



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

August 2015

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Our Outlook

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Sunday Summer Services | August 2015

August 2 | *All Happiness is Real*

We've all experienced betrayal and bitter disappointment in love. We will celebrate the gifts we received before the hurt happened.

- Peter House (Summer minister)



August 9 | *Compassion is Not a Zero Sum Game*

"Tough on Crime" is a popular mantra when people are running for office. I believe that we can hold people accountable with compassion and we'll explore how this is the way of a true Universalist.

- Peter House (Summer minister)



August 16 | *It's Better Not See Other People's Paychecks*

Our culture encourages us to make constant comparisons and to "keep up with the Jones's". We will explore the toll this takes on the soul.

- Peter House (Summer minister)



August 23 | *Unitarian and Universalist*

Many UUs identify themselves as Unitarian Universalist but have little idea why the two came together and how they complement each other. Then, some say they are one or the other. Some reject one. Can we be both and what does that mean? David Damico, editor of the *Universalist Herald*, will share his thoughts.

- David Damico with Worship Associate Tim Mullins



August 30 | *The Diagonally Parked Corvette*

We are all a mixture of good and bad traits. It's good to be reminded of that sometimes.

- Peter House (Summer minister)

Summer service begins at 10am





Minister's Message

Message from Peter House

In recent weeks, there has been much talk of raising the minimum wage for fast food workers to \$15 an hour. I have read many editorials on both sides of the issue – some applauding the push to raise the wage, and others decrying the supposed damage such a wage would do to the economy. What I have found much more disheartening than the catastrophizing predictions of the business community, are the number of Facebook posts by kind, compassionate, and otherwise justice-oriented friends, complaining that fast food workers “don’t deserve” a living wage.

“I worked hard, got my degree, and perform meaningful work” one friend posted this week. “I only make \$18.50 an hour! Why should someone who mindlessly flips burgers all day get \$15 an hour? It’s an insult to me and everyone else who tries to better himself. If they want \$15 an hour, they should try to qualify for better jobs”.

I want to turn the question around on my friend and ask “Why shouldn’t someone who works hard at a low-satisfaction job, in poor working conditions, earn a living wage? Did you work hard, attain your degree, and choose rewarding work to enrich yourself and your community, or do your accomplishments only have value as long as there is a class of people substantially worse-off than you are? Is your lot in life diminished in any way by someone else’s situation improving?”

In an economy which is more and more based on service jobs, we must begin to raise service workers to a living wage. Every working person should earn enough to support her/himself. As justice-oriented people, we all have a responsibility to shift the perception that many people have not only of minimum wage workers, but of the jobs they hold. Just as all people have worth, there is dignity in all work.

There is nothing wrong with being proud of one’s accomplishments, but when that pride is fed by a sense of entitlement and superiority, it ceases to be pride, and becomes arrogance instead. There is no place for entitlement in a compassionate world, and no room for arrogance in a just world. If we keep this in mind, we will never be insulted by another person’s cry for justice. ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

Summertime can be the perfect time to have an adventure! We are usually already doing things out of our normal routine with different schedules, vacations, parties, or simply the call out into the sunshine or to hide from the rain, as the case may be.

How do we as UUs embrace being a people of adventure?

It’s part of our liberal theological nature to grow and change; to explore and innovate.

I’m drawn to think about the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*:

-When your “food is too hot”, take a walk.

-Stop by unannounced, or go somewhere unusual. Be curious. Ask curious questions.

-Try new things, and consider what you do or don’t care for. Notice what feels “too hard, too soft, or just right.”

-And unlike Goldilocks, be sure to be courteous, help clean up, say you’re sorry, try to fix your mistakes, and be in relationship rather than “run away.” That is where the real learning of adventures takes place. ;-)

Try out a new thought or idea, foods, books, or music outside of your usual genre. Perhaps check out a different theology, philosophy or opinion. Try to understand and appreciate it, and consider how it connects to and contrasts with what you believe.

Here are links to some fun TED talks and songs about travel and adventures to inspire you:

- <https://www.ted.com/topics/adventure>
- <http://www.outsideadventureguide.com/best-songs-travel-adventures>

Finally, share your stories in summer time conversations, all year long or with your church community. I love hearing about your physical and spiritual adventures!

Happy Trails!!

~Michelle ❖

RAIHN* Dates

Submitted by Marti Eggers



Next First-Level Volunteer

Training Sessions –

- Saturday, September 19th – 10am-noon – Quaker Meeting House, 84 Scio St., Rochester
- Tuesday, October 13th – 6:30-8:30pm – Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Avenue

Volunteers are expected to attend a two-hour training session before or soon after volunteering for the first time. Training sessions orient volunteers to the RAIHN philosophy and the expectations of guests and volunteers. There is ample time for questions as well. Seasoned volunteers are also welcome and provide valuable input based on their personal experiences.

Next Second-Level Training Session –

- Wednesday, November 4th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm – First Presbyterian Church, 25 Church St., Pittsford

Have you volunteered for RAIHN and attended our Volunteer Orientation? Would you like to learn more about issues our families are facing that shape their experiences, such as culture, trauma and poverty? Then please attend this interactive discussion with other volunteers as we increase our understanding about our guests' lives and share our own RAIHN stories and experiences. Please RSVP at 506-9050 or .

Next Host Week at First Universalist –

- September 13 – 20, 2015 ❖

* RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a consortium of 14 faith communities that host families in temporary need of housing, and 27 faith communities that provide volunteers and other support to the host congregations. First Universalist is a host congregation, supported by St. Mary's, Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Greece and the Church of Love Faith Center. Four times a year, for a week each time, volunteers from these congregations work together to provide a welcoming, safe place for the families to come home to after a day at the RAIHN Center where they get help looking for housing and, for some, new employment. We prepare and serve a hot evening meal, help with homework, offer a lap, a story and a hug, a listening ear, a word of encouragement, overnight presence, breakfast and whatever else might be needed before the families return to their jobs or to the Center for another day of hard work.

Searching for a Treasurer

Could YOU be the one we are looking for?

We are in search of a treasurer! A well-organized person who is highly committed to the congregation would be the best fit. Side-by-side training and coaching will be provided on an ongoing basis. If you would like more information or would like to recommend someone, please contact Finance Chair Ann Rhody at annrhody@yahoo.com. ❖

Children's Programming

takes the Summer off...

But our love for our kids and families doesn't!

There is no Children's Worship programming during the summer weeks. Please look for Pew Pals bags at the door to the sanctuary to help engage children during service. If your child becomes anxious, you may prefer to listen to the service in the Clara Barton Lounge. The children's corner in the Lounge is supplied with toys, games and other activities.

Childcare will be available each Sunday during the summer.

Our normal children's programming will resume on Sunday, Sept. 13th at our Ingathering/ Water Ceremony.

Please let us know if you will be visiting with children during the summer so we can support and welcome you! Email or call Michelle at edu@uuroc.org or 585-310-2484. Have a safe and fabulous summer! ❖

First Universalist Leadership Assembly

Submitted by Ed Deller

All church leaders are asked to attend the annual Leadership Assembly on **October 3** from 9am to 12:30pm. Agenda and details will be announced in the coming weeks. ❖

Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Submitted by Newcomb Losh, Communications Committee

Richard Reed (l) and Sarah Singal (r) lead the GUUSTO (Genesee Unitarian Universalists Standing Together) contingent.



Eleanor Siegfried, another long-standing activist and inductee of the National Women's Hall of Fame, waves a flag of support for LGBTQ rights as Greg Baum chauffeurs.



Karl Abbott (left foreground) captures the moment as Nancy Gaede and Janine Casillo wave to the crowd amid shouts of "Happy Pride Day."



Ed Deller holds a vintage *Standing on the Side of Love* sign. At left is marcher and long term activist Steve Farrington.



Tom Williams (l) and Heather Jones (r) carry our congregation's banner.



Lois Baum marches in support and celebration of LGBTQ rights.



All photos taken by Newcomb Losh

RAIHN and a Ramadan Story



Today is the last day of Ramadan. How do I, a Unitarian Universalist, know and recognize this holiday of Muslims? Sadly, one reason is the news coverage following the shootings in Chattanooga, TN, that left four of our Marines dead, repeatedly mentioning the holiday in connection with the shooter and the timing of the shootings.

But there is another reason. There was a knock at my door this morning. There stood my new neighbor holding her 5 month old daughter. She asked if I had time for her to come in. Certainly! She had come to give us “gifts” for the Ramadan holiday. She gave me a package of cookies made in Ankara, Turkey and explained that at this time of repentance they were to give a gift to their grandparents. She chose John and me to be honorary grandparents, as her own grandparents were a world away and we sure qualified with our ages! We were honored! The cookies are delicious and each bite reminds me of the goodness of so many people that are not of our same beliefs or culture.

“Gina” also took a \$10 bill from her pocket and gave it to me to give to a person in need. She knew we attended a church and wanted us to give it to someone we knew could use it. “I know it is not much but please give it.”

Adopt a Room

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

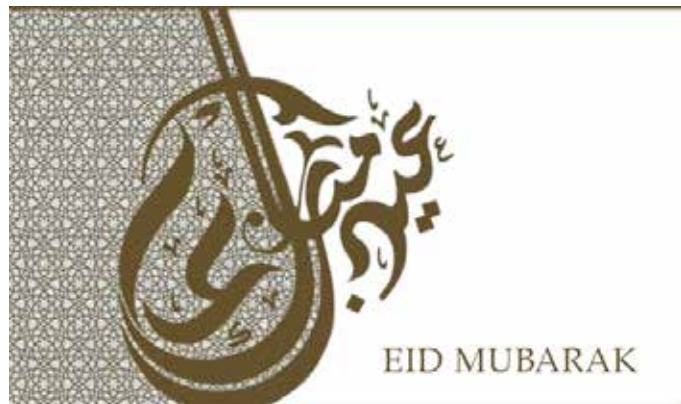


Our beautiful building needs some on-going TLC to keep it shining. Some areas only need to be spiffed up once in a while. Others areas, such as the rooms used for RAIHN, need more frequent attention. If you are interested in helping with this project, please see Nancy Gaede, or contact her at flower50@frontiernet.net. There is also a sign-up sheet on the Membership board. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks to those who have already signed up: Kitty Forbush, Ed Deller, Connie Valk, Shirley Bond, Eileen Fernandez, Marie Sidoti, Carole Hoffman, and Jan Hickman. ❖

We are giving it to RAIHN (Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network), the program for homeless families that our church and John and I participate in.

With this letter I wish you well during the Ramadan month, now ended. My sorrows were lightened with this woman’s gifts and my fears went out the door when she and the baby walked in. May we all welcome our neighbors and may we be good neighbors. It is truly the BEST we can do!

Honoring this day which is special to everyone in its own way, Beverly Lynn and John Morgan ❖



This graphic is from a FB post from my next-door-neighbor who is Muslim and who invited me to her Eid table at the end of Ramadan. It was wonderful! I asked her what one says at Eid in the way we say Merry Christmas. She told me one says “Eid Mubarak.” Marti.

Book Club News

Submitted by Shirley Bond



The book club will not be meeting in August.

We will meet again **September 27th**.

We will be discussing: *Dreaming in Cuban* by Christina Garcia.

A remarkably funny yet endearing novel set in Cuba and Brooklyn.

A great read for this time in History. The book is short, lively, and informative.

For further information please contact Sarah Singal or Shirley Bond. ❖

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



If the church windows could talk, what would they have to tell us? Part 2 of 2.

One of my favorite stories about this church occurred during the mid-1970's. Before the GEVA (Genesee Valley) theater organization moved into its current home, they held their events in the former Rochester Business Institute, located where the recently-vacated Frontier headquarters now stands sadly empty. During GEVA events at the time, the management wanted to sell wine by the drink. The problem was that per city ordinances they seemed to be located too close to the church. But these enterprising folks solved the problem—by measuring the distance from the RBI building to the church entrance on Court Street, rather than to the one on Clinton Avenue. It amused me to no end how they used this architectural means to serve their theatrical ends. (Go GEVA!) Also during that same decade the tapestry of Hope fell to the floor, a victim of water erosion, and lay abandoned in a religious education classroom until it was repaired and in December 1981 joyfully restored to its rightful perch.

Now comes a story from the time during the \$750,000 Capital Campaign of the mid-1980s, when the Sargent Window was removed for restoration. It was attached to a crane parked in the middle of busy Clinton Avenue and slowly lowered outward. After extensive work it was replaced by a crane which raised it inward in place,

but I was too scared to come down and watch. During this same campaign the pews were shifted around, the sanctuary floor was crowded with scaffolding, and the minister preached in a hard hat while the sanctuary was repainted. The Religious Education wing also experienced major remodeling at this time. Then there was the brutal wind-torn day in February 2001 when the cupola blew off the roof. After repairs were completed it was hoisted back in place the following June by a huge crane as some drivers cursed the closing of Court Street and others called out with friendly questions. Not long afterward was the exciting September of 2002 when our minister showed me around like a newcomer after a new doorway had been cut into the east brick wall of the Clara Barton room leading to the parking lot, a ramp to that doorway had been constructed, and the kitchen had been remodeled and a new lift elevator installed. Some of us had never even dreamed of such miracles before!

Stories such as these form a basis for understanding our past, so that we can profit from the experiences of those who came before us. Indeed, stories can serve to transform our lives from what they are to what they can become. Therein lies their power both to be history and to make it. The old Universalist revelation of God's love for a hurting world is just such a story. It is ours to cherish, even as the dawning future calls us ever onward to lives transformed by this symbolic love, each in our own way. ❖



Church Library will be Open Sunday, August 16

Submitted by Philip Ebersole

The First Universalist Church Bookstore and Library are normally closed during the summer, but it will be open during coffee hour on Sunday, August 16, for browsing, borrowing and buying. The library and bookstore will resume its regular weekly schedule starting Sunday, September 13. ❖



House News, August 2015

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

It's hard to believe that August is here. As with most summers, this one is flying by. Fortunately, our building has not suffered from the interesting weather! Here are some highlights of the building related activities.

- The exterior painting project completion is nearing the end and should be complete by the time this Outlook is distributed. Thank you for your patience with the parking lot disruption.
 - Sometimes plans change. The broken post at the edge of the parking lot and adjacent cable has been removed. As an alternative to replacing the post, parking bumpers will be investigated. In any event the parking lot will be patched, sealed and re-stripped in the near future.
 - The contract with Waste Management has been canceled effective in late September. The City of Rochester will provide service after that. We will have two half cubic yard totes in place of the four cubic yard dumpster. Collection will be weekly instead of every four weeks, so the capacity will remain the same. Recycling and bulk pickup will also be provided. This will result in a savings of \$1750 per year based on current rates! Thank you, Alain Perregaux, for doing the ground work for this change. More info to come as we get closer to switching.
 - Permanent installation of the garden continues with alternative attachment methods being evaluated. This will be completed soon.
 - The House Committee continues to work with the communications committee on new signage. A meeting with a sign supplier has been scheduled for late August.
 - The House Committee also continues to work with Lifespan Faith Formation to spruce up the second and third floor classroom hallways. A new coat of paint will be applied in preparation for possible wall murals. We will try to schedule the work early in the week to minimize the odors on Sundays. Check the weekly, *This Week at First Universalist* for the schedule of the work to be done.
 - A big thank you to John Lukes for donating an almost new computer. It is currently planned on being utilized in the Lifespan Faith Formation (RE) office.
- 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 work on yourself, please let anyone on the House Committee know. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (tom@ruganis.net), Sarah Singal, Mary Vyverberg, Karen Dau, Marcy Klein, and Mike VanArsdale and Ed Deller. We would love to hear from you! ❖

Drop-In Discussion, August Schedule

Submitted by David Damico

Summer Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday at 11:15 a.m. after the service 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.

August 2 | *Nursing and Patient Care*

Facilitated by Kitty Forbush

August 9 | *Birth Order*

Does being a first born make you special?

Facilitated by Harvey Rothbeind

August 16 | *Your First Job*

When, where and why? David Damico facilitates.

August 23 | *58 Years Of Disappearing Farmland*

Hidden, legal considerations demanding farmland be converted to the "highest and best use," local laws forbidding "harboring of farm animals," the "prudent man," and Wildlife corridors, all defined.

Jessie Werner facilitates.

August 30 | *TBA*

If you have a topic you'd like discussed or, better still, would like to do a presentation or lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole or David Damico. ❖



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.

Summer Worship service begins at 10:00am Sundays

Summer Minister | Peter House

Director of Life Span Faith Development | Michelle Yates

Music Director | To Be Announced

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | To Be Announced

Office hours, Tuesday through Friday, 8:30am–2:45pm. Telephone 585.546.2826

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