

# FIRST UNITARIAN WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

January 9, 2020



*Through spiritual connection in community, we*

***Listen** deeply to others and ourselves,*

***Open** to wonder and transformation,*

***Serve** together with love and humility*

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## **Calls to Action**

**Call for Nominations:** Are you ready to serve our beloved community as a member of the Board of Trustees or the Nominating Committee? These roles will give you insight into the reality of running a large congregation like ours. As a nominating committee member, you will be able to meet with four other church members and share your interconnected networks to select other members to fill these valued positions. As a board member you will learn about church finances and operations. Not only that, you will get to work with the senior minister and 11 other bright, dedicated people to carry out a mission you value. If you are interested or want more information, please email the team: [nominating@Rochesterunitarian.org](mailto:nominating@Rochesterunitarian.org) or speak to any of the nominating committee members: **Cathy Reda-Cheplowitz, Julia Smith, Jo Cone, David Ryder, or Ken Buckle.**

**Greater Good donations will be accepted through January.** If you didn't get a chance to donate or would like to give more to our amazing recipients this year (Teen Empowerment and NAMI), you can give online at: [www.rochesterunitarian.org/donate](http://www.rochesterunitarian.org/donate) (select "Greater Good" as the fund) or mail or bring in a check (made out to First Unitarian with Greater Good in the memo line).

**Make a New Year's resolution** to bring something for **the Brighton Food Cupboard** on a regular basis, every week or every month if you prefer; please mark the calendar and do it! Food or toiletries or paper goods are all welcome. Thank you to all who are already doing this. For more information, contact Alison Wilder at [awilder@frontiernet.net](mailto:awilder@frontiernet.net) or 585-342-2459.

**Muffins needed!** On February 2, the UU/Schools Partnership will be having a Homemade Muffin Sale. Help us support activities for the children at Schools #22 and #15 and donate a dozen. Thank you! Contact [cassdoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:cassdoyle@yahoo.com) for more information.

**There is a lot to celebrate this year at First Unitarian.** Along with it being the 191<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our church's founding, 2020 marks Susan B. Anthony's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday (February 15), as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in August. More news about upcoming events to commemorate these milestones will follow. We are looking for other friends or members of the church to join the History Committee in planning and executing these celebrations. For more information and to sign up, contact Jay Rowe at [Jayrowe@gmail.com](mailto:Jayrowe@gmail.com) or Danette Johnson at [dani5661@hotmail.com](mailto:dani5661@hotmail.com).

**Gilbert Spirit Fund Last Call for Applications:** The Gilbert Spirit Fund was created to honor the 32 years of service of Rev. Richard and Joyce Gilbert to our church and community. Applications are being accepted until **February 1** to support programs/projects that reflect the special interests of Richard and/or Joyce Gilbert, giving preference to fresh ventures and new initiatives with existing endeavors. The funded programs/projects will: Contribute to social or economic justice, or; Promote art and music as integral parts of a responsible search for meaning in life, or; Build or revitalize partnerships that support the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. For more information or to find the application, go to <http://rochesterunitarian.org/gilbert-spirit-fund/>.

## **Other News & Reminders**

**The First Unitarian Art Committee is excited to announce a new art show featuring three local artists**, Anne McCune, Phyllis Bryce Ely and Maureen Outlaw Church. The artists share a studio in the Hungerford Building in Rochester and look forward to sharing a variety of their work including oil, water color, acrylic and encaustic paintings. Anne, Maureen and Phyllis invite you to their opening reception in the Williams Gallery on **Friday, January 17 from 6:00-8:00pm**. Stop by to meet the artists and enjoy their work. The show runs through March 2.

**Rev. Dr. John Buehrens will be our guest preacher on Sunday, January 19**, and will hold a book talk on his new book, *Conflagurations, How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice* that afternoon at **3:00pm**. Our book store will have copies for purchase. Go to <http://www.beacon.org/Conflagration-P1519.aspx> for more information on the book.

Want to join an awesome group of people here at church? The people of the **Honduras Ministry** would love to have you! Please contact chair Barbara Gawinski, [bgawinski@gmail.com](mailto:bgawinski@gmail.com), for the monthly meeting dates. You can also stop by find us at an Information Table on Sundays January 19, 27 and February 2, 9. Our **Honduras Ministry** partners with the UR Department of Family Medicine to provide medical and educational support to a remote mountain village in western Honduras. A team from the UR and our church travels twice yearly to set up a medical clinic. Our church representatives provide educational materials and activities plus in-service for teachers. And we deliver scholarships to "our students." Speaking of scholarships, we are welcoming additional sponsors. You will be paired with a young student who will write you twice a year. (You will look forward to the letters!) The members of the Honduras Ministry are truly awesome and the work is extremely meaningful. Please join us!

**Meditation Series:** Start your New Year by making time for the deliciousness of being led in guided meditation. We focus on experiencing peace and relaxation. First time and beginning meditators welcome. Classes are held over five Thursdays: **January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30**. Select from one of two options: **3:00-4:00pm** or **5:30-6:30pm** at church. Please try to come to at least three. Please email Rev. Joy Collins at [joy@revjoycollins.com](mailto:joy@revjoycollins.com) or call/text [585-749-0695](tel:585-749-0695) with any questions or to sign up (Space is limited). There is no cost to attend this series.

**Meditation/Mindfulness classes with Jan Cook begin next week.** Do you need more ease, space, energy, and joy in these darker days, and harder times? In the face of societal and personal challenges, class participants practice together inside this question: *How do we consistently access our resilience, centeredness, joy and wisdom to be of benefit to a world that needs our love?* For class times questions or to register contact Carolyn at [livingandworking.info@gmail.com](mailto:livingandworking.info@gmail.com).

**FirstLight Players** is inviting you to practice Responding to Truth (the worship theme for January) in a fun improv theatre workshop we're calling **Sunday Afternoon LIVE!** on **Sunday January 26 from 2:00-4:00pm** in Gilbert Hall. This free event is open to anyone aged 14 and up who wants to explore spiritual connection and the art of "Yes, and..." by accepting another person's truth and responding to it. We'll also have a lot of laughs! Led by Gregory North, the workshop will be full of improvisational games. No prior theatre experience necessary. RSVP to [FirstLight@RochesterUnitarian.org](mailto:FirstLight@RochesterUnitarian.org). You can contact Lynn Kinsman, Gregory North, Ira Srole, or Mary Lyubomirsky if you have any questions.

**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Book Group:** Please note the January meeting has been **moved to January 29** (the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) from **1:30-3:00pm** in the Susan B Anthony Lounge. We'll be discussing "*The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins...*", by Kirstin Downey. All who have read the book are welcome to come and join us for the discussion. Contact Sharon Potts at [sloyep@gmail.com](mailto:sloyep@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra**, which uses our Sanctuary for rehearsals, is generously offering **free tickets** (2 per congregant) to their upcoming joint concert with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra on **March 1, 2020 from 3:00-5:00pm at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre**. Please stop in the Church Office Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-6:00pm if you would like to have (or gift) some free tickets. Details on the concert can be found here: <https://rpyo.org/performances/2019/11/10/soundtracks-of-individuals-9z3aa-nm2kx>. Thanks to RPYO for this generous offer!

**Jubilee Weekend:** Save the date for our anti-racism retreat weekend, on Easter Weekend, **April 10-12**. We bring in facilitators from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. More information will follow, or speak with Rev. Bob Renjilian at [Revbob@rochesterunitarian.org](mailto:Revbob@rochesterunitarian.org) or **585-210-8544**.

The History Committee would like to bring the congregation's attention to the **Hester C. Jeffrey** display in the history case in the right rear of the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. It was curated by **Colleen Hurst**, an esteemed long-time member of both First Unitarian and the History Committee. Mrs. Jeffrey worked tirelessly alongside Miss Anthony for women's rights and as an African American woman, she was a strong advocate for equal rights for all.

**The Environmental Ministry's Green Tip:** The New York League of Conservation Voters has some green living ideas for us to consider as we start a new year, including: rethinking your personal care routine, cutting out disposable and single-use items, carpooling, and reducing shopping. Details about these ideas and more can be found at <https://nylcv.org/>. Also on this site is a review of the 2020 Green Policy Priorities for NYS based on NY's 2019 passage of the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA). We are doing well as a church community with our composting project for coffee grounds and compostable hot cups. The white bins to dispose of used empty compostable cups are located next to the trash cans in the SBA Lounge & the Williams Gallery. Attached to the white bins are pockets to place your cup sleeves for reuse. (If they are wet, please dispose of them in the white bin.) Thank you all for joining the Environmental Justice Ministry in this green effort!