

# Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

October 2012

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**Inside**

Minister's Message Pg. 2

RE News, *Gleanings* Pg. 2

NYSCU Annual Meeting Pg. 3

Annual Change Drive Pg. 3

Transition Time Pg. 4

Bring a Friend Sunday Pg. 5

RAIHN Dance Pg. 5

Drop-In Discussions Pg. 6

House Report Highlights Pg. 7

## Sunday Services | October 2012

**October 7 | *To Tell the Truth***

THE truth is sometimes in dispute, often elusive, difficult to discern, and some would argue does not exist. We'll consider truth today.

-- Rev. Martha Munson



**October 14 | *Spiritual or Religious***

Which are you? Does it matter? What's the difference?

-- Rev. Martha Munson



**October 21 | *Whose Children?***

Does it really take a village? Today's service will consider the children, all the children. We'll observe Children's Sabbath.

-- Rev. Martha Munson



**October 28 | *Samhain & the Wheel of the Year***

In European Pagan tradition, Samhain (Halloween) is the time of year when the veil between the living & the dead becomes thin, allowing the dead to cross over to the world of the living. In a time when this same holiday is celebrated by giving out candy to children in costumes, can we find inspiration from these older traditions to cope with our own ghosts?

-- Guest speaker Lisa Gwinner; worship associate Dolores Da Lomba.



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





## Walking With You

*Message from the Interim Minister*

What if we set out every morning with curiosity, with intention to notice as many opportunities as possible? Would it not be like reading the world as a holy book – a Lectio Divina of sorts, that ancient practice of spiritual reading? Every day we could be poring over the unfolding of new and possible worlds.

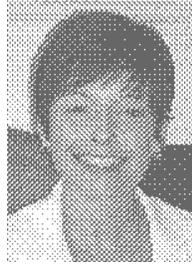
There are innumerable, small opportunities to be helpful, attentive, or kind. Taking up these opportunities, would we not come to know that we are a living part of the infinite story?

But there are also countless opportunities to refrain from harmful action: reactive annoyance, overdoing, rushing, compulsive habits, spacing out, and other myriad ways of not being present. Could we slowly learn to live the ‘no’ that is really a deeper ‘yes’?

And when excitement and fear are equally mingled, could we realize that here and now something is present that we must consider with all our being?

Could we feel that our very own angel has arrived at the doorstep? Could we open and ask what love would encourage us to do?

by Gunilla Norris ❖



## Gleanings

*from Religious Growth & Learning*

*Submitted by Rev. Lori Staubitz,*

*Consulting Religious Educator*

One of the hallmarks of liberal religion is the practice of asking questions.

Rather than viewing questions as a show of a “lack in faith”, Unitarian Universalists ask questions as a way to grow as religious people. We believe that questions have the power to expand our horizons, deepen our convictions and increase our wisdom and understanding. I remember asking a religious question when I was 11 yrs. old. It was in confirmation class as my classmates and I were preparing to be official members of our church. The minister was teaching us about sin and salvation. He made it clear that only “believers” were to be saved. He was about to move on to the next topic when I raised my hand. He looked at me disapprovingly as I went on to ask “What about Dr. Zoglin?” You see, Dr. Zoglin, a practicing Jew, was also our town doctor, the same doctor who had fixed my broken arm.

An uncomfortable silence followed and my question was ignored. Even with my child-like understanding, I knew at that moment that my church was too small for my growing faith.

However, it is that unanswered question that informed my religion, my ministry and my life. “What about Dr. Zoglin?” is essentially a question of belonging. “Who belongs to me?” and “To whom do I belong?”

Here at First Universalist we hope to engage children and adults in finding answers to life’s deepest questions. Our Sunday Morning Children’s Worship service is designed to inspire exploration and the religious quest. Adult offerings cover a wide range of topics with a lively and respectful exchange of ideas. We hope you and your family will plan to join with us each Sunday. Don’t forget to bring your questions with you! ❖

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



## The New York State Convention Of Universalists

*Submitted by Michael Scott*

Universalism has a long and storied history in New York State, with over 350 active congregations in the second half of the 19th century. In those days, and continuing up to the UU merger of 1961, denominational authority rested mainly with state-level “conventions,” rather than with the national organization.

When the merger was completed, each individual congregation chose whether to join the new denomination (almost all did—even those who had voted against merger). At the same time, the state conventions faced the question of whether to disband and convey their financial resources to the UUA, or to continue in some capacity. Here in our corner of the country, the New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) decided to re-invent itself as a regional organization within the larger UU movement, and to retain control of its assets. Today the NYSCU functions primarily as a charitable foundation. Its endowment, though modest compared to most foundations (on the order of \$1.5M), allows it to play an important positive role in UU extension and historic preservation.

Over the past five years, NYSCU has made \$192,000 in loans and over \$210,000 in grants, including \$1,580 in grants to our own congregation for leadership training and a \$40,000 short-term loan to assist with gutter repair.

Our own Karen Dau, in addition to serving as church historian, is Archivist for the Convention, and Joyce Gilbert serves as President. Our building houses the NYSCU archives, and we provide the Convention with its permanent mailing address. Several other members of our congregation have served on the Convention board. I currently maintain its website.

Each fall NYSCU holds an annual meeting and conference which all UUs are invited to attend. It’s a day-and-a-half event, with a keynote address, opening and closing worship services, numerous workshops, social events, and a formal business meeting. This year’s meeting will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY, October 12-13. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President of Meadville Lombard, the Unitarian Universalist theological school in Chicago, IL. Rev. Barker’s topic is “Ministry for the 21st Century: The View from a Theological School.” Workshops echo the theme of caring, with topics including meditation, the nature of ministry, end-of-life decisions, and social justice partnerships. Friday evening entertainment will be provided by UU folk musician Dan Berggren.

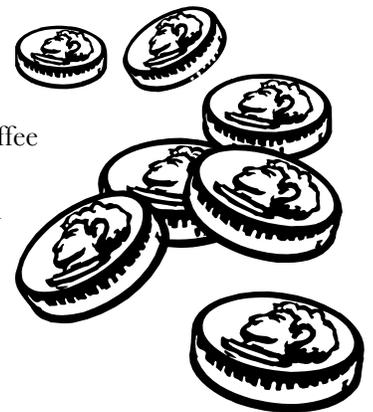
We are entitled to five official delegates to the October meeting, and as many additional attendees as we like (delegate expenses are partially subsidized by the Convention). If you think you might be interested, contact Joy Leccese, Michael Scott, or Karen Dau. Copies of the program and registration materials can also be found at [nyscu.org](http://nyscu.org). ❖

## Fall brings CHANGE (the *other* kind)!

*Submitted by Ann Rhody*

Our annual change drive will take place on November 4 and 11. Please dig out that coffee cup or jar where you’ve accumulated your change, and bring the contents to church on one of these two Sundays. When we all “pool our pennies,” we get an amount that will make a difference in supporting our church’s mission! Thanks for participating!

Ann Rhody for the Finance Committee ❖



# Transition Time and the Interim Process

*Submitted by Ann Rhody*

Ah, the seasons! The turning of autumn, the contemplative pace of winter, the renewal of spring and the joy of summer. Even as we enjoy each season, something is always changing- always growing. Earth is always in transition.

And so it is with us! As Rev. Munson said from the pulpit a few weeks ago, we are not the same people we were even the week before. As we sit in the pews each Sunday, we can notice how our congregation moves through the changes and transitions of church life. We welcome new friends. Celebrate joys and mourn losses with one another. Greet those we have not seen for a time. Welcome new staff members who will themselves add to the evolution of our community, in large ways or small. Like the earth through the seasons, our congregation is always teeming with life, change, and energy.

Harnessing this energy is what our time of Interim Ministry is all about. At our PEP (People Engaging People) rallies this fall, we'll be reflecting on life in our congregation, and planning for work we will do together to rejuvenate and renew our congregation as we prepare for a new settled minister. By now we hope that you are

planning to attend your PEP rally, and if you are unable to attend, that you have contacted your host or a member of the transition team to reschedule. The evolution of our church community won't be authentic without YOUR participation. Engaging in dialogue with one another about our church is critical. Sharing honestly and listening deeply are so important as we become clear about who we are now and where we want to go. Once we determine those things, we can develop a plan to attract and retain the settled minister who will be the best match for us!

Members of the transition team will be available after church to answer questions about the rallies or the interim ministry process, or you can contact any of us by phone or e-mail. Don't let this season pass you by!

See you at the rallies!

*The Interim Ministry Transition Team*

Karl Abbott, Bill Elwell, Mary Louise Gerek, Santosha Kuykendall, and Ann Rhody.

**Please note:** If you have NOT received an invitation to a PEP rally, please contact the church office or Transition Team Chair Karl Abbott at karl47@frontiernet.net (phone 585-256-2611). It is our intent to include ALL members and friends in this process! ❖

# Board Happenings

*Submitted By Shirley Bond*

Our August 27th Board of Trustees meeting was held in the Clara Barton lounge. All were present. This means that Ed Deller, Margaret Gallagher, Joy Leccese, Martha Munson, Janet Rothbeind, Michael Scott, Howard Spindler, Michael Van Arsdale, John Wellin and Shirley Bond were present and accounted for.

As you can imagine a great deal of time was spend discussing the renovations. We agreed that Alain Perregaux should and would be authorized to sign contracts on the boards behalf concerning work that will be going forward. These include the sound and fire alarm systems. More details in the house report I am sure.

Of course we always have to spend some time on finance! The good news is that Laurreta Young our new treasurer is interested in coming to the board meetings. This is super information as she has a handle on our budget. Her information is up to date which is helpful.

Ann Rhody the Finance Committee Chairperson arranged for GeoVest to conduct a meeting on September 13th to talk to the Board about where our money is invested and how it is doing. At the Board meeting a great deal of time was spend discussing who should have authorization for the signing of various church accounts. This is a good thing to spend time on and it is good for you and the congregation to know that the members of the board take their responsibilities seriously.

In closing I want to let you know that the next meeting will be Monday, Oct 1st at 7PM at church. Please remember that all are welcome and if anyone has something specific to address, feel free to call John Wellin and ask him to add the item to the Agenda. We can all work together as we go forward into our new Church year. Also, the semi-annual Meeting is set for October 21. ❖

# It's About the Children

“There are lots of reasons children don't smile. They might be sick, or tired, or in time-out for something they did wrong.

“But when children come to the RAIHN program because they don't have a home, and it has robbed them of their carefree smile... that is heart-wrenching.

“RAIHN only serves families with children under the age of 18. I talk to a lot of adults who are homeless and try to find them other programs or shelters that serve single adults. But WE serve children and their parents or guardians. And although we realize we cannot fix, we at least can care, and show unconditional love for the short time they are with us.

“It's all about the children.”

*Excerpts from an article by Nancy Elliott,  
RAIHN Director*

RAIHN Dates –

**Training** – Wednesday, October 3rd, 6:30-8:30pm,  
Greece Baptist Church

**Host Week** – Sunday, October 28 – Sunday, November 4th at First Universalist

RAIHN “*Not-Strictly-Square Dance*” – Saturday, October 27th, 7-9 pm at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Ave

Want to look before you leap? If you would like “try” RAIHN during our Host Week, please contact Sarah ssingal@rochester.rr.com” or Marti, Mceggers@gmail.com to arrange to shadow a trained volunteer at a time that's convenient for you.

*Submitted by Marti Eggers ❖*

# RAIHN Dance

*Submitted by Sarah Singal*



Save The Date: There will be a RAIHN Dance on Saturday, October 27, 7-9 pm, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Avenue. This Not Strictly Square Dance is RAIHN's major fund-raiser this year. It will feature Mike Callahan, #1 Square Dance Caller in Western New York. There will be a cake and pie silent auction; you can offer one of your signature creations, or just buy one. This is a family friendly event and all ages are welcome. No date or dancing partner is required. Tickets are \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$25 family. See Marti Eggers or Sarah Singal for tickets or call 506-9050.

# Bring a Friend Sunday November 4

*Submitted by Connie Valk*

Membership Committee has announced November 4 as “Bring a Friend Sunday”.

We UUs are generally uncomfortable about proselytizing. We dislike it when those from other denominations come knocking at our door, or tuck fliers under our windshield wipers when we are grocery shopping. We don't want to be coerced about religion.

But, for most of us, this congregation and the religious values it stands for are dear to us. First Universalist Church is an important part of our lives. We want to let others know about this wonderful place, but how do we do that in a more comfortable way?

Supposing we said something like this to a friend: “As you know, my church is very important to me. I'd like to invite you to simply see the place, and meet other people who are important to me. Our minister will have an interesting sermon. We have an awesome coffee hour with lots of refreshments after the service, where I can introduce you to some of my church friends. Will you accept my invitation to attend November 4?”

Our primary goal here is getting our friends to experience something that is important to us. If some of the friends want to check us out more closely after November 4, that is fine. But that is a side effect. So, please choose a good friend you want to invite, and ask the friend early enough in October to get “Bring a Friend Sunday” on your friend's calendar. ❖

# Drop-In Discussion, October 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 October schedule.

## **October 7** | *Inner Utopia*

What can the individual do about real problems in the world? Hank Stone will explain that the trick is to get the story right. Adjustment to the caterpillar won't work; it must be transformed into the butterfly.

## **October 14** | *Reproductive Justice*

The UUA General Assembly has selected Reproductive Justice as the 2012-2016 Study Action issue. Click on <http://www.uua.org/reproductive/study-actionissue/index.shtml> for more information. We'll compare the UUA position with the Democratic and Republican platforms. Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

## **October 21** | *UU Intentional Community*

An Intentional UU Community is blooming in downtown Rochester! Flower SqUUare is one year old. The vision includes UU's living with church values in a neighborhood adjacent to the Children's School of Rochester, with opportunities to assist refugee families at the school and in the neighborhood. Please come to this informational meeting or contact Pam Jacobstein at 461-4302 or [pjacobstein@yahoo.com](mailto:pjacobstein@yahoo.com)

## **October 28** | *Family Sayings*

Did your parents, caregivers, or grandparents ever spout sayings that now come back to haunt you and you find yourself repeating them randomly every once in awhile? Shirley Bond has a dozen and she bets you do, too. Some were unique to her family and some were well known. One she remembers well was "Don't be a Mrs. Cooper". So bring your favourite sayings and we will have a few laughs.

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>. ❖

# House Report Highlights - October 2012

*Submitted by Alain Perregaux*

## **Sanctuary Renovation**

The new anticipated schedule looks as follows:

- Upgrade of the sound system in the fall of 2012;
- 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.

## **Routine Repairs**

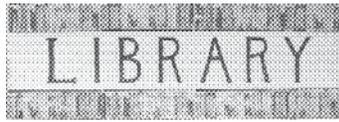
One of the windows of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, facing Court Street, is not closing at all. A carpenter has been called. We do not know what the cause of the problem is.

## **Routine Maintenance**

At the bottom end of each downspout from the gutters, there is a U-shaped trap under the floor of the basement. There are 22 such traps; they prevent sewer gases from backing up into the building. If one of them gets clogged by dirt, water can back up and damage the building. At the time the gutter repair work was being planned, in 2007, we decided arbitrarily that the traps should be snaked every other year in the fall. 2012 is one of these years. This work will need to be planned very soon. ❖

# Library News

Submitted by *Keith Stott*



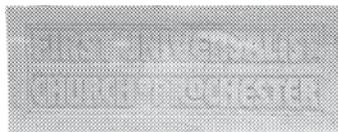
Have you heard Ric Masten sing? The first five lines of one of his poems which he set to music remind me of our Affirmation of Faith and our Joys and Sorrows:

let it be a dance we do  
may I have this dance with you  
through the good times  
and the bad times too  
let it be a dance

Be inspired, amused, and provoked as you read our UU troubadour's book of poems, *Ric Masten Speaking*. Call number 811M. ❖

## Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by *Karen Dau, archivist*



SECOND Universalist: Part 2 of 3

All five local papers avidly picked up this tale of a wayward minister—their most titillating account in a long time. The *Union & Advertiser* excoriated him, while the *Rochester Herald* lambasted the police department. The trustees of his church let the public know that they stood behind their pastor, and twenty-five women signed a petition condemning the police action and applauding Kirkpatrick's efforts against "vice."

On January 8, 1897 the preacher's court case got off to a rancorous start, but on the following day the jury was out only 25 minutes before acquitting him. The following Sunday Kirkpatrick addressed a standing-room-only audience at his church, threatening to sue the *Union & Advertiser* for \$30,000 and claiming a more than friendly relationship between police and prostitutes. City Hall was shocked enough by this charge that they began an investigation of both Shane and his supervisor, and called Kirkpatrick to appear on Feb. 1 to testify before the Board of Police Commissioners. When he failed to appear, the officers' lawyer caustically called it "a mean and cowardly thing for a minister to denounce a man before large audiences, and then not appear in person to substantiate the charges." In the end the Board exonerated both officers. The *Union and Advertiser*, still nervous about the possibility of a ruinous lawsuit, decided to trail the minister and see if he was the paragon of virtue he claimed to be.

Their investigators quickly learned that Kirkpatrick was having an affair with a married woman, Mrs. Heberling, who with her poor eyesight had nevertheless struggled to become a dressmaker after her husband had deserted her and forced her out with no resources. They trailed Kirkpatrick's every move until on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1897, they discovered him nervously entering the residence of the married woman in question. At 3:45 in the morning they brought along the woman's husband and broke down the apartment door, to find the wife and the minister both in nightclothes beside a disarrayed bed. After a brief conversation between husband and wife, the three uninvited guests departed, having seen what they wanted to know.

The jubilant *Union & Advertiser* immediately printed a special edition that immediately went to press and hit the streets before sunrise. Under the scurrilous headline "Kirkpatrick He Serves the Devil in Heaven's Livery" were three equally lurid sub-titles and a wealth of salacious paragraphs. Before 8am the paper had sold 10,000 copies. And the wronged wife had only one person defend her in the paper, a woman who wrote in part, "If the man who turned out from his door the woman whom he had solemnly sworn to love, cherish and protect had kept that vow, she would never have been susceptible to an unlawful influence."

Part 3: Even more woes befall the congregation. ❖

## **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**

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**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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### **Board Of Trustees**

John Wellin (Chair), Joy Leccese (Moderator), Shirley Bond (Vice Moderator), Michael Scott (Clerk), Margaret Gallagher, Michael Van Arsdale, Howard Spindler, Janet Rothbeind, Ed Deller, Rev. Martha Munson (Interim Minister, ex officio)

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