



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

September 2016

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Sunday Services | September 2016

September 4 | *Tier One Thinking*

On this Labor Day weekend, we will explore the downside of always looking out for "number one."

-Peter House (Summer minister)



September 11 | *Ingathering*

As we gather together again for the new church year, we'll explore religious community as a place of renewal and transformation -- through story, song, ceremony, and celebration.

- Celie Katovitch



September 18 | *After the Mountain Top*

Moments of higher consciousness are sustaining, for many of us, on the road of the spiritual life. They are also--for most of us--relatively rare... and all such moments are not equal.

- Celie Katovitch



September 25 | *Bending the Arc in Rochester*

"Everything is perfect, but there is a lot of room for improvement" (Zen saying)
The 19th century preacher Theodore Parker coined the phrase often used by Martin Luther King: "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." But does it? Who does the bending? In the context of the 2016 political campaign and rethinking this congregation's justice-making role, Dick Gilbert will explore the social role of the UU congregation – this one. How do we live out our 5th principle here and now?

- Richard S. Gilbert, guest speaker

Beginning September 11, services will start at 10:30am.





Pastor's Perspective

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

Dear Friends,

Welcome back from summer sojourns near and far; welcome to a new church year! The year has already begun auspiciously with the hire of a new music director and the affiliation of our new community minister, Peggy Meeker (Peggy's ministry takes place with patients at Strong). Please join me in welcoming them when we are all together after Labor Day.

Early this summer I attended General Assembly, the annual conference of our denomination, held this year in Columbus, Ohio. Much good work was done during those five packed days. Our denomination raised over \$89,000 in a single, special offering taken for Black Lives of UU. We engaged in critical dialogue and action for racial justice, and resolved to carry this work forward with intentionality in the year to come. Delegates also adopted a new Congregational Study-Action Issue (CSAI) - "The Corruption of Our Democracy." You can read more about this here (www.uua.org/statements/current/proposed-congregational-study/action-issue-corruption-our-democracy).

In addition, we mourned for the lives lost in the shooting in Orlando, and for the continued hate faced by LGBTQ people in too many places in the world. The Westboro Baptist Church appeared, to protest our assembly. So did members of our Orlando congregation, sporting brilliant white angel costumes which, with unfurled wings, blocked Westboro's hate signs from sight. It was just one of many moments of beauty and compassion in Columbus.

Another beautiful moment was seeing the diversity of our UU sister-congregations across the country --truly astounding to witness. Among them are newborn and historic churches; churches that meet in gyms and schools and houses; churches where communion is a regular occurrence; churches that have no organ, but have a praise band; churches that are led entirely by lay members.... It was a good reminder of something a colleague told me during seminary years: that when we talk about "our tradition" as if it means one particular thing -- one theology, one style of worship, one idea of church -- we have to remember that "everything is in the tradition" somewhere!

Finally, I recommend to you the sermon from Sunday morning worship, by the Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd (sermon begins at the 1 hr and 12 minute mark here: www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016/worship/sunday).

With love, looking forward to seeing you,

--Celie ❖

Minister's Schedule and Office Hours for the Fall:

Sunday - worship, coffee hour, office hours 12-1.

Monday - day off.

Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday - church, denominational, and community meetings; most e-mail responses will occur on these days.

Friday - devoted principally to sermon writing (offline).

Saturday - devoted principally to pastoral care, rites of passage, study.

Cell phone # for emergencies (any time): 315-877-3302.

Office Hours

- * Sundays when preaching, 12-1, at church.
- * Thursdays 1-2, at Starry Nites Cafe at Central Library.
- * By appointment. ❖



Rev. Katovitch on Study Leave Sept. 21–28th.

This year I will be taking two of my designated weeks of study leave during the regular church year, in order to undertake a certification program in Spiritual Direction. The first of four weeks of on-site training spaced over the next two years will take place this month, at the Mount Carmel spiritual center in Niagara Falls. During that week, I will be available only in cases of emergency. (For those who may be wondering: Spiritual Direction is a ministry that involves accompanying people through listening and attention to where God/ spirit/ depth is moving in their lives. It is my hope that this training will benefit my ministry here with you.) During those weeks, day-to-day questions may be directed to President Nancy Gaede. ~CK ❖

Ingathering:

The first Sunday of the church year is September 11th. We'll begin the year with our traditional water ceremony. Please bring a small vessel of water from your summer travels (near or far), and plan to join us! ❖

Welcome Rev. Peggy Meeker,

Our New Community Minister Affiliated!

Rev. Peggy is a longtime friend of First Universalist. Her ministry takes places at Strong Memorial Hospital. We are thrilled to welcome her as a member of our community while she carries out her work as a chaplain. You can read more about Peggy on page five in this month's Outlook. ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

Welcome! And Welcome Back to a New Church Year! Do you remember the first time you came to a Unitarian Universalist Church? Maybe it was First Universalist, or maybe it was somewhere else. Do you remember the first time you really felt *welcomed; accepted; invited* into our community? Hopefully, you have several of these kind of memories.

The gifts of welcome, acceptance, and invitation are intangible and hard to define, but as Unitarian Universalists sharing these gifts is an important part of our faith practice. How might we each share these gifts with those we meet at church, and out in the wider world?

As we kick off the church year, our Children's Worship program will be considering the Gift of Welcome; especially how the ways we "accept" and "invite" others makes them feel welcome.

We will welcome the wider community to join our "Age-ing to Sage-ing" workshop, where we will embrace and support the wisdom of the elders in our community. We will share conversations with members of other area churches on how people of color experience welcome, acceptance or invitation in our society in the "Sacred Conversations" program.

As we come together again, let us continue to share old and find new ways to Welcome each other!

Yours in Faith, Michelle

For further exploration:

- ~ A smile is the universal welcome. -Max Eastman
- ~ Happiness can exist only in acceptance. -George Orwell
- ~ The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance. -Nathaniel Branden
- ~ A real conversation always contains an invitation. You are inviting another person to reveal herself or himself to you, to tell you who they are or what they want. -David Whyte

-TED Talk- Andrew Solomon,

"Love, No Matter What." <http://goo.gl/LVhQBz> ❖

Adult Faith Development Offerings, 2016–2017

► From Age-ing to Sage-ing: Elderhood and Spirituality

So you're getting older. What does that mean? How does that change things? Based on the *New Vision of Growing Older* by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi & Ronald Miller, this 3-session workshop/discussion group will reflect on our personal experiences of aging, look at models of aging from various cultures, and revision of our framework for aging and creating meaning in our later lives.

This workshop will be offered twice at two different libraries and is open to the public. Invite your friends, but please rsvp to Michelle, our Director of Life Span Faith Development, at edu@uuroc.org with which library program you will attend, OR call the library directly.

Arnett Branch Library

310 Arnett Boulevard (585) 428-8214
Mondays, September 12th, 19th, & 26th from
1:30– 3:30pm

Irondequoit Public Library

1290 Titus Ave (585) 336-6060
Thursdays, September 15th, 22nd, & 29th from
1:30–3:30pm

While not required, participants may be interested in reading *From Age-ing to Sage-ing* : a profound new vision of growing older by Schachter-Shalomi, & Miller, which can be found in Monroe County Library system.

► Race to Justice: Building the World We Dream About

This Faith Development program invites a group (or two) of 15 or so committed persons, who will meet monthly through the church year starting in October. Through exercises and discussion, this group will engage topics of personal awareness as they relate to racial justice, white privilege, systemic racism/oppression, and what we can DO about it.

Facilitated by Michelle Yates and Susie Gutierrez. The group will meet on weekday evenings. If you are interested, please contact Michelle at edu@uuroc.org so that we can consider member availability as we determine meeting dates.

► Sacred Conversations on Race

For this Faith Development program we have the opportunity to connect with members from Mt. Olivet Baptist, First Baptist Penfield, and New Beginnings. The Sacred Conversations curriculum is based on the workshops done with congregations outside of Ferguson as that community convulsed after Michael Brown was killed by a police officer. In Ferguson and St. Louis the conversations helped congregants tell their stories and helped others understand the daily reality of their neighbors. The conversations will take place as a series of three 2-hour workshops.

Trained facilitators from Roc/ACTS will lead participants through several exercises and activities to facilitate honest and thoughtful conversations. To save your spot at the table, or get more information, please contact Rev. Michelle Yates, Director of Lifespan Faith Development at edu@uuroc.org or 585-310-2484

Thursday, September 22nd from 6:30–8:30pm at
First Universalist

Thursday, October 6th from 6:30–8:30pm at Mt.
Olivet Baptist

Thursday, October 20th from 6:30–8:30pm at TBA ❖

Social Justice Plate

Submitted by Shirley Bond

Our Committee has selected RAIHN as our September 18th Social Justice Plate collection recipient. The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network is a group of interfaith communities that provides support for families who are in need of shelter. This help includes a paid staff and a ton of volunteers.

The important aspect of this organization is that IT WORKS, and First Universalist is proud to have been involved in RAIHN for many years.

Please consider giving as the plate sails by you.

Committee members:

Shirley Bond, Becky Elwell, Marcia Weaver ❖

Rev. Peggy Meeker, Community Minister

Article by Rev. Peggy Meeker

Many of you know that the Rev. Sarah Gillespie was affiliated with First Universalist this past year as a community minister. I am delighted to let you know that I now have the opportunity to be affiliated with all of you in this special way.

Like Sarah, I serve our faith as a chaplain. I am the “on-call” chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital on Monday through Friday mornings. That means that I carry a pager as I make my rounds, and go wherever I’m called—to the Emergency Department, the Cancer Center, one of the Intensive Care Units, or anywhere else in the hospital where there are patients and/or families in need of support. I did a chaplaincy internship at Strong about ten years ago, which is when I first developed a love for this work. I remember doing a sermon here at First Universalist, probably in the summer of 2006, in which I talked about going to “the dark side,” by which I meant helping patients to explore the uncomfortable feelings of uncertainty, sadness, and anger that can go with a hospitalization. It wasn’t until this past year, when I finally watched the Star Wars movies, that I realized my reference to the dark side was not exactly aligned with its popular meaning. If any of you thought about that at the time, you were too kind to correct me!

To let you know a little more about me, I first came to Unitarian Universalism (and to First Universalist) in 2003, when I was in seminary. I was ordained here in 2008 and served here as Acting Director of Religious

Education for a year. Then I served for five years as the organizing minister of the Brockport UU Fellowship. I left BUUF in June 2014 (but will always carry them in my heart!) and spent the next year as a chaplain resident at Strong. The residency is an intense, full-time, yearlong program that involves a lot of training and reflection along with the work of pastoral care. At the end of my residency I was fortunate to be able to stay on at Strong. I feel lucky to have experienced such a range of ministry and to so love my work.

To get back to community ministry: our denomination categorizes ministers as doing either parish work or community work. You are all familiar with parish ministry, because you are a parish; community ministry is ministry done outside the church. Usually it involves chaplaincy or social justice work, but it can take many different forms. As one interesting example, the Rev. Karen Hering, a community minister based in St. Paul, Minnesota, and author of the book *Writing to Wake the Soul*, offers programs on writing as a spiritual practice and describes herself as a literary minister.

Community ministers are encouraged to affiliate with a local congregation. It gives us community and support, and it keeps us connected to the denomination. It also offers something to the congregation. According to my agreement with Celie and the board, I will preach once a year at no charge and will offer a class, discussion group, or workshop once a year. In addition, you get to learn about and support my ministry—thus widening your outreach—and I get to support all of your ministries.

I look forward to our time together! ❖

Beginning Meditation

Submitted by Kathy Russell



The fall session of Beginning Meditation will begin on September 21st and continue through November 16th. This is held on consecutive Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm in the rear of the sanctuary. No experience is necessary and you need not be a member to attend. For more information contact Kathy Russell krussel6@frontiernet.net, Moritz Wagner moritz.wagner.swiss@gmail.com, or Brad Freeman bradfreeman@frontiernet.net or join us on September 21st. Doors will be open and waiting for you from 5:15 to 5:30. ❖

Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Submitted by Newcomb Losh, Communications Committee

All photographs by
Newcomb Losh
unless otherwise noted.

Photographer: Karl Abbot



Photographer: Lois Bahm

L to r: **Greg Baum** and
Eleanor Siegfried

On July 16, First Universalist members and friends joined with those from First Unitarian to stand on the side of love in the 2016 Rochester Pride parade. This was our 20th year marching in support of the LGBTQ community. **Bridget Watts** (l) and **Moritz Wagner** lead the way with our banner.



Shirley Bond and **Newcomb Losh** marched through Rochester with nearly 500 others on July 8 in a Black Lives Matter rally and march organized by the activist group B.L.A.C.K. in response to recent killings.



The marchers chanted, "This is how democracy works!" before passing our church to congregate in Washington Square Park where chants of, "Hands up! Don't shoot!" reverberated.

Becky Elwell attended the Organizing for Action (OFA) who presented *Stand with OFA Against Gun Violence* at the Henrietta Public Library on Aug. 13. A representative of Moms Demand Action speaks and Monroe County Legislator Ernest Mitchell-Flagler look on. Legislator Mitchell-Flagler spoke about his gun storage legislation.



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

Summer Services, Rich in Music!

Ann Rhody, Summer music coordinator

Our spirits were fed not only by the sermons of Peter House and our guest speakers this summer, but also by the many musicians who shared their talents with us! Comprised of both church members and guests, the range of styles and number of volunteers were striking.

Thanks so very much to these performers who helped to make our summer so special!

Martha Welch
Lew Ward Baker
Glenda Brayman (and friends from two vocal ensembles!)
Howard Spindler
Kate Fleury
Ed Deller
Kitty Forbush
Charles Courtsal
Lisa Gwinner
Sarah Singal
Theo Munson
Nancy Grear
Elizabeth McFarland Porter
Debra McCullough
Rich Wilder
Richard Reed
Patti Goodwin
Keith Stott

Please note that some of these musicians brought along guest performers. Many thanks to these folks as well! ❖



Lois Baum, Beth Ares, and ASHA founder Tracy Murphy pet Nick, the potbellied pig, commonly discarded once full grown.

Needed Items

• A **dehumidifier** for the RAIHN Day Center basement (new or used). Please call the Day Center (506-9050) or email director@raihn.org if you have one to donate. THANK YOU!

• New washcloths and socks!

Submitted by Lois Baum

UUROC's Homelessness Task Force (HTF) is collecting washcloths and socks (NEW only) to donate to House of Mercy. There, Sister Rita and local nursing students wash the feet of homeless persons for the comfort and health of those who walk the streets. A soothing, healthy foot wash, with nice new washcloths, and then a brand new pair of socks, can make all the difference. Let's help out! Please donate as you are able:

- * Washcloths and/or Socks (*new only*) ~ any size, any color
- * Clara Barton Lounge: place in box labelled for this drive
- * No later than Sunday, September 18th, 2016

On 9/18, HTF members will then deliver your donated items directly to the House of Mercy on Hudson Avenue.

Your compassion is greatly appreciated,
~Lois Baum, Chair HTF ❖

Your Board Is Working for You

Submitted by Kitty Forbush

In an effort to maximize the smooth operation of our church, the Board members are reading the book entitled *GOVERNANCE and MINISTRY-Rethinking Board Leadership* (2nd edition) by Daniel Hotchkiss. We have been focusing specifically on Chapter 4 entitled "A Map for Thinking about Congregations." Rev. Hotchkiss feels, as do we, that the way a congregation makes and carries out decisions is a primary expression of its values. We are learning, with his help, how to improve communication and delineate the roles within our church, especially as we continue to grow. If you have any questions, please ask a Board member. More on this to follow.... ❖

Library Will Re-Open September 11

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The First Universalist Church library and bookstore will be open again during coffee hour, starting Sept. 11, for browsing, borrowing and buying.

We have an extensive collection of books of liberal religious interest, which can be borrowed by any member or any friend who has attended long enough to get a permanent name tag.

Library books are arranged along the wall shelves in order of their Dewey decimal number. Here are the newest additions.

- *Unless the Sky Falls* by Keith Stott (FIC)
- *Faithiest: How An Atheist Found Common Ground With the Religious* by Chris Stedman (201.5)
- *The Holy Universe* by David Christopher (213)
- *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* by Dan Hotchkiss (254)
- *The Right to Stay Home: How US Policy Drives Mexican Immigration* by David Bacon (325)
- *Lifting Our Voices: Readings in the Living Tradition* (264)
- *The Real Cost of Fracking* by Michelle Hamberger (363.17)
- *World Peace Diet: Eating for Spiritual and Social Harmony* by Will Tuttle (613.2)
- *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestrup (921)
- *Gather at the Table* by Thomas DeWolf (921)
- *The Crooked Mirror: A Memoir of Polish-Jewish Reconciliation* by Louise Steinman (940.53)
- *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East* by Rashid Khalidi (956.05)

We sell donated used books for 25 cents and 50 cents, and operate a free magazine exchange. We invite you to donate any book or magazine in good condition that you think others would like to read.

We sell new books. Most of them are ordered from the UUA Bookstore. The UUA Bookstore books are sold at our cost, including any discounts we may get. We are conducting a special clearance sale of some of these books. ❖



Please Join Us for RAIHN* Week

Submitted by Sarah Singal

October 9–16 will be our last RAIHN Week for 2016. During that week we will provide temporarily homeless families with good food to eat and a safe place to stay at First Universalist Church. If you'd like to help, contact Chris DeGolyer, chrisdeg@frontiernet.net, Marti Eggers, mceggers@gmail.com, or Sarah Singal, ssingal@rochester.rr.com. If you would like to learn more before volunteering, ask us about "shadowing" experienced volunteers.

The last two formal training sessions for RAIHN Volunteers in 2016 are:

Monday, September 19th, 2016, 6:30 pm - Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave, Rochester and

Tuesday, October 25th, 2016, 6:30 pm - Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Ave., Rochester.

*Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network: helping homeless families achieve sustainable independence ❖

Book Club News

Submitted by Shirley Bond



Just a reminder that the Book Group will resume on September 25th.

The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery is a surprising exploration into the wonder of consciousness. Ruth Fitzgerald suggested this book, and how lucky we are that she did!

October's book selection is called *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. The library has many copies, but it is a very popular book, so request your copy soon!

The Book Group meets at noon on the last Sunday of the month in the Chalice Room on the second floor. All are welcome! It is not necessary to have read the book.

Any questions happily answered by

Shirley Bond at Bondshirl1@gmail.com or
Sarah Singal at ssingal@Rochester.rr.com ❖

Social Justice Task Force Is Underway

Submitted by Eric Van Dusen

The First Universalist Board of Trustees appointed a Task Force, which was approved by the congregation at its annual meeting in June, to determine what social justice issues our congregation wants to support and to recommend a structure for our Social Justice Committee going forward. The forming of the Social Justice Task Force is timely in that our social justice engagement in the community has been deepening and growing. Our current Social Justice Committee structure has been developing over the past 5 years during a time of significant transition in our church. Because of this, the Social Justice Committee has responded to interests and opportunities in an ad hoc way. Now that we have moved past some of the transition of the past, and our social justice efforts have become more humerus and involved, the timing is good to take a step back and review how we prioritize and give structure to our social justice efforts.

The Board appointed Connie Valk, Dick Gilbert and Eric Van Dusen to the Social Justice Task Force and asked them to come up with a process for engaging the congregation to determine what social issues are of the highest priority. The Task Force stated its work by creating a mission/vision statement, which was reviewed by the Board. The committee then designed an approach to better inform themselves about the issues and trends that are taking place in Rochester. To this end they came up with a list of organizations and individuals to meet with. The list includes:

- ROC ACT
- Rochester Community Foundation
- Center for Governmental Research
- Activist and former School Board Member Shirley Thompson
- Former Mayor Bill Johnson
- Metro Act
- James Murphy
- St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
- Interfaith Alliance

The Task Force also designed a process to engage members of the congregation and friends. They developed 5 questions that they will be asking members and friends in focus group sessions. For those that can't attend a focus group session, answers can also be sent to the Task Force by way of a link that will be provided in This Week At First Universalist. In addition, the Social Justice Task Force will be conducting separate focus group sessions with the Board, minister and the Social Justice Commit-

tee. Congregation and Friends sessions will be held at 9:15AM before the September 11th church service, and at 12pm that same day after service. A group session will also be held at 12pm after the September 18th church service. The Task Force asks that individuals attend only one venue to give everyone an opportunity and equal voice.

After the conclusion of the focus group sessions, the Social Justice Task Force will review the feedback, thoughts and ideas that were shared and identify the leading social justice issues the congregation expressed support for. The Task Force will also make recommendations for how to structure the Social Justice Committee moving forward. We expect to report our findings and make our recommendations in October.

As the work of the Social Justice Task Force work progresses, please check out the Social Justice bulletin board and the church website for updates. ❖

Our Homeless Neighbors

Submitted by Ed Deller on behalf of the Board

Most of you know that we have had homeless guests sleeping in our Clinton Ave church alcove for the past several years during the warm months. This situation was made worse when the city decided to remove these folks from the parking garages and also close down the sanctuary village. As we learned in the Homelessness Forum held in our church in May, many of Rochester's homeless are served by an array of shelters, but many are not for a variety of reasons. They are on the streets.

Through the RAIHN program and our Homelessness Task Force our church is active in the Homelessness issue through broader organizations. But, what do we do about the homeless people on our own doorstep? The board has been wrestling with this question for a number of months. No formal policy has yet been established, but by our actions we have taken a position of being hospitable to these guests. They don't have many options. Still, we are conscious of undesirable consequences such as sanitary issues and are thinking through how to be hospitable and true to our mission to Serve the Community but still respectful of our own congregation's concerns regarding sanitation and safety.

We welcome an understanding of the congregation's view on this situation.

Please feel free to share your view and constructive ideas with a board member. ❖

Drop-In Discussion Schedule, Sept. 2016

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

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

One last summer discussion on September 4 begins at 11:15 a.m.

Drop-in discussions starting September 11 are at 9:15 a.m.

September 4 | *Open Forum Discussion*

We'll meet and talk without a topic set in advance.

September 11 | *How Do We Become a Justice Congregation?*

Dick Gilbert, a member of the Social Justice Task Force, will lead a focus group on priorities for the social mission of First Universalist Church. (See Page 9 for more about the Social Justice Task Force)

September 18 | *Our Hopeful Predictable Future*

Kevin Kelly, in his book, *The Inevitable*, says our future will be different and better than we can imagine. During the next 30 years, technological forces will revolutionize the way we work, play, learn and communicate with each other. Bill Elwell will review the book and lead a discussion.

September 25 | *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*

Kate Fleury will give an introduction and preview of "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven," a six-week course on pre-Christian women-honoring goddess religions, to be presented next year at both Rochester UU churches by Kate Fleury and Carolyn Lobkowitz.

If you wish to have a topic discussed or, better still, are willing to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole. ❖



News

Submitted by Keith Stott

Devotional Readings

Who are some of your favorite writers – Carl Sandburg? Emily Dickinson? Martin Luther King, Jr.? Maya Angelou? Richard Gilbert? Their writings, often reflective of our UU values, may be found in one of our newest library books, *Lifting Our Voices: Readings in the Living Tradition*. **Call number is 264 U.**

Copies are also available for purchase at the Bookstore when the Library and Bookstore reopen on September 11.

Another Church Author

Keith Stott's novel *Unless the Sky Falls* has been published. It tells the fictional story of Clora, a Native American, who is chosen as the spiritual leader of her league of five tribes. She travels to the whiteface world through a secret "Magic Snake Hole" (a tunnel), and helps the whitefaces deal with social, emotional, and environmental issues using Native American wisdom and practices. Along the way she has many interesting adventures. The book is liberally (no pun intended) sprinkled with UU theology and philosophy.

You may purchase your very own copy by contacting Pat Stott. Only two copies remain. ❖



The PBS documentary *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, the story of Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp, founder of the Unitarian Service Committee will air on PBS September 20. This documentary is produced by Ken Burns and narrated by Tom Hanks.

Garden Update

Submitted by Sarah Singal



Sharing our harvest. We had hoped to hand out veggies directly from our garden to passersby, and hoped that people would pick strawberries or tomatoes in season, but that has not been successful. And our attempts to display our produce at the sidewalk edge resulted in withered dried up veggies cooked by a blistering sun. Here is the latest distribution plan and it seems to work well. There is a website called ampleharvest.org, that puts organizations needing fresh produce in touch with gardeners who have food to give away. When we entered the address of our church, ten organizations popped up on the screen, and one of them was Willow Domestic Violence Center. We drop off a week's harvest at a collection site, and the food gets delivered. Willow is a residential program which will include 49 beds when they move into new quarters soon. They were formerly called Alternatives for Battered Women, but now that the residents include women, children, and men, the new name was needed. It feels so good to have our garden's produce be eaten and appreciated!

Worth and dignity of Monarch butterflies and milkweed. We have been growing milkweed in our flower garden. It is quite invasive, and was never knowingly planted there. We keep yanking it out when it starts taking over. But milkweed leaves are the only food of Monarch butterfly caterpillars, and butterfly habitats and the milkweed in them have been dwindling, along with the numbers of Monarch butterflies. The milkweed seed pods are ripening now, and when they crack open we will be giving seeds away so our congregation and the general public can plant them. So far our milkweed has not attracted the butterflies, but we keep looking for the 1–2mm white egg cases on the underside of milkweed leaves. We will plant some seeds next to the church on the south side near the parking lot. It would be better to let them grow with abandon there and only leave a few in the flower garden for demonstration. ❖

House News - September 2016

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

It has been a busy summer! Many long-term projects have been completed or had major progress with the help of many of the church members and friends. These improvements would not have been possible without our wonderful community working together. The major developments that took place were:

- The plaster work in the sanctuary and the RE wing has been completed. The only remaining task is to prime and paint the new plaster in the RE stairwell.
- The helpful new church signs have been installed.
- The refinishing of the two office floors was completed during the week of August 15th. New desks and cabinets have replaced the old ones with the old being re-purposed. The next phase is to patch and paint the walls and replace the ceiling in the church office.

In other news:

- The church elevator has successfully passed the inspection required for the city permit.
- The fall cleanup day has been tentatively scheduled for October 22nd. If you are able, please help out with cleaning and small repairs in our building. If there are any items that you think need to be addressed, please let the House Committee know.
- Now that the projects listed above are complete or winding down we will focus on developing plans to renovate the Clara Barton Lounge.

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

**The
LUUnch
BUUnch**

ISquare,
400 Bakers Park,
Irondequoit, NY

12:30, Sunday, September 25th.

Suggestions on restaurants?

Contact Joyce Gilbert at JTGilbert@frontiernet.net.

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community

First Universalist Church is a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Association, a liberal religion with historical roots from the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Worship service begins at 10:30am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Celie Katovitch

Director of Life Span Faith Development | Michelle Yates

Music Director | To Be Announced

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Melissa Davies

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

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

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