



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

June 2015

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Our Outlook

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Inside

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Pastor's Ponderings | Pg. 2 |
| Walking Together, DRE | Pg. 2 |
| Small Group Ministry | Pg. 3 |
| Membership | Pg. 3 |
| Communications | Pg. 4 |
| Summer Musicians | Pg. 4 |
| RAIHN | Pg. 5 |
| Finance | Pg. 5 |
| Church Picnic | Pg. 6 |
| Auld Lang Syne | Pg. 6 |
| Drop-In, House News | Pg. 7 |

Sunday Services | June 2015

June 7 | *Love the Hell Out of the World*

On this Annual Meeting Sunday, we will reflect on what Universalism means in the modern world, and what it has meant for us here in the past year.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch



June 14 | *In Praise of Slowness*

As the world moves at a faster and faster pace, slowness is becoming a social justice issue.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch



June 21 | *Fathers' Day*

In honor of fathers, and father-figures, in our lives.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch



June 28 | *Clementine Moments*

Sometimes we are givers, and other times we are grateful recipients. I'll share what my encounter with an aspiring therapy dog me about the essence of grace.

-Peter House (Summer minister)

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

Worship service begins at 10:30am on June 7, 14 and 21

Summer service begins at 10am, beginning June 28





Pastor's Ponderings

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

This summer, I will travel overseas for the first time in my life: to Connemara, a wild and rocky region in the west of Ireland, where I will spend a week walking the coastline. The reasons for my journey are mysterious. They are largely hidden even from my own understanding. Perhaps there is some ancestral connection: a wish to be close to those who went before. Perhaps my reasons are rooted in simple curiosity-- about a soulful culture, where music and poetry are woven into daily life. Then again, perhaps they arise from something more fundamental, deeper than my own consciousness can grasp.

I do not know precisely what I will find when step off the plane, nor how I might be changed by the experience (these things will only become known in the walking). All I know is that the pull to make the trip was strong. And so I listen, reflect, and wait--open to what may come. There is a name for journeys like this, framed by unknowing. It is *pilgrimage*.

This is what our life together in a free church is like, as well. This is what it is like to belong to a living tradition like Unitarian Universalism. Supported by songs, poetry, and the ancestors whose stories shape us and make us who we are; drawn by a future the details of which we can't always see, yet which calls us with its promise; we set out each year, with trust in life's unfolding.

With transitions in ministry and religious education directorship, this year began with great unknowing at First Universalist. None of us could guess, in September, where we might be today. And in each of our separate lives, there have been changes in landscape, whether the outer landscapes that surround us, or the inner landscapes of who we are. Yet, through them all, I hope we have each known moments of profound connection, growth, and grace. I know I have.

There is an African proverb that counsels: "If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk with others." This is another truth we live by in the free church. I look forward to continuing this walk-- this pilgrimage-- together.

In faith, Celie ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

One of my favorite phrases is, "Start with a plan. Be prepared to throw it out the window, but start with a plan." It's been a humorous reminder of the value of taking time to organize and plan, but to be **flexible**, to **adapt** to what life throws at you.

There is an Aesop's fable that tells of a reed and a tree that grew near each other. The tree was proud of how strong it was with its deep roots and strong trunk, and criticized the reed for letting the wind make it bow low. Under the strength of a hurricane the tree was up rooted, while the flexible reed flowed with the wind, but survived the gale.

This year the Children's Worship leaders considered how we might be flexible to provide children's programming, but try to coordinate Sundays when most of our kids will be able to gather. Cause who doesn't like to see their friends at church? Since March we have been experimenting with scheduling and programming, and are excited to roll out **Spirit Play Sundays!**

In the new church year, Spirit Play Sundays will be on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of the month**. What that means is if you are a family with kids or are inviting a family with kids to church, and are considering which Sundays are best (cause every Sunday just isn't always realistic) come on the 2nd or 4th Sunday! Of course we'll still have children's programming on all the other Sundays during the church year, but we hope to play with more of our friends on those days, and have multi-generational activities after church on the 2nd Sunday of the month. It's exciting and a little scary to try something new, but we plan to stay flexible to share the Love and Grace of Unitarian Universalism with our children and families.

How can you be **flexible and adaptive** in this season of your life? Are there patterns or activities in your life that just aren't going "according to plan?" Try being flexible or adaptive; look at the problem from a different angle. Consider "what is the point," "the bottom line," or the "mission?" Are there other ways to get there from here?

Keep asking curious questions, Michelle ❖

Small Group Ministry

Since our own “Knit Caps” shared about their Small Group Ministry experience in worship there has been lots of interest in starting up some new SGMs in the fall! To coordinate groups and facilitators over the summer we need to know now...

Are YOU interested?!

Contact our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Michelle Yates, at edu@uuroc.edu or 585-310-2484.

Also known as “covenant groups” or “chalice circles,” Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Groups of 8-12 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Most Small Group Ministries have an “open enrollment” time once or twice a year, and request a commitment of five months, one church year or more.

Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred.

Whether the topic is “good and evil,” “mindful living” or “letting go,” the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have the opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. Many small groups engage in annual service projects, putting their faith into action. Contact Michelle if you have further questions. ❖

Minister’s Summer Schedule

From June 24-28, I will be in Portland, OR, attending General Assembly as a delegate for our congregation. I will be away on vacation during the month of July. August is designated as study month, a time for reading, writing, and worship-planning for the year ahead. During these weeks I will be available only in cases of emergency. If you have a church-related question or concern, please contact summer minister Peter House.

~CK ❖

Lifespan Faith Development...

...encompasses many areas of spiritual growth and learning for our whole church community.

Consider how you might want to be part of the action next year!!

- Delivering a message for all ages in worship
- Leading or assisting with children’s worship or other multi-generational activities
- Nursery assistant/childcare
- Cozy supper program facilitators or “food crew”
- Adult religious education offerings

Contact Michelle Yates, our *Director of Lifespan Faith Development*, with your interests and questions at edu@uuroc.edu or 585-310-2484 ❖

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Membership: Have you noticed?

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

Have you noticed how our pews continue to be more and more full each Sunday? In the first weeks of May, there were over 100 people sitting in our sanctuary on each Sunday morning. Isn’t it wonderful? And do you know why this is happening? It’s because of our wonderful membership committee. Committee members set the stage each week. You can hear it in their welcoming voices. You can see it in their smiles...their many small acts of kindness and welcome. A visitor enters a little late...someone from membership jumps up and hands him an order of service. It’s time in the service to welcome each other...someone from membership gets up, warmly shakes a newcomer’s hands and invites her to join us at coffee hour. This congregation is blessed in its membership committee. By the way... did I mention that each one of you is a member of the membership committee? YOU are the key. You make our visitors feel welcome. You make them want to return to worship with us. Thanks for being a part of the Membership Committee. When you add all your efforts to First Universalist’s meaningful social justice work, soulful sermons by Reverend Celie , and fantastic music by our choir and musicians, it’s easy to see why so many people are coming each Sunday. Keep up the good work. ❖

Communications

Submitted by Newcomb Losh, Communications Committee

The Communications Committee recently welcomed a new committee member, Marcy Klein, who has been spearheading our signage audit. She brings experience in graphics. She joins our standing committee members and our ex-officio members, the Rev. Celie, David Damico and Kris White.

We are creating a new photo section in Our Outlook called Making a Difference. Each month, one or more action photos of our members and friends living their values and making a difference will be showcased. If you would like to submit action photos for Making a Difference, send them to Newcomb Losh of the Communications Committee. Include the names of people in the photograph, the date and location and a brief description of the activity. If you'd like someone else to photograph your activity because you'll be busy making a difference, Newcomb will be happy to help. The deadline for submitting photos is the second Wednesday of the month, so that she can prepare them and create captions for publication.



Standing committee members front row l to r: Marcy Klein, committee chair Lisa Gwinner, back row l to r: Newcomb Losh, Connie Valk, Nancy Gaede

We are an inclusive faith community, living our values, making a difference. Some questions to consider as we head into the summer months: What does it mean to be inclusive? Is it possible to be inclusive in everything? What would it look like? ❖



Calling all Musicians!

Our summer services will be starting on June 27, and music for those services is provided by volunteer musicians. Could you be one of them? Even if you have just one piece you've always wanted to try to perform, we'll make a time and place for you to do it, whatever your voice or instrument. Please contact the summer music coordinator, **Ann Rhody** at annrhody@yahoo.com for more information. ❖



Book Club News



Submitted by shirley Bond

The book club will not be meeting June, July, or 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. ❖

RAIHN* Happenings

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

**Next Host Week at
First Universalist:
June 14-21**



June is a busy time with graduations, weddings, and the start of summer and summer vacations. Still, if you will be in town, we hope you can find the time to join the lively volunteers who fill over 80 volunteer spots to provide good food and a safe place to stay at our church to temporarily homeless families with children. If you haven't attended training, you can still help with set up on Sunday, June 14th, or clean-up on Sunday, June 21. You can also shadow an experienced volunteer—ask Chris DeGolyer to find someone you can shadow.

Next Volunteer Training: Tuesday, June 9th, 6:30-8:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Road, Rochester.

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 RAIN philosophy and the expectations of guests and volunteers. There is ample time for questions. Seasoned volunteers are also welcome and provide valuable input based on their personal experiences.

Car City

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Car City festivities on May 2d or joined Marti Eggers' Team VirtUUal. It was a big success, raising over \$18,000!

Questions? Please contact Marti Eggers, Sarah Singal or Chris DeGolyer (chrisdeg@frontiernet.net)

*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. ❖

Wrapping up.... And starting again!

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Team

The Fiscal Year for the church ends on June 30. We are always eager to see whether we will end the year in the "black" (having taken in more money than we spent), or in the "red" (having spent more than we took in). Happily, this fiscal year there is no question that we will end in the black. We have had a pretty stable year, and several costs weren't as high as we anticipated (heating for example). Excess funds at the end of the fiscal year go into our carryover ("buffer") fund, which is the accumulation of surpluses and deficits over the years. This fund is a cushion if we run into a really tough year.

A new fiscal year will be starting on July 1! The board and finance team will ask the congregation to approve a balanced budget for 2015-16 at the annual meeting on June 7. Thanks to a successful stewardship campaign and some careful trimming, we will be able to maintain, and in some cases enhance, church programs this coming year.

Having been through periods of financial difficulty, we do not take this time of fiscal stability for granted. It means that we can live out our mission to *Nurture the Spirit and Serve the Community* more effectively! So if you have an idea for our church, and you wonder about funding, don't hesitate to ask someone on the Finance Team. Much of the time, if the energy and leadership is available for a project, we can find a way to make it work financially. ❖

Church Picnic

Submitted by Karl Abbott

Date: Saturday June 20

Time: 12 – 4 pm

Location: Lake View Shelter #1, Webster Park [maps available on request; Karl at karl47@frontiernet.net]

NOTE - Parking is on the other side of Lake Rd.
What to bring: A dish to pass, something to grill, your drinks, and board games, sports equipment (e.g. badminton, frisbees, bocce sets etc.).

The church will provide dishes, utensils, napkins, condiments, and the heated grill. ❖



Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



SETH GREEN was a pioneer in fish cultivation who established the first hatchery in this country in Caledonia, and was known as the Father of Pisciculture. He was born March 19, 1817, one of six children in the Iron-quoit farming family of the early pioneer and War of 1812 captain Adonijah Green. When farming became onerous the elder Green moved his family to Carthage, on the east bank of the Genesee River, before that village was appropriated by Rochester, and he became the proprietor of the Carthage Inn. Young Seth befriended some of the local Seneca Indian boys there and they passed time hunting and fishing together, sharing the techniques they had learned from their fathers. Coming of age, he established himself as a fisherman, opening a store on Front Street near High Falls. Here he sold to local people and ship crews docked in port. His team of 100 employees sold anywhere from 12 to 25 tons of fish a month. It was in 1837, while observing salmon on the banks of the small Salmon River some 30 miles north of Coburg, Ontario, that the idea of artificially reproducing fish first occurred to him. In 1864 he decided to begin experimenting with a new technique of his own development. As the site of his labors he chose Caledonia Creek, because with its stable cold temperatures he was not subject to seasonal limitations and pollution. Not long afterward he opened the Caledonia Fish Hatchery, where he carried out his testing and cultivated trout and salmon

as well as stocks of other species. His methods increased the success rate of artificial fish hatching from an average of 25% to over 97%. For many years he managed to keep his methods a secret, thereby increasing his fame and promoting his prosperity. His obituary from the Rochester Union and Advertiser notes: "In 1867 he was invited by fish commissioners of four of the eastern states to come to Holyoke, Mass., and try his process upon shad spawn. The local fishermen at first gave him no encouragement, but in two weeks when he had succeeded in hatching 15,000,000 fry, their demeanor changed. The next year 40,000,000 fry were secured, and one of the pleasantest incidents of his life was a visit to Holyoke in (18??), when the people turned out in masses and greeted him as their great benefactor." In 1868 he was appointed by the state governor as a commissioner to the newly-created New York State Fish Commission. In 1875 Mr. Green leased enough land on Caledonia Creek to build a state hatchery. He was married in 1868 to Miss Helen Cook, and they were the parents of two sons and two daughters, Chester K., William C., Helen L., and Alice G., respectively. Like his father, Seth Green was a member of the Universalist Church in its nineteenth-century location one block north of here. Unhappily, no records survive of his life and times in the congregation. He died on August 18, 1888 in Rochester and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. ❖



Library News

Submitted by Keith Stott



A Miraculous Revival

If you were a Polish Jew and survived the Holocaust would you still be reliving the horror – including the death of your daughter Magda in a concentration camp? So does Rosa. Though now safe in America she has to deal with a nice Mr. Persky who wants her for his wife, although he is married, and the miracle of Magda's revival. Will this well written, prize winning novella by Cynthia Ozick burn itself into your imagination? Call number is **FIC O**. ❖

Library, Bookstore to close after June 7

Submitted by Philip Ebersole

The church library and bookstore will be open in the Clara Barton lounge before and after the congregational meeting. It will be closed for the season June 14 and 21. We have a free magazine exchange, used books for sale for 25 and 50 cents and new books for sale at a discount. We'll be clearing out all the 25-cent books, except for children's books, before we re-open again, so this will be your last change to take advantage of these bargains. If you have a book borrowed from our library, we ask that you return or renew it before we close for the church year. ❖

Drop-In Discussion, June Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

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

June 7 | *The Iran Deal*

Phil Ebersole will make a presentation on the agreement between the U.S., Iran and the other great powers and lead a discussion on its consequences.

June 14 | *Stupidity Theory*

A recent management study, not entirely tongue in cheek, argues that individuals in big organizations must stop thinking critically if the organization is to run smoothly and they are to succeed. Phil Ebersole will make a presentation and lead a discussion.

June 21 | *Open forum discussion or to be announced.*

June 28 | *Bernie for President?*

Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion of Senator Bernie Sanders' campaign for president.

Starting June 28, we'll switch to our summer schedule and meet at 11:15 a.m. following the Sunday service.

If you have a topic you'd like discussed or, better still, would like to do a presentation or lead a discussion, speak to David Damico. (He is working every other Sunday at the Genesee Country Village & Museum). ❖

**Church's annual meeting
will be June 7 immediately
after the service.**

House News June 2015

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

By the time this is distributed, the Spring Clean Up will have been completed. Thanks to all who participated in making our building a more attractive environment. There is no doubt that all of you are enjoying Rochester's wonderful spring weather. In addition to soaking in the sun, spring weather means projects for the House Committee! Although I cannot report the completion of these projects here is a partial list of what is being worked on:

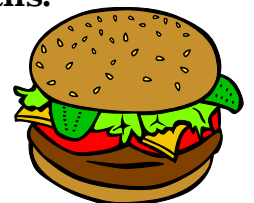
- The exterior painting project suspended last fall will resume this summer. This will not take over our parking lot as it did last year. Only a small portion of the lot will be needed for about a week.
- One screen has been constructed for the Nursery and others will be created for the Nursery and Children's Chapel.
- Parking lot post repair and sealing are currently being sourced.
- Plumbing fixes. Sometimes you get water where you don't want it and sometimes you do not get it where you do. Don't worry we will address the issues.
- Installation of the Beryl Haas plaque will be completed soon.

Many thanks go to John Morgan who has decided to resign from the House committee after years of service. John's positive attitude and willingness to get things done will be missed by the committee. We wish him the best after his "retirement" from the committee. ❖

**The
LUUnch
BUUnch
June 2015**

Burger Bar
Pittsford Plaza
Wegmans.

12:30 on Sunday, June 28.



Living Our Values, Making A Difference



Advocacy Day

Six of our members & friends traveled to Albany on May 4 for Advocacy Day, sponsored by Interfaith Impact of NYS. They visited 173 legislative offices, providing them with position papers on a variety of social justice issues. Pictured in the Legislative Office Building are Becky Elwell (front row ctr), Carole Hoffman, Dick Gilbert, Connie Valk (middle row far left, 2nd from left and far rt), Michele Yates and Lyle Jenks (back row left and right).

Lots of Food

Sarah Singal (rt) and Ginger Sykes (left) prepare our Lots Of Food vegetable garden on May 19. Participants in this urban garden program grow food for the public, sowing the seeds of food justice. Passers-by are welcome to take what they need. Not pictured: Shirley Bond and Connie Valk.



RAIHN Car City

Michele Yates, our Director of Life Span Faith Development, and her children Robbie, Eli and Julie slept in the family's car overnight during RAIHN Car City on May 2nd to bring attention to family homelessness. Their car's theme was *No Family Is an Island*. Left to right: Eli, Julie and Michele.

World Religion Day Website

David Damico has been the website coordinator for the annual celebration of World Religion Day in Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana since 2001. This is the 15th annual local celebration. *World Religion Day* was started by the Bahai's in 1950 and is now annually celebrated by many faiths, worldwide. <http://www.worldreligiondayshreveportbossier.org/>

