

Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

May 2012

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Our Outlook

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Sunday Services | May 2012

May 6 | *And They Pay Me To Do This*
Reflections on 32+ years of ministry.
-- Rev. Martha Munson



May 13 | *Mother Earth is No Lady*
On this Mothers Day weekend we'll consider the perils and the pitfalls of thinking of the earth as our "mother".
-- Rev. Martha Munson



May 20 | *Winning the Lottery*
In a world that tells us we are losers unless we are rich and famous, perhaps there are better ways to think about winning. Join guest speaker Steven Farrington and worship associate Bridget Watts for this service.



May 27 | *A Service for Memorial Day*
-- Rev. Martha Munson



AND + NOW + ABIDE TH + FAITH
HOPE + LOVE + THESE + THREE + BUT
THE + GREATEST + OF + THESE + IS + LOVE





Walking With You

Submitted by Rev. Martha Munson

With thanks to the Interim Minister Search Committee, and the Board, and to you as members who, I believe, made the wise choice of 2 years of interim ministry, I write these lines.... Some of you have been in touch with me to offer your congratulations, or thanks, or other appreciations for my willingness to stay on with you here at First Universalist. I am honored to do so and look forward to sharing the 1st year of the intentional interim time with you. I've responded to each comment with something like:

It is my heartfelt hope to be able to help First Universalist position itself strongly to call its next settled minister, and toward that end, to be able to articulate/live a vision of itself as Rochester's proud UU congregation downtown.

That's it; that is all I aspire to do. I aspire to engage you in mission and vision. Indeed you have one of the best statements I've ever encountered: "Nurture the Spirit and Serve the Community". Wonderful! Brief! Concise! To the point! Perhaps there is some deep discernment needed to explore what this really means. How/when/in what ways are you nurturing your spirit(s)? And who is "the community" that you are committed to serve? These are the kinds of congregational conversations we shall be having early in the fall. I invite your engagement in the questions, for this is your work, your adventure. And I look forward to continuing to walk with you. ❖

Faithfully,
Martha



Gleanings

Submitted by Rev. Lori Staubitz,
Director of Religious Education

I confess, I am a list maker. I suspect that I am not alone but in very good company! My office used to be decorated with colorful "Post-Its". These days, I write my "to-do's" on the back side of used paper and envelopes. When everything is done, it all goes into the recycling bin. I know I can do this on a tablet or my home computer, but I am still a bit "old school".

At first glance, my lists may seem rather random. Each activity is reflective of my overall values and sense of purpose; reminders of the practical ways I plan to live out my highest aspirations and goals.

At the end of the day, there are ALWAYS action items left unchecked, healthy reminders to keep the balance of my life in check.

Years ago Rev. Barbara (Wells) ten Hove provided a "to-do" list for Unitarian Universalists in an essay included in Rev. Scott Alexander's book *Salted With Fire*. I like this list and have added a few personal notes in parenthesis.

- 1) Come to church on Sundays. (Bring children to our newly developed "Wonder-filled Worship Experience)
- 2) Take responsibility for your spiritual growth and development (Talk to your DRE or RE Leadership Team about Adult Education offerings you would like to attend or facilitate.)
- 3) Find a niche in the congregation and get involved. (Think about serving as a Children's Worship Leader in the Fall)
- 4) Pledge financial support at a meaningful level.
- 5) Put your religious values to work in serving others. (Help make our religious education program an important component of the life in this congregation)
- 6) Connect to the wider UU community (How about attending the St. Lawrence District Conference right here in Rochester on April 27th and 28th?)
- 7) Tell your friends and bring them on Sundays.

I invite you to consider adding these things to your list. If you happen to need a "post it" or some scraps of recycled paper, just ask...I have plenty! ❖

With joy, DRE Lori Staubitz



Max Kapp (1904–1979)

Submitted by Michael Scott

Our church has been served by many great ministers over the years, several of whom also served (sometimes later in their careers) as major figures in the wider UU movement. Among the most memorable was the Rev. Max A. Kapp.

Kapp was raised in the Universalist Church in Herkimer, NY, just east of Utica, and studied at both St. Lawrence and Harvard Universities. He was minister of our church (his fourth) from 1938 to 1943, when he left to join the faculty of the Universalist Theological School at St. Lawrence. There he served first as Professor of Homiletics (preaching) and Philosophy of Religion, then as Assistant Dean, and finally as Dean of the Theological School from 1960 until its closing in 1965.

Over the years, Kapp held a variety of major denominational positions, including President of the Young People's Christian Union (the Universalist youth group) [1934], member of the commission that recommended the Washington Avowal of Faith (a precursor to our current Purposes & Principles) [1931–35], Trustee of the Universalist Church of America [1955–59], member of the Unitarian/Universalist Joint Merger Commission [1956–59], member of the UUA Commission on Appraisal [1961–65], and UUA Director of Overseas and Interfaith Relations [1965–70].

Though I have no memory of Rev. Kapp myself, he was much loved by my parents, who knew him as students at St. Lawrence in the mid '50s and—perhaps more significantly—as attendees of Ferry Beach, the Universalist camp and conference center in Saco, Maine, where Kapp was a fixture for many years.

Kapp was widely admired for his skill as an orator, but he was also a gifted poet. Among other things, he penned the words to “Discovery,” the most beloved of the Ferry Beach camp songs, sung to the tune of “Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes”:

I brought my spirit to the sea
I stood upon the shore.
I gazed upon infinity
I heard the waters roar.

And then there came a sense of peace
Some whisper calmed my soul.
Some ancient ministry of stars
Had made my spirit whole.

I brought my spirit to the trees
That stood against the sky.
I touched each wand'ring careless breeze
To know if God were nigh.

And then I felt an Inner Flame
That fiercely burned my tears.
Uplift, I rose from bended knee
To meet the asking years.

(Info drawn from the biography by Charles Howe:
uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/maxkapp.html) ❖

Introduction to *Faith Development*

Facilitator: DRE Rev. Lori Staubitz

Dates: Friday Evenings May 18th & June 22nd

Time: 6:00-8:30pm

Place: Clara Barton Lounge

Bring: Friends & Family; Please plan to join us for dinner followed by small groups

Fee: None. Sponsored by the RE Committee

Registration: RSVP to RE Committee Member Charles Courtsal - gwincourt@frontiernet.net or call 244-8000

Feeling stuck?; Or maybe you think you have finally “arrived”! A basic understanding of faith development is an essential element to understanding one’s own spiritual and religious development. It is also a necessary tool for those who provide religious education, parent, or guide others in religious inquiry and understanding.

In this two-session, introductory time together, we will use the developmental theory of James Fowler and draw from his book entitled *Stages of Faith Development*, examining the strengths and inherent dangers of developmental theory.

Through self-reflection, small group sharing, and peer teaching, we will explore personal insight into our faith journey as individuals and as members of this community. ❖

Drop-In Discussion, May Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday at 9:15 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.

May 6 | *Hunger Games*

Based on the book, *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. How did this happen? This is not a peek into but a lesson from the past ie: Fall of the Roman Empire. It might also be a speculative glance into our future. The *Hunger Games* is a tale of a cruel and controlling government that forces its citizens of 12 Provinces to send one male and one

female between the ages of 12-18 yrs. of age to go to the Capital for the purpose of fighting to the death to be the one survivor. Facilitated by Beverly Lynn

May 13 | *Consensus Morality*

With all the religious traditions that teach morality, why do we so often observe immoral behavior? Could we agree on a subset of moral teachings, and actually follow them? Facilitated by Hank Stone

May 20 | *Bringing Down the Mountains*

The relentless drive for cheap coal has led to the emergence of "mountaintop removal" in central Appalachia, a surface mining process that has demolished hundreds of Appalachian peaks and related eco-systems. Residents call it cultural genocide. Scientists observe that the forests on those mountains are the second most biologically diverse in the world. Facilitated by Paul Ciavarri.

May 27 | TBA

Church Library Books Donated by Rev. Sally Hamlin

Cheever, Susan *American Bloomsbury: Alcott, Emerson, Fuller, Hawthorne, Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Work* 810.9 C

Crowley, Vivianne *Phoenix from the Flame: Pagan Spirituality in the Western World* 290 C

Sproul, Barbara C. *Primal Myths: Creation Myths Around the World* 291.2 S

Ford-Grabowsky, Mary, ed. *Sacred Voices: Essential Women's Wisdom Through the Ages* 220.82

Gomes, Peter J. *The Good Book: Reading the Bible With Mind and Heart* 220.1 G

Masten, Ric *Ric Masten Speaking* 811 M

Maguire, Daniel C. *Sacred Choices: The Right to Contraception and Abortion in Ten World Religions* 291.566 M

Heuer, Kenneth, ed. *The Lost Notebooks of Loren Eiseley* 508 E

Greeley, Dana McLean *Forward Through the Ages: Writings of the Reverend Dana McLean Greeley* 252 G

Sharma, Arvind, ed. *Our Religions* 291 S

Mehrotra, Rajiv, ed. *The Essential Dalai Lama: His Important Teachings* 294.3

Teele, John Whittemore, ed. *The Meeting House on the Green: A History of The First Parish in Concord and Its Church: 350th Anniversary 1635-1985* 280.4 T

Minter, Sue *The Healing Gardens: A Natural Haven for Body, Senses, and Spirit* 635 M

Muir, Fredric John *Maglipay Universalist: A History of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines* 279.14 M

Fitzhenry, Robert I., ed. *The Harper Book of Quotations* 808.88 F

Thoreau, Henry David *Letters to a Spiritual Seeker from Henry David Thoreau* 816 T

Johnson, Venice, ed. *Voices of the Dream: African-American Women Speak* 081 J

Miller, Paul M., ed. *World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes* 818.7 H

Tayob, Abdulkader *Islam: A Short Introduction* 297 T

Tame, David *The Secret Power of Music* 780.1

Wolf, Naomi *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot* 323.4 W

Be the Change You Want To See Stewardship Campaign

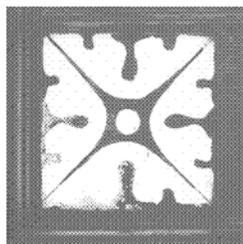
Submitted by Edward Deller

Although the stewardship campaign officially ended with a festive luncheon on April 22, there is an ongoing opportunity to make a financial pledge to the church. If you are new to the church and wish to support us financially, or if you are an existing member or friend who missed the opportunity to participate in a stewardship gathering please contact Ed Deller (eddeller4@gmail.com) or Tom Ruganis (tom.ruganis@frontier.com) for more information or a pledge card.

You can also get more information from our stewardship video on *You Tube* at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WrcxRsof8Q>

The stewardship brochure and pledge card are available as pdf files at the church web site. ❖



Family & Friends Fridays

at First Universalist are scheduled for May 18 and June 22. Dinner is provided at 6 pm, followed by seminars at 7 pm for children, YRUU and adults.

Childcare for children under age 5 can be provided if requested ahead of time.

There is no cost associated with these events.

Invite your friends!

Please RSVP to Charlie Courtsal at

< gwincourt@frontiernet.net >

We look forward to seeing you on Friday! ❖

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist

ON THE BASE of the Court Street doors to the church is the inscription “*In Memory Of Maxcey And Almira J. Van Zandt Given By Their Daughter Jennie Van Zandt Balkam.*” The Van Zandt family was one of the founding families of this congregation. This Universalist dynasty began with Maxcey’s parents, Jacob and Julia Duncan Van Zandt, descendants of Dutch ancestry who came to Rochester from Watervliet in Albany County, and continued for at least two more generations. Apparently most, and perhaps all of their seven children were involved with Universalism at some point during their lives.

Maxcey’s sister-in-law Lydia Cushing Van Zandt and his brother Llewellyn, who made a career in banking, suffered the loss of their only child, a son Will, in a tragic accident at the age of seventeen, after young Will fell off his bicycle on a lovely May evening in 1896 and struck his head, then rode home at desperate speed, only to die the following morning. John, a brother of Maxcey and Llewellyn who went by J. J., was the founder and owner of a prosperous mill specializing in coffee, tea and spices.

Along with his friend George Henry Roberts, son of the Universalist pioneer preacher Rev. Henry Roberts, J. J. established the earliest Universalist Sabbath School in Rochester in June of 1839. It is a great blessing that the original records of this School survive and are in the archive of the church. From this record I find a single observation on the efforts of Mr. J. J.’s wife Mary Ann Harris Van Zandt to lead classes for “Negro” children in 1860, as the nation headed toward a war that would divide it in two during four long and horrendous years.

The life of J. J. came to an end at his own hands in 1870, after he had suffered financial reverses and shot himself to death in his own home. While the descendants of the seven children of Jacob and Julia eventually left the Rochester area, those who were here during the founding years of the church and into the early years of the twentieth century made a vital contribution to the Universalism of their time. ❖



Our People

Christine DeGolyer: My mother was in the hospital this week with atrial fibrillation. She suffered a small stroke, which temporarily interfered with her speech. She has recovered quickly and is talking well again. Our concern is whether my parents will be able to continue living independently.

Nancy Gaede: My friend Sharri's surgery went really well.

Denise Wellin: Joy in finding a vegetarian lizard as a pet for Alex.

Mom and Dad, **Sorcha** and **Dan Bell** & Grandma **Micky Toker** welcomes **Tallulah Mae Bell**, 19 inches, 7 pounds 5 ounces, blue eyes and curly hair! ❖

A RAIHN *Thank you*

“I am overwhelmed with JOY for the LOVE my family received on our stay thru the RAIHN program. Special thank you to Marti. We love our new family in Christ. May God continue to bless you all.” Signed by Felisha H. and including her 3 children. ❖

Jeanette, on RAIHN

“It was helpful knowing that my family and I were safe and had somewhere to be comfortable during our time of need.” – Jeanette, RAIHN guest

There are very few shelters in the Rochester area that house homeless families with children. Couples are split up between shelters for women and shelters for men. The children can stay with their mothers in women's shelters, except for boys over the age of 12. They have to go to a men's shelter, alone. One Mom, a RAIHN guest at First Universalist with her teenage daughter, said, “I'd rather go back to us sleeping in a car than go back to the Cadillac Hotel.”

First Universalist is one of 15 Host Congregations in the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) that houses homeless families for a week at a time, 3 or 4 times a year. The week is “staffed” by trained volunteers from First Universalist and from St. Mary's, our support congregation. Volunteers prepare and serve a hot evening meal for the guests, and provide evening and overnight presence and breakfast before the guests return to the Day Center where they receive help in finding a new place to live, and for some, further education or a job. The children are transported from the Day Center

to and from their home school so that they have some continuity during this stressful time.



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, please see Sarah Singal or Marti Eggers. Thank you! ❖

House Report Highlights - May 2012

Submitted by Alain Perregaux

Steam Consumption

The steam consumption is still twice as high as expected. We have not found the key to this mystery yet. There is anecdotal evidence that the temperature in the sanctuary is occasionally higher than planned. In order to check this hypothesis, Bill Taillie placed a recording thermometer in the sanctuary from Tuesday March 27 to Wednesday April 11. The resulting graph shows the expected temperature spikes for Sunday Services, Thursday noon concerts and the memorial service of March 31. There is only one unexpected spike in the evening of Tuesday April 10. It could be the smoking gun but the event is so random that it will be very difficult to pin down. The investigation will continue until the steam is turned off in May. As part of the sanctuary renovation, we will replace the thermostat. If it happens to be one cause of our problem, things will be looking better in the fall.

Sanctuary Renovation

The renovation of the sanctuary is still expected to take place this summer. The schedule is very aggressive. The renovation committee is working feverishly with the architect to push the project ahead.

In its meeting of April 2nd, the board has approved the scope of the project.

In summary it will include

- the repair of the pews and the floor on the main floor;
- the replacement of the carpet on the main floor and on the chancel;
- the replacement of the cushions on all the pews of the main floor and of the balconies;
- improved lighting and controls;
- improved sound system and controls;
- fire detection system in the whole building;
- minor repairs of the stained glass windows;
- minor repairs of the steam radiators.

In the original list, we had included the conversion of the radiators from steam to hot water, because RDH had talked about converting their heat delivery system from steam to hot water. However, RDH is unlikely to carry out this conversion in the next 5 to 10 years, if at all. As a result, the committee voted to dedicate the money to a fire detection system instead, the installation of which had been planned, and then scrapped, in the last two capital campaigns. Time has come to do it, finally! The floors and the pews of the balconies will not be redone because they have been used very little in the past 50 years. We reserve the right not to replace the balcony cushions if we find ourselves in a financial pinch.

Subcommittees

Subcommittees have been formed to work on the details of four of these projects:

- pews and floors – Joyce Gilbert and Mike vanArsdale;
- cushions and carpets – Lisa Gwinner, Sarah Singal and Katie Comeau;
- lighting – Howard Spindler and Michael Scott;
- radiators – Marcy Klein, Mary Vyverberg and Alain Perregaux.

Parking Lot Lights

Many thanks go to Michael Scott for his willingness to climb a long ladder and replace the special bulb in one parking lot lighting fixture on March 22. We needed to have this problem fixed before our RAIHN hosting week.

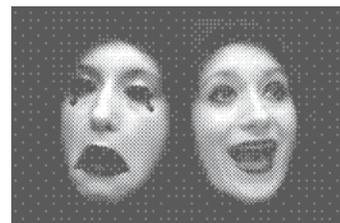
Spring Clean-up Day

Our next Spring Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday May 19. It will start at 9:00 AM and will end whenever people feel that they have worked enough, typically around 2:00 PM. Breakfast snacks will be available and a light lunch will be served around 11:30. Volunteers are free to come whenever they can and to leave whenever they must. ❖

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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Editor, Weekly *eOutlook*: Kris McCarty-White; Editor, Monthly paper *Outlook*, David Damico
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