

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 services begin at 10:00am Sundays

Summer Minister | Peter House

Director of Religious Education | *To Be Announced*

Music Director | Bryan Holten

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Kris White

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

Board Of Trustees

Ed Deller (President), Joy Leccese, Shirley Bond, Michael Scott, Michael VanArsdale, Howard Spindler, Janet Rothbeind, Rev. Martha Munson (Interim Minister, ex officio)

Editor, Weekly *eOutlook*: Kris White; Monthly paper *Our Outlook*, David Damico/Marcy Klein

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



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

July 2014

Summer Minister

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Director of Music

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Director of Religious Education

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Visit us online www.uuroc.org

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Summer Sunday Services | July 2014

July 6 | *Sitting at the Stop Light With Your Four Way Flashers On*

We all live in our own little worlds. What goes on in our minds is only obvious to us. How much happier we would be if we were able to hold that truth in constant awareness!

– Summer Minister, Peter House



July 13 | *Letting Go of Toxic Relatives*

“You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your relatives” the old cliché goes. But there are times when our own well-being is compromised by our feelings of obligation to toxic or abusive family members. Sometimes, it's not only OK to let these people go, it's imperative.

– Summer Minister, Peter House



July 20 | *Do you really want to live forever?*

The Christian writer C.S. Lewis wrote that all that is necessary for there to be a Hell is eternal life, and human nature as it is. Would immortality be a blessing or a curse?

– Phil Ebersole



July 27 | *Never Have Your Heart Set on ANYTHING*

We are all conditioned from early childhood to have hopes and dreams. We are told that the only way to achieve happiness and success is to set our hearts to things, and never lose our commitment to them. But is having our hearts set on things a recipe for happiness, or disillusionment?

– Summer Minister, Peter House



Our summer service begins at 10:00am.





Walking With You

Message from the Interim Minister, Martha Munson

What a strange message this is! “Walking with you” as I am stepping away. Yesterday’s service, when I retrieved my walking stick and relinquished the free pulpit you gave me when I arrived, was a poignant ritual. You will offer your free pulpit to Celie. May you and she together be a blessing to each other and to the world.

I’m grateful for so many things..... Your loving care amid Dave’s illness, and your tributes yesterday at the gala picnic, which I really enjoyed. There were smiles and laughter, tears, and thanks. I’m thankful for the songs (service and picnic), Memory Book, gifts and notes by post, e-mail, and other means. I will be around for another week or two as I clean out the minister’s office. Time still to say goodbye, should you wish to do so. But time grows short. Be in touch now if that is your desire. Two things: You are UUism’s Downtown Gem. AND, when you hear cheering coming from the West, it’s from me, cheering for you!

Yours, faithfully, *Martha* ❖

Summer Fun

Submitted by Ann Rhody

Looking for some summer fun? You can help the church at the same time! We have an auction item with a few available spots:

Fit ‘n Float
Saturday, July 12
11am-4pm
Ann Rhody’s house in Webster.

We gather at Ann’s, take a short ride to one of Webster’s wonderful trails, go for a moderate hike, then return to Ann’s for a great lunch and some poolside relaxing and swimming. 2 spots available, \$25 each includes hike, lunch, beverages, and pool time. C’mon with us! First come, first served. If interested, please contact Ann Rhody at annrhody@yahoo.com. ❖

RAIHN* Dates

Submitted by Marti Eggers



RAIHN* News and Dates

Team VirtUUal a Success!

Thanks to all the generous folks who supported Team VirtUUal for the RAIHN Car City fundraising event. As a result, Car City met its goal!

Calling all carpenters, designers and craftspeople – During the warm months, all the rooms in the RE wing – classrooms, offices, the Adult Lounge and the choir rehearsal room – become very warm. If the windows are open to let in some fresh air, bugs delight in coming in and making themselves at home, especially at night. Wouldn’t it be lovely if we had screens for the windows? Screens would benefit everyone who uses these rooms during the warm season, including our RAIHN guests. The windows on the third floor are especially challenging as they are arched, and the space where screens would need to be placed on both floors is quite small. If you have some ideas or would like to help make some screens, please get in touch with Marti Eggers (Mceggers@gmail.com), Sarah Singal (ssingal@rochester.rr.com) or Tom Ruganis (tom@ruganis.net).

Next RAIHN Training – Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30 pm, Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Greece, 4115 Dewey Avenue

Next RAIHN Host Week – August 24 – August 31.

* RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a consortium of 14 faith communities that host families in temporary need of housing, and 31 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. ❖

2014–2015 Church budget approved by congregation.

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance chair

The 2014-15 church budget has been prepared by the finance team, proposed by the Board, and passed by the congregation. We have rearranged the budget categories in the hopes of making the budget more use- friendly and understandable. The budget provides for full fair share support for the UUA and St. Lawrence UU District, as well as support for the church programs we love. For a copy of the budget, please contact the church office, treasurer Laretta Young (lsy14610@gmail.com) or finance chair Ann Rhody (annrhody@yahoo.com). Finance activities over the summer will include managing the cash flow for the exterior renovation project, setting up payroll for a new minister and RE Coordinator, exploring the option to have electronic funds transfer available as a means to make pledge payments, and planning fundraisers for the coming year. We expect a strong finish to this fiscal year, and we thank you for your faithful stewardship of First Universalist! Watch the newsletter and announcements for opportunities to help with the auction and other fundraisers starting in the Fall. ❖

Why March in *Pride* *Parade* July 19?

Submitted by Connie Valk

We say we want to have visibility in the community. Here's one way to make it happen.

Wear your Standing in the Side of Love T-shirt, your 1st Universalist shirt, or other apparel, and March with other UUs down Park Avenue behind our banner on July 19.

Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge with your contact information. Gathering time is 2:30 PM, but more details -- including carpooling to the parade -- will be shared with those who sign up or email Connie Valk at cvalk@frontiernet.net.

We usually have twenty or more First Universalists participate. If you have never marched with the group before, come join us. We've been heartened by the demonstration of thanks by the LGBTQ Community. Great strides have been made, but the struggle is not over. Transgender issues are the new frontier in New York State. This is one way we can make a stand for social justice. ❖



Our Outlook: Paper or Digital

Submitted by Ed Deller and David Damico

We would like to offer a more mobile alternative to the readers of our monthly newsletter, *Our Outlook*. In keeping with our 7th principle regarding respect for the interdependent web of existence, starting in August, we will mail the printed copies only to those who request it. Would an electronic version fit in your lifestyle?

Our church newsletter has traditionally been part of how the membership communicates within the congregation and with the larger community. As a very active congregation, we maintain our UU message and identity by involvement. Each issue is full of current information connecting members and friends with events happening in our church community.

We ask that you contact the church office by email (firstuu@frontiernet.net) or phone (585-546-2826) if you want to keep receiving the printed *Our Outlook* by mail. If we have not heard from you by August 1 you will no longer receive the paper version of the church newsletter. The *Our Outlook* will be available to you as an email or by visiting the church web site (see below). ❖



Annual Meeting Update

Submitted by Ed Deller, Board President

Our congregation’s annual meeting was held after the worship service on June 8. Key items of business were:

- We approved the new fiscal year budget as proposed by our diligent finance team. Thanks go to the whole committee but especially to Ann Rhody, Laurreta Young and Bill Jones
- New board members were elected: Kity Forbush, Karen Ruganis and Tim Mullins were elected to 3-year terms, Joy Leccese was re-elected to a 1-year term to take Michael Scott’s slot as he leaves his board term early for his work sabbatical. Kitty, Tim and Karen join Janet Rothbeind, Michael VanArsdale, Joy and Ed Deller as continuing board members. We thank Shirley Bond, Howard Spindler, Michael and Joy for their years of dedicated service on the board.

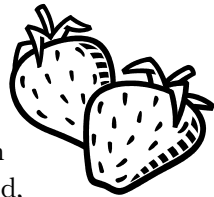
- Ed Deller was elected to continue as congregation president for the next year.
- New nominating committee members were elected: Glenda Brayman, Howard Spindler and Marcy Klein will join continuing members Tom Williams and Dave VanArsdale. We thank Marie Sidoti, Cathie Grisley and Santosha Kuykendall for their past years of committed service.
- Members were elected to the newly formed Committee on Ministry. They are: John Wellin, Marie Sidoti, John Akers and Bridget Watts.

A recognition of volunteers was included in the meeting and nearly all those present stood up to be recognized at some point. We are fortunate to have such an active an involved congregation! ❖



Garden Lovers

Submitted by Sarah Singal



Here’s a new idea. Come to the church gardens at 10 am on Thursdays to weed, deadhead, pick up and keep the garden looking its best. If there’s no one there, you don’t need to stay long. If we get through quickly we could take a walk downtown, go for iced coffee, or just sit in the park; maybe we can tell folks about the Lots of Food garden—we need to get the word out. This will be a very, very informal drop-in gardening fellowship.

Plants growing now in our food garden are strawberries, cherry tomatoes, chives. We are not putting much in the garden now because we may lose it all as it bakes under tarps in August/September while the roof is being installed. But as soon as the tarps come off Lori Staubitz, our Lots of Food contact, will help us select plantings for our food permaculture beds.

Plants blooming now in the flower garden are so ever-changing that you will just have to stroll by and see for yourself! From the peskiest weed to the elegant irises and the delicious strawberries, it is all nothing short of a miracle. ❖

Of Salvation

From the book, *Parish Parables*, Clinton Lee Scott 1946
Reprinted with permission of Rev. Dr. Peter Lee Scott.

Now there was a certain man that for many years did not frequent the Temple on the Sabbath day. Then did he cease to be found in the Great Congregation. And a neighbor inquireth of him, saying, How is it that thou art no more seen in the Temple on the Sabbath day? And the man did give answer, I like not the words that the Master speaketh; for he putteth not an end to the questions that vex my mind, neither provideth me with a sure salvation for my soul: verily he leadeth us into deep waters, and leaveth us there without means of rescue.

Now when this conversation was told to the Master of the Temple he answered, saying, Go tell him that remaineth away from the Great Congregation that the Temple standeth not to provide life preservers, but is a place wherein one learneth how to swim. ❖



Taking Care of Your Own

Submitted by Bryan Holten

After spending less than an hour at the church picnic, I boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Boston, the site of this year's National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. (I'm happy to point out that the trip was made possible, in part, by funds from the "musician professional expenses" line item in the church budget.) Nine hours in close quarters with thirty or forty strangers presents a terrific opportunity to reflect on the past year. What follows is a small sample of what came to mind. (If you're at all like me, nine hours is a long time to be alone with your thoughts!)

What makes my work at First Universalist so rewarding? It's hard to explain perfectly, but I think it's easily summed up in one phrase: you take care of your own. Having been in your midst for nearly two years, I can see that you do a great job of nurturing your beloved community. I take solace in this simple fact every time I sit at the keyboard(s). So many of you take the time and energy to articulate how the music enhances your experience in the pews; I can't overstate how wonderful it is to hear about your appreciation. (Many of my colleagues are not so lucky.) The work I do as Music Director is not ultimately about me, so it's great to know that our voices, keyboards, guitars, banjos, and drums are employed in pursuit of a larger purpose: to communicate something meaningful.

My hope is that we've established in our time together a sense of mutual trust and goodwill. My task is to steer a music program that enhances the life of the congregation. My suggestion is for you to reflect on one particular question: what aspects of the music program feed your soul? Talk about it. Make a buzz. It's your music program. ❖



Drop-In Discussion, July Schedule

Submitted by David Damico

Summer Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday after the service at 11:15 a.m. in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church. You don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome.

6 | *MetaMaterials and Nano Technology*

Facilitated by Jack Belli

13 | *Talking With The Disaffected*

How do practice active listening and respect for those whose views are so extreme from your point of view? How do you keep your cool and not respond in kind to words that are confrontational? Bill Elwell Facilitates.

20 | *Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator*

An overview of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the different personality types and what each means. Facilitated by David Damico

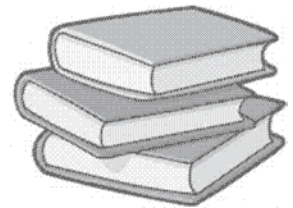
27 | *Communities that Abide*

Phil Ebersole will look at communities that have survived adversity through centuries, such as the Roma (gypsies), Amish and Hutterites, and raise the question of what it takes to be a community that abides.

If you have a topic you would like discussed or, better still, would like to lead a discussion, speak to or email David Damico (uurocnews@gmail.com). ❖

Book Club

Submitted by Shirley Bond



The Book club selection for the month of September is: *Year of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks.

"A Glimpse into the strangeness of history that simultaneously enables us to see a reflection of ourselves".

No in-depth analysis... Just interesting conversations. Different opinions welcomed.

Sunday September 28th, 12:15.

For further information please see or e-mail bondshirl@yahoo or Sarah Singal@rochester.rr.com ❖

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist

AT ABOUT 7:15am on Sunday, March 17th, 1935, a windstorm barreling through Rochester with winds up to 44mph demolished the two side sections of the beloved Sargent window in the back of the church. Hearing the sound of crashing glass, the church custodian, who was already in the building preparing for the morning service, had run up the stairs to the side entrance of the sanctuary and was blown over by the force of the wind rushing through the church. Only a few minutes earlier he had been standing directly underneath that window, looking at the thermometer that controlled the temperature in the sanctuary. As soon as he could manage, he summoned help, and the current and former House Committee chairs, the Board president, and the owner of the Haskins Stained Glass Studio quickly assembled to view the damage and make plans for repairs. Thankfully the center section depicting Jesus the Good Shepherd was undamaged. The April issue of *Our Outlook* issued a few weeks later reported: "Since it was impossible to hold service in our church that morning, we asked Rev. David Rhys Williams, minister of the First Unitarian Church [across the street], for the privilege of meeting in Gannett House. Mr. Williams graciously invited us to join his congregation, and insisted that Mr. Blauvelt deliver the sermon. As it was the seventh anniversary of Mr. Blauvelt's coming to Rochester, and the Rochester Chapter of the Order of De Molay was to attend our service in a body, we had an unusually large number to add to Mr. Williams' congregation. In spite of the sadness over the loss of our beautiful window it was an inspiring service, and every one of our own people went home determined to help restore the window to its original loveliness." Members were grateful that no one had been in the sanctuary during the accident. They thanked the people who had helped clean up the broken glass and particularly the three men who had worked for hours "in a piercing cold wind" to board up the window opening. Within a few days the Board arranged a contract with the Haskins studio for repairs. Some weeks later the window had been reconstructed and was then reinstalled in its accustomed place overlooking Clinton Avenue and Washington Square Park beyond it, and a service of re-dedication took place on April 28.



The window had been donated around 1901 by the wealthy locksmith and devoted Universalist James Sargent while the congregation was still meeting in its former church just two blocks north on Clinton Ave. The window's creator had taken inspiration for its design from a well-known painting by the French artist Gustave Doré known as "The Good Shepherd." ❖

House News-June 2014

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

Window Repairs

The repairs to the stained glass window in the Clara Barton lounge are progressing. The contractor has now procured all the needed material and is in the process of building a replacement window. The new window should be installed shortly a few weeks.

Exterior Renovation

The Exterior Renovation project is still on schedule and will start in late July with completion expected by early October. The church parking lot will not be available for use during this time.

Heating System

The steam has been turned off and the system has cooled. Our heating contractor will be in soon to repair the three leaks.

Screens

The windows in the RE wing will be fitted with screens to allow bug-less cooling for members and RAIHN guests alike. The challenge will be the curved top to the windows.

Mysterious Rubble

A small pile of rubble was found at the end of the second floor hallway in front of the fire escape door. Apparently this fell from above and some ended up on the floor through a small gap in the ceiling. The material included drywall and mortar. We will continue to work on determining a cause. ❖

Gathering of Men 2014

Submitted by David Damico

A weekend of adventure, a weekend of self-introspection, a weekend of friends. The 2014 UU Gathering of Men at Unirondack was June 6-8. Several men from 1st Universalist attended, Steve Farrington, his friend Fred Dean, Tim Mullins, Tom Ruganis and myself. This was my third weekend attending and I had a fantastic time.

Our group *Statement of Purpose* is

“The Gathering of Men is an annual get-together of Unitarian-Universalist men of all ages, colors, creeds, and sexual orientations. We gather each year to share our experiences as men and explore what that means.

We often find ourselves renewed and reinvigorated as we talk openly about our lives, hopes, and dreams. Spiritual and informative workshops are held throughout the weekend along with hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. In all of our activities - preparing and eating meals, fireplace chats, and group discussions - we enjoy the fellowship of other UU men.

This annual weekend event is held at the Unirondack Camp and is a program of the St. Lawrence District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.”

Wow, such a description! Each man is asked to volunteer throughout the weekend with food preparation, setting up or cleaning after meals, or doing a workshop. In the past, I have held a workshop but this time, I just volunteered for meal setup. Sharing the responsibility lessens the effort.

The environment is invigorating with the wilderness and lake surrounding you. We were fortunate to have great weather this year with few buzzing pests. Some guys went kayaking or hiking, some stayed inside and played board games (a favorite pastime for me). Although workshops and events are scheduled, each person makes the weekend what they wish, on their own timetable. Then there's the conversations. Throughout the weekend, many great conversations were had; the place seems to draw it out of you.

The Saturday night talent show is a truly fun event with singing, artistic presentation, poetry, and joke/storytelling. I sang two favorite songs, one in tribute to my father who passed away ten years ago. The weekend ended with a service in one of the larger lodges. I volunteered to help plan the service with several others. What a wonderful way to end the weekend for the trip back home. Tom Ruganis and I had wonderful travel talk.



It is difficult to describe the beauty that is Unirondack or the peacefulness of the weekend, sharing with other likeminded UU men. If any or all of this sounds appealing, check out our Facebook page (type Gathering of Men) or ask any of us that attended. It's time well spent that lasts longer than a weekend. ❖

School 7 Volunteer Tutoring Program

Submitted by Tim Mullins

We have tutors volunteering in Rochester's *School 7* on Dewey Ave. Last fall 11 volunteers were in grades k through 6. By April we grew to 22. Bruce Pollock, head of FREE Partnerships, the Friends of Educational Excellence, recruited the new tutors from a Church of Latter Day Saints. We have recruits waiting to start up in the fall, and are aiming for 50 tutors, already occurring in two other RCSD schools. ❖