



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

July 2012

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Our Outlook

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Sunday Summer Services | July 2012

July 1 | *The Pizza Dancer*

We have all had less than ideal jobs. Did we complain and sulk or did we do them with enthusiasm? I will share how I was inspired by a guy who has fun with a wretched job.

— Peter House



July 8 | *Only the Good Die Young*

We all strive to be good people and it's a worthy goal. But is it possible to be too good your OWN good? You may leave church with permission to be a little naughty.

— Peter House



July 15 | *Getting Away From Monoculture*

The devastating effects of globalization invade every aspect of our lives in obvious and not so obvious ways. We'll consider what is at stake when we fail to nurture diversity in our world and in our personal lives.

— Peter House



July 22 | *There is No Such Thing as a Permanent Absence*

Ten years after September 11th, 2001, a memorial was dedicated at Ground Zero. What message does it really send and what can we learn from its design philosophy? We will explore loss, grief, and re-birth.

— Peter House



July 29 | *Guest Speaker*



Tiny Houses, Smaller Lives

Submitted by Peter House, Summer Minister

The school year that is just ending has been the “Year of the Tiny House” in Mr. House’s 7th grade community. All year long, my students have been studying sustainable living. What has fascinated them most is the so-called “Tiny House” movement.

We have discovered that there are people all over the country who are building really small homes (100 square feet or LESS) and living in them. They use less energy, create less pollution, and they force their inhabitants to live a much more simple lifestyle. It’s quite Thoreauvian in philosophy.

I am philosophically and spiritually in the same “place” right now. My partner Michael and I have come to realize that our lives are too full. So this summer is going to about “paring down” for us. We are going to purge our house of excess belongings, delete some commitments from our calendars, and spend more time simply “being”. In keeping with this effort, I will not be teaching summer school this summer. This will give me more time to “be” the summer minister. I hope my new found time will be reflected in better sermons.

My wish is that every member of our congregation will consider embarking on some simplification project this summer. Maybe you won’t move into a 94 square foot house by August. But perhaps you will get rid of some household clutter, or drop a commitment that drains your energy, or recommit to simply “being” with the people you love. Let’s have a tinier but more meaningful summer together. ❖

Peter House, Summer Minister



What Is Ministry – Today?

Submitted by Joyce Gilbert

There’s a long-standing picture of the UU minister. Usually male, but not always. Spouse working (unpaid) in the church school, or perhaps playing the organ/piano. Family living in the church-owned parsonage – or manse, depending on the part of the country. Children attending the local school. The whole family moving when the minister accepts a new pulpit.

That was “then.” The picture in the early 21st Century is far different. Parsonages are a thing of the past. Spouses – or partners – often have their own professions, and the family’s moves may be in response to better job opportunities for the spouse. The new job may be in an area served by a UU church – or not.

Many churches have full-time ministers who reside in the community served by the church. Others ministers work part-time, commute, or have linked churches, rather like the circuit riders of earlier times.

What about the people who choose to become ministers? Today they are often mid-life career change individuals. Some attend theological school with the goal of being community ministers rather than parish ministers. They may be professional interim ministers, or contract ministers, or fit any number of other descriptions.

The October 12-13, 2012, meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists explores these issues and their implications for congregations in New York State.

Where? Saratoga Springs, NY

Keynote speaker? The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President, Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

Please put this gathering on your calendar. The Saratoga Springs congregation is organizing a day of tourism in their charming, historic town for the Friday before the Annual Meeting.

Contact Joyce Gilbert at 244-7403 for more information. ❖



What Do We Get from the UUA?

Submitted by Michael Scott

Unlike the Catholic Church or most Protestant denominations, the Unitarian Universalist Association is a voluntary organization: congregations choose to be members.

So why do we choose to belong? Part of the answer is certainly altruistic: many of us feel called to contribute our name, our time, and our money to the larger movement. But much of the answer lies in the many concrete benefits we receive as a member congregation. Here are just a few:

- 1. Professional staff:** The UUA trains and certifies ministers and religious educators. It provides a wealth of professional development opportunities, a retirement program, and group insurance plans. It administers the process by which congregations find new ministers.
- 2. Publications:** The *UU World* magazine is sent, free of charge, to every member of every UU congregation. The UUA Publications Office prints the pamphlets we distribute to newcomers. The Office of Lifespan Faith Development produces religious education curricula. Beacon Press, the denominational publishing house, produces some of America's most important new books on social issues.

- 3. Public witness and visibility:** The UUA Office of Social Justice advocates for peace, justice, and compassion on the national stage, reminding the public and the media that faith-based positions need not be narrow and intolerant. The "Standing on the Side of Love" program, in particular, has been enormously successful at promoting causes in which we believe, from equal marriage to immigration reform.
- 4. Support and guidance:** The UUA advises congregations on best practices in fundraising, social action, growth, administration, leadership development, diversity and anti-racism, conflict resolution, and a host of other topics. It provides grants and loans to congregations in need. It develops programs for youth and young adults.
- 5. Coordination:** The UUA currently has 3 Associate organizations (the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the UU United Nations Office, and the UU Womens' Federation) and some 80 other related groups (see www.uua.org/directory/organizations/index.php). It facilitates cooperation among these many organizations, and serves as a central clearing house for information.

The UUA requests that congregations make a "fair share" contribution of \$58 per member per year. Our congregation just voted—for the first time in more than a decade—to pay 100% of its dues this year. This is a major accomplishment, and one of which we can be justly proud.

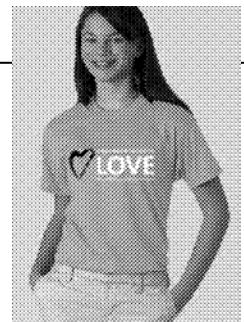
To learn more, visit the UUA's incredibly rich web site, at www.uua.org. ❖

Pride Parade 2012

Submitted by Eric Van Dusen

This year's Pride Parade, organized by the *Gay Alliance*, will be held on Saturday, July 14th. The parade will start at the corner of Park Avenue and Goodman at 3:30PM and end by 5:00PM.

To celebrate the Marriage Equality Bill passed by the New York Senate, First Universalist has joined with other UU churches as a *Genesee UUs Standing Together (GUUSTO)* presence. We want to create a sea of yellow with the UUA's *Standing on the Side of Love* T-shirts as we march in the annual Pride Parade. If you purchased one, please plan to wear it. Join fellow First Universalist's and other UU's in our annual show of support. If you are interested in participating contact Connie Valk at cvalk@frontiernet.com or Eric Van Dusen at evandusen@frontier.com. ❖



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.

July 1 | *Our Words of Wisdom.*

Our liberal religious tradition provides us ways of self expression on a variety of topics. In this discussion, we continue that tradition by sharing some of those expressions. David Damico will facilitate.

July 8 | *In Praise of Idleness.*

We hear a lot these days about the work ethic. Phil Ebersole will facilitate a discussion of Bertrand Russell's 1932 essay, *In Praise of Idleness*, in which he rejected the work ethic, advocated a four-hour workday and said there is no freedom without leisure. Click on <<http://www.zpub.com/notes/idle.html>> to read the essay.

July 15 | *Self determination on death.*

We discuss death sometimes as though it was always going to happen to someone else or maybe that we will not be there when and if it happens to US. Discussion on legality, parameters per age, circumstances, illness, pain, assisted suicide, faith, religion and "rules and regulations" facilitated by Beverly Lynn.

July 22 | *Book Discussion Group.*

In The Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time, author: Peter Lovenheim

After a tragic murder-suicide in his neighborhood, the author wonders how people can live side-by-side but know literally nothing about each other. Lovenheim advances ideas about isolation in the modern world, and why a welcoming front porch is needed more than ever.

July 29 | Sermon Discussion ❖

Board Happenings

Submitted by Shirley Bond

The Board meeting June 4th was productive and inspiring. The board is excited to meet on June 23rd to welcome the new board members. The meeting will be held from 10 AM till 1PM. It will be a sharing of information meeting.

Howard Spindler gave a detailed report from the renovation committee concerning the extensive work that will be accomplished this summer in the sanctuary. It was decided that a bulletin board presentation will be available with representatives from the committee ready to answer questions from the members and friends. This will happen during coffee hours.

The board decided to acknowledge four special volunteers at the Annual Congregational meeting. Ann Rhody for her years of excellent service as treasurer, Marti Eggers and Sarah Singal for their tireless and extensive work with RAIHN and Eric Van Dusen for his help with Occupy Rochester. Joy Leccese volunteered to give the presentations.

The new budget was approved and will now go to the congregation June 10th.

A report was given by John Wellin and he assured us all that the governance committee is hard at work streamlining some committees. A shorter version of the by-laws are still being formulated and it is hoped that they will be ready by the semi- annual meeting.

Martha could not attend the meeting but she sent a message stating that she would like to put together a transitional team.

We decided not to gather in July and as of this date we will meet the first Monday in August. There is still a standing invitation for members and friends to join the board meetings. Hope to see you there. ❖

Our People

- Brendan Courtsal has received a merit scholarship from the Eastman Community School to continue his vocal music studies in Carol Frangipane's voice studio next year.
- Simon Jones graduated last Saturday with honors from RIT. He'll begin work as a graphic designer at a firm in Manhattan. He now lives in Brooklyn.
- An update: Anna Hurst (Connie's mom) is stable. She loves cards and visitors. (She remains at St. John's Hospice)

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



REV. LYMAN Hamilton Squires was the fourth settled minister of this congregation, serving from September 1, 1895 until mid-July of 1898. He was born in 1851 in South Dansville, NY, the son of Phineas and Olive Kingley Squires, and in early adulthood he studied dentistry in the office of his father. But he soon took up a course of study for the ministry and was ordained on October 28, 1874 at North Bloomfield, N.Y., where he had his first pastorate. He was married there that same year, at the age of 24, to Miss Frances Danley, who died in November of 1895, leaving Rev. Squires his only child, a daughter Frances. His subsequent settlements were at Reading, PA.; Poughkeepsie, NY; Lansing, MI; and New Haven, CT, and Jamestown, NY, from where he came to Rochester. In July of 1897 Rev. Squires married Miss Jennie Clark of Hornellsville, who survived him until 1953.

In November of 1896 he was chosen to address a Unitarian conference in Rochester, and assigned the topic "The Evolution of Universalism Until it is Now Found Abundantly in Nearly All Churches: How Does This Affect the Universalist Church as a Distinct Body?" He opened his address by saying "When this topic was given me I found myself questioning the question...is Universalism found abundantly in nearly all churches? What is the evidence? I could recall individuals who have been known as Universalists who have gone into other churches, for various reasons, they found better ministers or larger congregations or more patronage or a husband or wife. But I do not recall any who have gone

to other churches to hear Universalism. And I do not recall any minister in other churches who professes to be a Universalist, or to teach Universalism, nor any church which has declared it in its creed or statements of faith.

"The most that can be said is that a more liberal sentiment is spreading in nearly all churches; that many no longer believe in endless punishment; that there is a larger hope for man; that preaching is shorn of its old time horrors; that there is more toleration for differences of opinion; and that other churches are becoming more congenial places for unbelievers and heretics. But this does not mean Universalism in other churches. Universalism is something more than 'cushioned seats and no hell.'" This sermon proved to be so popular that the Democrat and Chronicle published it in its entirety. A 20th century minister in Albion delivered a sermon titled "Cushioned Seats and No Hell," as did the writer of this many years ago.

Rev. Squires' pastorate was cut short by tuberculosis, and he resigned to seek treatment in Hornellsville, now known as Hornell. Undoubtedly he chose to enter the Steuben Sanitarium in that place because it was the hometown of his wife and the residence of her mother. He recovered enough to found a Universalist congregation there and serve it for a short time, but he died suddenly of heart disease on Dec. 6, 1902. His necrologist in Boston's Universalist Register noted: "He was as near a Universal man as I ever met." ❖

School 52 Summer Reading Program Rochester Volunteers: We Need You!

Submitted by Sarah Singal

We need adult volunteers (16 yrs or older) that can read with our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Graders over the summer in our Summer Reading Camp at School 52!

The Camp will be at School 52, 100 Farmington Road, for 12 sessions in July and early August every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:45am to 11:45am on the following dates:

July 10, 11, 12 July 24, 25, 26
July 17, 18, 19 July 31, Aug. 1, 2

You can volunteer for all 12 sessions or fewer depending on your availability.

You will be involved in one or more of these activities:

- 1) Student-supported Reading
- 2) Literacy Games
- 3) Reader's Theater

There will be volunteer training sessions on June 28 and July 9 before the Summer Reading Camp begins. This is a pleasant campus with easy parking

To sign up or for more information, please contact Bruce Pollock, School 52 Volunteer Coordinator, at bpollock@freepartnerships.org or 585-455-7373. ❖

Summer Recycling

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Special Recycling: We will not be collecting recyclable materials at church this summer, but there is an opportunity to recycle LOTS of items that Monroe County does not collect, at the Brighton Farmers' Market, and also some items that Monroe County does collect, for special distribution. The market is open every Sunday 9am-1pm June through October, and is held at the Brighton High School parking lot on Winton Road. The site will be moved temporarily to the Brighton Town Hall parking lot when the high school lot is paved in July. Check out the website of Color Brighton Green for all the details, www.colorbrightongreen.org and click on Recycle at Brighton Farmers' Market.

Items to recycle

- Orange prescription bottles with caps on. (Please, remove labels!) These are being collected to be used for medicine in third world countries.
- Drink pouches:*
- Aluminum or plastic.
- No juice boxes—they go in your blue bin, straws removed.
- Candy wrappers:*
- Individual candy wrappers, large candy bags, and multi-pack candy bags.
- No candy boxes or gum packaging.
- Granola/protein/energy bar wrappers:*
- Foil lined energy bar, granola bar, meal replacement bar, protein bar, diet bar wrappers.
- Clif brand wrappers: Twisted Fruit, Shot Roks, Shot Bloks, Shot Gel.
- Cheese and dairy packaging:*
- String cheeses packages, individual singles wrappers, singles packages, shredded cheeses packages, all flexible cheese wrappers, cream cheese tubs, sour cream tubs, cheese tubs, yogurt tubs, butter tubs, any other dairy product tub, foil tops, plastic tub tops, any other type of packaging on all dairy tubs
- Bubble wrap, loose fill packing peanuts, non-food styrofoam packaging. (Usable and clean.)
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFL)
- Compact discs and DVDs
- Batteries (all kinds, not corroded and no car batteries)
- Crayons (leave labels on when possible)
- Wine corks (real or synthetic)*
- Sneakers—any brand:

- Without metal (grommets, eyelets, zippers, clips, etc.), lights, wheelies, cleats, spikes.
- No laces tied together.
- Not muddy (wet or dry).
- Only sneakers, please: no shoes, no boots, no water shoes, no sandals, no flip-flops, etc.
- Used personal care and beauty product packaging.* Including, but not limited to:
- Makeup, hair product, body wash, shaving product, soap, lotion, nail polish, etc.
- Tubes, bottles, jars, cans, cases, dispensers, containers of any kind.
- Toothpaste tubes, tooth brushes, floss containers.



Items NOT recycled

- Plastics #3-7 and plastic flower pots are recycled by Monroe County. There is no need to bring these items to the Market. Make sure to place them in your recycling "Blue Box" to be picked-up by your waste hauler.
- Styrofoam and other rigid foam packaging.
- Egg Containers: some farmers at the market will take them.
- Plastic grocery bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, other thin plastic bags or plastic wrap: grocery stores take them for recycling in their "plastic bag" recycling bins.

Volunteer opportunity

If you would like to help at the recycling table, please send us a note.

* Recycling of these items benefits the school building project in South Sudan. They take the cheese and dairy packaging to send to South Sudan, and send the prescription bottles to 3rd world countries. ❖



House Report Highlights - July 2012

Submitted by Alain Perregaux

Spring Clean-up Day

Our recent Clean-up Day was held on Saturday May 19. 10 members of the church and 3 members of Occupy Rochester participated. 11 of the 13 proposed projects were completed; the 2 that were left undone were not critical at all. In all, it was a very successful exercise. Many, many thanks go to all those who helped.

Sanctuary Renovation

Schedule

According to the original schedule, the physical renovation work was supposed to begin on July 2. Due to delays in the planning process, the start date is now scheduled for July 16.

The plan to close the parking lot on July 2 will not change. The renters have been asked to find alternate parking until the second half of September.

We had also anticipated that the last service to be held in the sanctuary would be on Sunday July 1st. *Now it looks as though it will be on Sunday July 15.* After that date, all Sunday services will be held in the Clara Barton Lounge.

Communication

An information meeting about the renovation was held Sunday June 17 after the service. We may hold another one whenever there is significant additional information to be shared or if there is a demand for one.

The members of the renovation committee are: Katie Comeau, Karen Dau, Joyce Gilbert, Lisa Gwinner, Marcy Klein, Alain Perregaux (chair), Michael Scott, Sarah Singal, Howard Spindler (vice chair), Mike vanArsdale, Marty Vyverberg.

Renovation: Scope of the Work.

- All pews of the main floor will be repaired and repolished; 4 pews will be shortened to create wheelchair spaces; new candle poles and hardware will be added. The pews of the balconies will not be repaired.
- There will be new cushion covers for all pews, including the balconies.

- The main floor will be refinished (not the balcony floors).
- A new carpet will be installed on the main floor (covering roughly the same areas), on the chancel and on the steps of the stairs to the balconies.
- The stairs to the balconies will be repaired so they will be less noisy.
- The woodwork will be cleaned and polished.
- The sound system will be improved with added speakers in the sanctuary and the lounge; there will be 4 or 5 cordless channels and a control panel inside the sanctuary. The lounge will be integrated and will have its own cordless channel.
- New lamps will be added to illuminate the ceiling, the West wall and the chancel. More light will also be added over and under the balconies. The control panel will be mounted on the North wall next to the chancel.
- A fire detection system will be installed in the whole building and connected to the Rochester Fire Department.
- Heating: the balcony radiators have already been remounted; the radiators of the main floor have been checked; the replacement of the thermostat will be part of the electrical upgrade.
- A few selected stained glass windows will be repaired based on need.
- The total estimated cost is \$200K. ♦

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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.

Summer worship services and Religious Education classes begin at 10:00am Sundays

Summer Minister | Peter House

Director of Religious Education | Rev. Lori Staubitz

Music Director | Josiah Armes

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Kris McCarty White

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

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