



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

February 2016

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Sunday Services | February 2016

February 7 | *The Stuff of Our Lives*

'Stuff' gets a bad rap in many spiritual conversations, but today, in honor of our annual Auction, we'll take a second look at material things, and the meaning that can shine through them.

- Celie Katovitch



February 14 | *The Languages of Love*

A Valentine's Day sermon.

- Celie Katovitch



February 21 | *Service led by the First Universalist Worship Associates*



February 28 | *Beyond the Warrior*

Contemplating what courage could look like for us today.

- Celie Katovitch

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

Regular service begins at 10:30am





Pastor's Perspective

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

As I write this, the heart-shaped decorations are already appearing in store windows. Valentine's Day may be just a single day, but like many other holidays it seems to have its own "season" from a commercial standpoint, taking in most of the month of February.

It's easy to miss the substance of the word and image of the heart -- hidden as it is behind associations with chocolate and greeting cards. Yet it is the source of some of the richest language we use in religious community.

First and foremost, of course, is its place as a symbol of love. This may be the theological word we Unitarian Universalists use more than any other, yet it covers--we know--an astounding depth and range of complexity in our relationships, and takes many forms beyond just the romantic love that Valentine's Day honors.

"Heart" is also the root of the word *courage*. Perhaps questions of courage have crossed your mind lately, in this time when it can seem that there is no end to fear (or fear-mongering). I know such questions have been on my mind.

And "heart" is also the root of the word *faith*. So often our culture speaks of faith as a matter of belief in a particular creed or doctrine. Yet its original meaning was "to place the heart upon": a lovely and poetic understanding of faith that, I think, we honor and cultivate here at First Universalist.

To what do you incline your heart? Upon what centering truths do you place the trust of your being?

We will be considering some of the above heart-centered themes in worship over the coming weeks, but there will also be a myriad of other opportunities to live these questions. We engage them in Cozy Suppers and small groups, in social action, contemplation, fellowship, and discussion. I think that the many diverse ministries of our church serve, ultimately, the same purpose: to help us grow in love, in courage, and in faith, that we might build a more loving world.

Thank you for all you do to bring such a world about.

With a full heart, --Celie ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

Another month; another source!!

In a living tradition like Unitarian Universalism, there are many sources that influence our spirituality, theology and way of living into our faith. The "Six Sources" try to capture, as concisely as possible, these influences.

At our third **Cozy Night Supper** this year (Friday, February 26th 5:30-7:30pm), we will be considering the third source: *Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.*

Among our congregants, we have varying levels of experience or familiarity with world religions. This source makes room for all of them and acknowledges our belief that no one sacred text or religion has a monopoly on truth and wisdom. These can be found in many places, traditions, and flavors.

The first way many of our members and visitors learn about this source is by seeing the banners in our sanctuary, bearing the symbols of several world religions. I also notice many people stop to read the framed "Golden Rule" poster in the RE/Music wing, which quotes sacred texts of several world religions, all variations on "do unto others, as you would have done unto you."

Beyond just religion, this source acknowledges the richness to be gained from experiencing wisdom from another cultural framework. When you experience taking your shoes off in a space as a way of setting that space apart (making it sacred) how does that affect the way you think about sacred space? When you experience bold and vivid expressions of emotion, can you consider your own cultural framework and appreciate the richness of many expressions? If you eat food that has been ritually prepared, consider your own food rituals?

Religious and cultural experiences not only teach us about another religion or culture. We end up learning more about ourselves and our spirituality, as well. What world religions have influenced your spiritual journey? Is there a particular religion, religious leader or practice that you feel drawn to? Are there any that make you uncomfortable?

I encourage you to explore these questions and your answers in your adventures this month!

- You have heard it said, “You should love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

– *Gospel According to Mark*

- Hate does not overcome hate. Only love overcomes hate. Knowing that we are all destined to die, why fight amongst yourselves?

– *The Buddha*

- In war, have mercy. True warriors do not carry arms. True fighters do not get angry. Those who wish to win should not be contentious. This is being in harmony with what is natural and pure.

– *Lao Tzu, The Tao Te Ching*

- To Me, all beings are the same. I hate none, and no one is more dear to Me than another.

– *Krishna, The Bhagavad Gita* ❖



Adult Religious Education

UU History

Meets the following Thursdays from 1:30–3:30pm

Note: This is a change in date and time from previous Outlooks.

March 3rd - Part 5

Evolution: Beyond Christianity

April 7th - Part 6

Merger and Beyond: The Road to Merger and the First 50 Years

We will be watching one of the six hour long videos produced by Ron Cordes for the series *Long Strange Trip: 2000 years of UU History*, followed by facilitated discussion and conversation.

Feel free to come to one or all sessions as you can.

Please RSVP so we can plan for enough seating to Michelle Yates at edu@uuroc.org or 585-310-2484.

Childcare available if requested a week in advance. ❖

“Gather The Spirit” Contemplative Practice Opportunity

February 17, 24; March 2, 9, 16

For five Wednesdays of the Lenten season, Rev. Celie invites you to join her for a midweek moment of renewal and spiritual deepening. There are two ways to take part:

Option 1 - In person. We'll gather at 5 in the back of the Sanctuary. There will be a time of silent meditation, followed by a chance to read and reflect together on a poem by a favorite UU author -- a different one each week. The goal will be to read with “the eyes of the heart,” asking how the poem speaks to our own experience.

There is no need to commit to the full five weeks in sequence; all are welcome to drop in on any or all of the gatherings. (However, indications of interest e-mailed to Rev. Celie are always appreciated.)

Option 2 - Online. If a midweek trip in to church is difficult for you, but you would like to receive a weekly e-mail with a poem to incorporate into your personal spiritual practice, please let Rev. Celie know that too (minister@uuroc.org).

May we each find time to nurture the spirit in this transitional season of winter-into-spring. ❖



Michelle Yates, our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, will be on vacation with her family Feb 11th – Feb 27. She likely will not be reachable by phone or email during this time. Please direct your questions related to Children's FD to Connie Valk, and Adult FD matters to Kathy Russell. ❖

Staff Note

Social Justice Committee

Save these dates for a chance to grow!

Recently the film “I’m Not Racist, Am I?” was shown by GRCC/Faith in Action Network. It has sparked action in our hearts and our minds. Another driving force for this endeavor are words from Martin Luther King (as quoted by Patti Singer in her D&C column 1/19/2016) “driving out darkness, driving out hate with the light of love.” We are hoping to start a Congregational conversation about racism and how we can address it personally and systemically.

We have two special dates set aside and hope you can join us. You can visit a web site to complete the Implicit Social Attitudes test about race on Sunday, Feb. 21, after our church service and during MOCHA, or on your home computer prior to the 21st (we’ll provide the web address later this month). Assistance will be provided for those who want it in the Clara Barton Lounge on the 21st. (The personal results will be confidential unless you divulge them.)

Then on Sunday February 28th, we will have a discussion led by Jon Greenbaum of RocACTS to help understand the test results and what we can do as a congregation to address racism in our society. No small task but an important one to explore.

We are happy to facilitate this initiative and welcome and encourage your participation and ideas. This is a tiny beginning step for all of us. Hope you’ll join the walk.

Becky Elwell, Kitty Forbush, Elizabeth Osta and Social Justice Chair Eric VanDeusen ❖

Please Welcome... Our New Treasurer!

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Team

A warm welcome to **Dick Shroyer**, who will be serving as the new treasurer of First Universalist Church. Dick and his wife Leslie are long-time members of the church, and Dick held a number of leadership roles in past years. Recently retired, Dick accepted the opportunity to learn a new role and be of service to the church. Thank you, Dick, and welcome!

In other finance news...

- Our annual **Service Auction** is February 7! Plan to stay after the service and enjoy the fun!
- The finance team will soon begin to develop the **2016–17 budget**. Do you have ideas or input? Is your committee planning something special that will require a change in funding? If there is anything you’d like to let us know, please contact Ann Rhody (annrhody@gmail.com) or any member of the finance team by the end of February.
- Don’t forget to claim your contributions to church, including **PACT**, on your 2015 taxes!! If you need a statement, please contact Bill Jones or Ann Rhody.
- Our generosity as a congregation continues to be a source of pride. Over \$760 was collected on Christmas Eve to support **REACH**. What a difference we make in our community! ❖



St. Lawrence District Dissolution:

Regionalization Vote

Submitted by Ed Deller

A vote on April 2 will be held at the St. Lawrence District Assembly on whether to dissolve the St. Lawrence District in favor of creating the Central East Region Group (CERG). The First Universalist board of trustees will vote on a church position in March. Your input to the board is encouraged and welcomed. Delegates will be appointed for the church per our normal process and should be well informed on this issue in advance of the April 2 District Assembly vote. You can contact a board member for more information or access information on this topic at:

www.cerguaa.org/about-us/regionalization.html. ❖

Social Justice Plate: Making Progress

The Social Justice Plate Committee is pleased to announce that the members and friends of the First Universalist congregation were extremely generous during the month of December! *We collected \$625 for REACH House.*

The Social Justice Plate collection for February 21st is Metro Justice.

During 2015 Metro Justice was able to mobilize the community in support of the *Fight For Fifteen* for Fast Food workers, *Gender Equality*, *Public School Education*, *Health Care*, *Social Security guarantees*, and *Housing*. These are issues that affect all New Yorkers! Metro Justice receives no Federal funding and relies on membership and donations from wonderful people such as ourselves.

We thank you all so very much.

Shirley Bond, Becky Elwell and Sarah Singal
Social Justice Plate committee members. ❖

Medical Aid In Dying Program Presented by Interfaith Impact

Submitted by Connie Valk

Interfaith IMPACT of NYS (IINYS) Rochester Chapter will sponsor its annual legislative briefing on **Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **First Unitarian Church**, 220 S. Winton Road. The program focuses on medical aid in dying - **Death with Dignity: Compassionate or Unethical?** The speakers are Corrine Carey, New York State Campaign Director, Compassion & Choices; Diane Coleman, President and CEO of Not Dead Yet; J.J. Hanson, President of Patients Rights Action Fund; and Timothy E. Quill, MD, Thomas and Georgia Gosnell Distinguished Professor in Palliative Care at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. The NYS legislature will consider medical aid in dying legislation in its 2016 session. A Q and A will follow the panel presentation.

First Universalist Church Social Justice committee is a supporter of this organization. Rev. Richard Gilbert is president of the organization. ❖

Nursery as a Ministry of Hospitality

Submitted by Michelle Yates

Perhaps you've noticed an increase in young children on Sundays! It has been a joy to welcome parents and children from various backgrounds in recent months. There are several ways that everyone can show them hospitality and make them feel welcome in our community.

-Smile and say hello, especially if they are in your pew
-Be an RE ambassador: know about our children's programs so you can tell first time visitors. Perhaps show them the Children's Worship and Nursery rooms or introduce them to the teacher that day.

-Most importantly, be a nursery volunteer once or twice per year!

Legally and for safety, we **MUST** have have two adults in the room whether we have one child or six. Our nursery staff, Carol Williams, runs the program and does

a great job! But she needs a second adult. That's right, you don't have to prepare or do anything. Show up, enjoy the kids, share laughs and stories!

If every member volunteered for one Sunday we'd be set with volunteers for over two years.

Many of the parents are new to our church and our faith. Our children's programming not only introduces and welcomes the children to our church, but gives the parents time and space to discern if First Universalist is the right fit for their family, and where they might contribute as a member of our community.

We've been eagerly awaiting more families and kids, and they are coming in. Let's let them know we are committed to welcoming them by volunteering for this important ministry!

Please contact Michelle Yates at edu@uuroc.org ❖

Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Submitted by Newcomb Losh, Communications Committee



Many of our members and friends contributed gloves, mittens, hats and scarves to our annual Mitten Tree seen here on Dec 24. Our own **Lisa Gwinner** hand-knit some of the mittens for purchase at our Holiday Shoppe for the tree. All items were donated to Virgil I. Grissom School No. 7 on Dewey Ave.



Karen Dau organized the lunch for guests and take-down volunteers at the end of RAIHN week on Jan 10.



Our RAIHN coordinators (l to r) **Chris DeGolyer**, **Marti Eggers** and **Sarah Singal** reviewed the Volunteer Covenant as we began a Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) week hosting four temporarily homeless families at our church from Jan 3 to Jan. 10.



Heather Menzies Jones scrambled eggs for Saturday's RAIHN breakfast.

Have an action photo or two of our members and friends being inclusive, living our values or making a difference? Send them to Newcomb Losh at jnewcomb.losch@yahoo.com.

Photographs by Newcomb Losh

Membership

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

Please join us in welcoming our newest members: Brad Freeman and Jim Van Loon. Brad and Jim, we are so glad that you have found a home with us at First Universalist.

Membership at First Universalist is always possible. If you feel that you have found a spiritual home here with us, contact Reverend Celie (minister@uuroc.org) or Nancy Gaede (flower50@frontiernet.net) and we will make arrangements for you to sign the membership book.

On Saturday, April 9, we will hold a **Path to Membership** class that we hope all new members and those considering membership will attend. On Sunday, April 10, we will welcome all new members during the church service. ❖

Meditation Group

Survey Request

Submitted by Kathy Russell

There has been interest expressed in developing some form of regular meditation practice at First Universalist. If this might include you, even on an exploratory basis, please fill out a **meditation group survey** by February 15, 2016 and place it in the Meditation Group Survey envelope on the Religious Education & Faith Development bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge. Blank survey forms are also available on the bulletin board. For more information, please contact: Moritz Wagner moritz.wagner.swiss@gmail.com, Kathy Russell krussel6@frontiernet.net, or Brad Freeman bradfreeman@frontiernet.net. Next steps will be determined based on information received through the survey. Stay tuned... ❖

Rachel Baldanza (standing) and **Alyssa Swanson** (not pictured) led about 35 of our members and friends in the Cozy Night Supper on Jan. 15 in our Clara Barton Lounge. The topic was our 2nd Source which focuses on the words and deeds of prophetic men and women. Activities encouraged us to become prophetic ourselves.

MOCHA: A Church Ministry

Submitted by Bill Elwell

MOCHA, stands for Ministry of Coffee Hour Activities and was given that title by **Nancy Gaede** and **Karl Abbott** when they were in charge of this after service activity. It is a ministry in the best sense of that term which according to Webster's Dictionary means service to others. But this is a ministry we give each other and is not limited to those hosts each week who bring in the food, keep the coffee and juice coming and who do the cleanup afterwards.

The opportunity to further share in the joys and sorrows from the regular morning service, to exchange laughter over personal triumphs and failures, to discuss current and political events and to explore our religious agreements with each other is the foundation of spirituality helping each other connect on a life sustaining level. That's what happens during this celebration of who we are. We truly like each other and this time together keeps us in touch on a personal level.

MOCHA is sustained primarily through individual monetary contributions made each Sunday morning. This ministry is also a budget line item which indicates the importance of MOCHA the whole congregation places in our lives together.

Currently twenty four members and friends volunteer to host this service. It means that about every 10 weeks two or three people decide what food to bring and make sure that coffee keeps brewing. If you would like to volunteer for a one time or multi-time service for MOCHA please let **Bill or Becky Elwell** know of your interest. ❖



Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



LIKE MOST religious communities, the First Universalist Society of the City of Rochester (our legal name) is not some lone star congregation perched on the street with no connections. Our church is now governed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), created in 1961 from a merger of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association. But before that time it was governed by the New York State Convention of Universalists, abbreviated as NYSCU and pronounced “Niss’cue.” This organization dates from 1825. At that time various state Associations were providing governance for the Universalist congregations in NY state. Originally NYSCU’s aims were to exist as a bond of union between these associations, to promote the welfare of Universalism, and to supply the means for problem resolution. However, perhaps more than other Universalists, those in New York State harbored a distrust of organization in and of itself, and twenty years passed before NYSCU could function effectively. From that time until 1961 it held the powers of governance and clergy ordination for Universalist congregations, including ours.

During the nineteenth century, major Convention activities also included helping establish and support two new educational institutions, publishing a newspaper, and administering a clergy assistance fund.

Moving into the twentieth century, the Convention was faced with a precipitous, ongoing decline of Universalism and the increasingly frequent closing of local congregations. As a result it found itself the owner of a growing inheritance of real estate in the form of churches and parsonages, which in time provided financial self-sufficiency for the Convention’s fiscal activities and relieved it from the necessity of charging irksome allotments to its member societies.

NYSCU was active in numerous arenas. Its small periodical *The Convention at Work*, begun in 1890, was renamed *The Empire State Universalist* in 1913 and was continued under that name for 50 more years. In 1951 the Convention purchased a former summer residence on Beaver Lake as a retreat center, which in 1966 became the popular camp Unirondack. A young barely-known Alabama minister named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the keynote to the 1956 annual meeting. The Convention began making its substantial yearly

contributions to the two new UUA districts, St. Lawrence (which we are in) and Metro, as soon as they were created after merger. To foster the continuing growth of Unitarian Universalism, the current Grants and Loans program was established in 1988. The year 1993 saw the publication of the adult study course *Remembering Universalism into Life*. And the early 1990s brought about the creation of the small Lee Universalist Archive, housed on the second floor of our building, which is being developed as a primary resource for Universalism in New York State. In 2005 the Board adopted a new policy for increasing its membership.

The Convention now functions in grant and loan distribution, management of its former pension fund, and support for innovative programs promoting the growth of Unitarian Universalism, primarily but not exclusively in New York State. As one of the Convention’s members, this congregation has an active part in the furtherance of its role in the twenty-first century. ❖



News

Submitted by Keith Stott

How Ancient Is Our Building’s Plan?

Our architect, Claude Bragdon, was inspired by the appearance of buildings he saw or read about in his travels abroad – what he saw in Florence, Italy and what he read about the Hagia Sophia (“Divine Wisdom”) of Constantinople (now Istanbul), Turkey. One of the books in our church library, *Hagia Sophia: Architecture, Structure and Liturgy of Justinian’s Great Church* by Rowland J. Mainstone describes the architecture in photos and drawings. Bragdon modeled our dome and large side windows after the Hagia Sophia. To read more check out Mainstorm’s book. Call number is 726 M. ❖

Recycling 101

Submitted by Sarah Singal

We can all get a little greener. Why not recycle a bit more than you usually do? If you keep it up until Earth Day, April 22, you can probably keep it up for the rest of the year. Here are some helpful bits of information, and check out the sources below for further education.

Your Recycle Box

Include steel, aluminum, glass bottles, jugs and jars, plastics #1-7, gable top cartons, juice boxes, empty steel aerosol cans other than paint cans, defaced license plates and (/pans/foilware from recycling collectors for recycling/recovery). Rinse; leave caps attached. No need to remove labels. Include paper products --newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard broken down, all *clean* paper (if it tears, it can be recycled).

EcoPark

This facility at **10 Avion Drive**, near the Rochester Airport, is run by Monroe County. It is open for unscheduled drop off items Wednesday 1–6:30 pm and Saturday 7:30am–1pm. You can drop off: appliances, bulky plastic items, clean styrofoam packing (no labels or tape), clothing, cooking oil/grease, documents for destruction (destruction is off site), electronic waste, US flags, fluorescent lights, paper and cardboard, prescription drugs and bottles, plastic grocery bags, printer cartridges, propane tanks (#1 and 20 only), rechargeable and button batteries, (NO alkaline batteries), recyclable glass/metal/plastic containers, sharps and syringes, and scrap metal (including tire rims).

You Must Pay to Recycle the Following Items

Passenger vehicle tires without rims--\$5, tube TVs/monitors--\$10, appliances with refrigerant--\$15. Only credit and debit cards are accepted for payment.

Household Hazardous Waste

Appointments are required to recycle the following: automotive fluids (antifreeze, brake, power steering and transmission fluids), cleaners (soaps, waxes, drain cleaners etc.), driveway sealers, flammables (gasoline, thinners, solvents), mercury (thermometers, thermostats), oil based and latex paints (more than 1/3 can full), pesticides/insecticides and fertilizers, resins and adhesives, wood stain and preservatives.

See web site for household hazardous waste requiring appointments to recycle, and for items not accepted.

Weekly Drop Off

Color Brighton Green has a weekly recycling station at the Brighton Farmers Market, held from 1–4pm this winter through May 15, at Brookside Center, 220 Idlewild Road (off S Winton between Westfall and 590.) They WILL recycle alkaline batteries and other unusual items. Check out the web site and better yet go to the market Sunday afternoon and learn all about it .

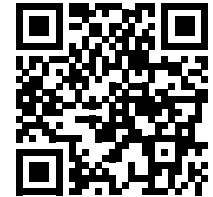
Special Items

The zoo has offered free TV and electronics recycling one Saturday in June. Go to senecaparkzoo.org. See Steve Orr's article for recycling info concerning Christmas trees and lights, etc.

Sources

• EcoPark-Monroe County:
www.monroecounty.gov
Colorbrightongreen.org

• A Christmas Recycling Guide,
Steve Orr, Democrat and Chronicle, 12/25/15 ❖



Book Club News

Submitted by Shirley Bond



The Book Group is pleased to announce that they will be reading *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. The book is now in paperback and the libraries have many copies.

The book group will meet at **12 noon on February 28th** in the discussion room on the second floor. All are welcome and it is not necessary to have read the book. See you then.

For questions contact either
Shirley Bond at Bondshirl1@gmail.com or
Sarah Singal at ssingal@Rochester.rr.com ❖

Why I Volunteer for RAIHN*



Submitted by a Volunteer

I have volunteered each time that we have hosted RAIHN families in our church, and I admit that I was nervous the first time. I also admit that more than once I wondered on the day I was to volunteer why I had signed up. I was tired; it would be so nice to just stay home and relax. But when I leave this church at the end of my service, I am enriched and energized by the experience and by gracious and hope-filled guests I have been privileged to meet and break bread with.

One time a grateful Dad with two young children thanked me profusely for a meal I helped prepare and asked, "Why do you do this?" I've thought about that question a lot since then. I think of the pride a Dad felt when he could provide a birthday meal for his 8-year-old daughter, his other child and his wife along with the other guests, here in our church. Birthdays don't wait for better times. I think about the single Mom trudging down the ramp after a long day at work and then at the RAIHN Day Center, tired to the bone and carrying her sleeping toddler. Her four-year-old son, equally tired after a long day, took about twenty steps, then sank to the floor in tears. He just couldn't go one more step, and his Mom had her arms full. I asked her if I could carry her little boy up to their room with her. With great relief, she gave me a tearful nod. As I picked up the little guy, he wrapped his arms around my neck, tucked his head down and was asleep before we reached their room. As we carefully put the sleepyheads down, she whispered a quiet thank-you. It doesn't get any better than that.

To the question the first Dad asked me – "Why do you do this?" I could have answered in many ways, articulating my faith and beliefs, and that would have all been true. I thought of the famous quote by Edward Everett Hale, a UU theologian -

*I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

But the moment called for something else, something deeper and simpler. I simply said, "Because I can." And you can, too.

***RAIHN – Keeping families together; getting families home for good. ❖**

Drop-In Discussion Schedule, Feb. 2016

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. (except during the summer) 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.

February 7 | *How to Have Better Discussions*

We'll talk about how to be better presenters, commenters and listeners, and how to make drop-in discussions better. Janet Rothbeind will lead the discussion.

February 14 | *Moral Mondays and Justice in the Empire State*

Dick Gilbert, president of Interfaith Impact of New York State, will review the issues before the New York Legislature as it begins its 2016 session. How do we translate Spiritual Sundays into Moral Mondays? Learn about what you can do.

February 21 | *Midlife Crises*

Beth Ares will discuss the ideas in *The Atlantic Magazine* article entitled "The Real Roots of Midlife Crises" < <http://tinyurl.com/ndrmgje>>, with the rest of us perhaps sharing our own motivations, experiences and outcomes.

February 28 | *The Limits to Tolerance*

Unitarianism and Universalism historically have been creed-less churches. But are there beliefs that we do not tolerate? Should there be? How do we decide what is tolerable and what not? Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion.

If you have a topic you'd like discussed or, better still, would be willing to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole. ❖



Cozy Night Supper

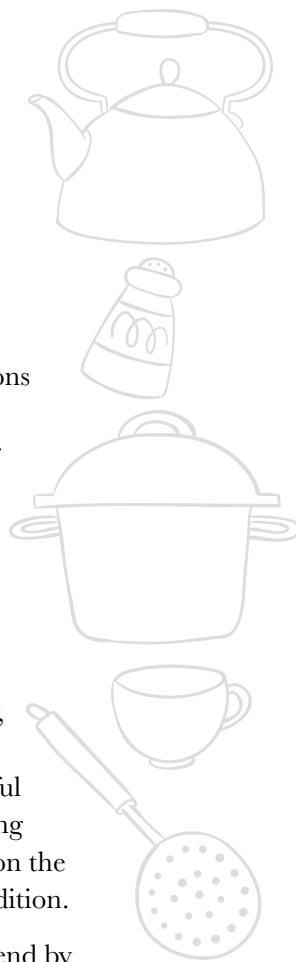
Submitted by Kathy Russell

Wisdom from World Religions

- February 26th

“Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspire our ethical and spiritual life” is the focus for our Friday, February 26th COZY NIGHT SUPPER. This program, from 5:30 to 7:30, continues our exploration of the Unitarian Universalist sources. Held in the Clara Barton Lounge, a simple supper, including a vegan option, will be provided along with wonderful camaraderie - hopefully including you! At 6:30 we will then focus on the third source of our religious tradition.

Let us know of your ability to attend by signing up on the Membership Table or by contacting Connie Valk cvalk@frontiernet.net. Your RSVP/sign up will allow us to prepare appropriately. Child-friendly activities exploring this source will be arranged if you make a request one week in advance. The final Cozy Night Supper for this church year will be March 18th - hope you will mark your calendar now! ❖



House News, Feb. 2016

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

At last winter weather is here. The cold seems to have forced some of Mother Nature’s creatures indoors. Mouse evidence was discovered in the second floor lounge and a mouse was spotted in the Clara Barton Lounge. A live trap has been placed to capture and relocate the visitor(s). Please be very careful with any food you bring into the church so that we do not encourage them in the future.

Here are some other highlights of the building related activities.

- A successful **RAIHN** week was completed with only minor building issues. Heat was restored after repeated bleeding of air from the hot water heat pipes. As the child gate at the top of the stairs to the boiler room is showing significant wear, an alternate safety gate will be investigated.
- The project to replace the **lightbulbs** in the Sanctuary and the Clara Barton Lounge suffered a minor setback in January. The RG&E subsidy fell through as the required bulbs and dimmers are not available through the program. As the project still makes sense from both financial and environmental aspects, a proposal will be developed and submitted to the Board for approval.
- The project to update the **signs** within the church was restarted with a new vendor. A meeting was held to review the project requirements and we are waiting for his proposal.
- The several **pews** that were discovered to be loose have been addressed by the church’s carpenter. Additional work may be needed in the future.

As always, if you are interested in the above or have any other repair or project you would like to see completed, or would like to take on, or join the House Committee, please let anyone on the committee know. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (tom@ruganis.net), Sarah Singal, Mary Vyverberg, Karen Dau, Marcy Klein, Mike VanArsdale, Michael Scott and Ed Deller. We would love to hear from you! ❖

FINI

The
LUUnch
BUUnch
Jan. 2016

12:30, Sunday
February 21.

*Vive Bistro
and Bakery*

130 East Avenue

French, Vegetarian,
Bistro, Vegan

Suggestions on restaurants?
Contact Joyce Gilbert at JTGilbert@frontiernet.net.

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

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 service begins at 10:30am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Celie Katovitch

Director of Life Span Faith Development | Michelle Yates

Music Director | Carol Xiong

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Melissa Davies

Office hours, Monday – Friday, 9:30–2:30. Telephone 585.546.2826

Board Of Trustees 2015–2016

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Editor, *This Week at First Universalist* (digital): Melissa Davies; Monthly newsletter *Our Outlook*, David Damico. Church photo on cover by Tom Ruganis.

More information is available on our website: <http://uuroc.org>.