin on Monday 10/22.

- fire detection installation, this coming winter;
- the Renovation Committee will redefine the renovation project (pews, floor and lighting) in the fall and winter of 2012;
- approval by the board and the congregation in December 2012;
- re-start of the bidding process in Jan. or Feb. 2012;
- renovation work in April, May and June 2013;

The organ repair that had been planned for the summer of 2012, is now expected to take place in August 2013.

This schedule is NOT a plan; it has not been approved either by the committee, or by the board, or by the congregation. It only outlines what appears reasonable at this point.

Auld Lang Syne - Continued from page 6

most of them withdrew from the church and thereby doomed its future. On Saturday, January 7, 1899 the society adopted a resolution to terminate operations in three months, and on March 5 Taylor preached his farewell sermon, saying in conclusion, "If I were to speak of my own feelings to those of you who have been true and loyal to me, I should make a poor picture of my heart. I dare not trust myself to speak of it. While I thank you with all my heart, I tell you with perfect truth that I go forth from this place without a spark of resentment towards anyone....If during my work among you I have said a new word to you or laid before you a thought that has brought to you a keener realization of the higher life, I ask you sometimes to think of me and to pray for me in the work which I go forth to do."

The following September, the Second Universalist chapel was rented by the city school district to relieve classroom overcrowding, and on an unknown later date it was demolished. Apparently most of the former members eventually affiliated with First Universalist, which then laid to rest its mission effort, begun so grandly and concluded with such grief. ❖

Routine Repairs and Maintenance

The North window of room 31 was fixed in the week of September 24 by Ted Rebertson of Kirkwall Construction. The screws that hold one of the hinges had rusted away.

In the first toilet of the 2nd floor, the refill mechanism was leaking. Marty Vyverberg replaced it on October 2nd. Thanks Marty!

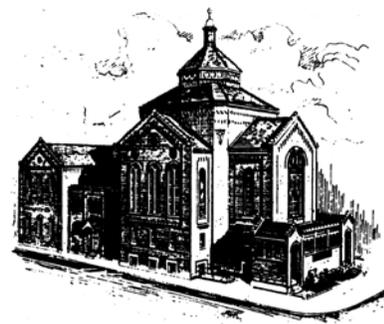
The snaking of the drain traps under the floor of the basement still needs to be scheduled.

Some of the parking lot lights are not working. For now, the assumption is that the special bulbs need replacing. John Morgan and Marty Vyverberg have offered to do the climbing required to replace the bulbs.

The exterior sill of the stained glass window facing North, off the choir loft, is rotten. We are in touch with a carpenter to address this problem. ❖

"Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained."

— Marie Curie, chemist and physicist



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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