

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

November 2-November 9, 2017



Worship Services This Weekend

Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 9:30am and 11:15am
Memory Tree Intergenerational Service
Led by Rev. Joel Miller, Sheila Schuh and Thom Snell
Music by Zachary Zwahlen and the First Unitarian Choir

This weekend, with the children, we will gather in the Sanctuary as a whole community to mark the celebrations and mourning of all we have loved; with a time to honor those who have died, and other losses. Using leaves as a metaphor for the changes and losses that have happened in our lives, this service offers a way to accept loss as part of life.

Our plate collection will help support our church.

Daylight Savings Time ends this **Sunday, November 5**.
Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night!

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Thank You for your Generosity!

Two weekends a month, our plate collections normally go to a community organization outside our church. On the other weekends, the collection goes directly to support our church budget. This fiscal church year, we have already donated \$10,897 back to our greater community! On October 1, \$998.73 was collected for the UUSC Irma Hurricane Relief Fund. On October 8, \$2,321.95 was collected for IBERO - Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Fund. On October 15, \$771.05 was collected for Big Brothers Big Sisters. On October 22, \$847.70 was collected for our church. On October 29, \$715.37 was collected for Interfaith Impact of New York.

Please hold the Millikan family in your thoughts. **Mark Allan Millikan** died in Melrose, MA in early October. He was the son of **Allan Millikan** and the late **Nancy Millikan**. In addition, **Dan and Sandy Hollands** report that long-time member **Fran Hollands** is in Strong Memorial Hospital for evaluation after a broken hip. Cards are appreciated.

Rev. Tina will be on vacation this week, so if you have a concern about a member of our congregation, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Joel at 585-271-9070 x106.

President's Column

As President of the Congregation, it is my hope that we as a congregation can build a community of appreciation, kindness, thoughtfulness, and listening — to become the change we wish to see in the world. I hear from time to time of people who have been deliberately excluded from an activity by an organizer, and I worry that these kinds of exclusions run counter to the community we seek to nurture here.

As we consider living thoughtfully with Intersectionality, my thoughts turn to my work as a school psychologist in a special high school for students who have had difficulty meeting the expectations of general education, and one young man I have had the pleasure to get to know. This teen, who I will call Stan (not his real name) attends our school and takes Regents-level classes.

Stan is a person who talks differently — he has difficulty pronouncing the letter 'r', and when he first came to us, he would sometimes meow in response to a question, and hissed at suggestions he did not like. There are

times he will tell us “I can’t do it, I’m stupid,” in response to directions or questions about what he needs to be able to complete an assignment. His handwriting was awkward, and usually limited to just a few words at a time. In classes, he always sits off to one side and often does odd things, like shutting off the lights or hiding the batteries of the laptops.

Even with all that, it was clear on getting to know him that there was more going on inside than was obvious. One ninth-grade science teacher developed a good enough relationship with him that she could tell he had learned all the material, even though his speaking and writing were limited. As I continued to work with him, I got a clearer picture that he has a fine mind, even with his quirky behaviors. When he took Regents’ exams, he got almost all of the multiple-choice questions correct in a variety of different subjects, although writing and speaking are so difficult for him that he did not answer any essay questions.

At one point, I thought he was saying “I’m stupid” both as a way to express his frustration with people underestimating him, and as a way of avoiding some of his work. I have gradually come to see that statement also as an expression of his frustration with the things he finds so difficult — speaking, writing, and entering into relationships with people around him.

He is a person who many of us would exclude from social events, awkward and difficult to understand as he can be, and in many settings that would be seen as an acceptable approach. But, excluding him would mean we would miss out on his quirky sense of humor and insights his brilliant mind could help us with. While the rest of the world feels free to disregard those who do not fit the mold of what they believe people should be like, I challenge our church to be different. Just as it is not enough to tolerate people who differ from ourselves, I claim we are called to do more than accept one another: we must rise up and appreciate each other — find the implicit worth in the people around us, though they may be someone we would choose not to connect with outside church. Always welcome the outsider into your circles, and take another step toward becoming the Beloved Community we and the world so deeply needs.

In Hope and Caring,

Tim Farnum

Roof Communication Team Report

A great deal of work has been accomplished on the roof replacement project since we last reported to the congregation in early September. As of the end of October, we are approximately 90% complete on the overall roof project. This means that both the roofing and the sheet metal work are both approximately 90% complete. This is a good point to detail the highlights and problems encountered during the construction phase of the project that began in early September.

Some of the problems, which were anticipated and budgeted in the original estimate, such as the drain leak in the choir room, and inspection of the roof drains and vents, have been completed. The drain leak required less effort than was originally estimated, and was finished in late October. At the same time the contracted plumber inspected the roof drains and vents with a fiber optic TV camera and recorded the results. None of the drains were clogged down to the basement, and one roof vent was found to be clogged with debris. The roof vent was cleaned and is now free from debris.

Four unanticipated problems were discovered during the construction project and have either been solved or have a proposed solution at this time. First, a problem with the lights in the sanctuary was detected during the demolition phase. Subsequently, an electrical subcontractor worked with the roofing contractor to ensure the safety and reliability of the light fixtures before the roofing on the Sanctuary was completed. This required an engineering change order and extra work not anticipated in the original contract.

Second, after the insulation and base roof layer were installed, it was discovered that there is a large low spot in the roof over Gilbert Hall. After an investigation of alternative solutions, it was decided to use a hot asphalt

patch to make sure water would not accumulate and form a puddle on that section of roof. The roof patch required three and one half tons of hot asphalt, which was not included in the original estimate.

The third problem discovered by the roofing contractor was a large number of clogged weep holes at the base of the Sanctuary tower walls on the roof of the second floor. The clogged weep holes had been caulked over during previous attempts to prevent leaks. An engineering change order has been secured to clean out the clogged weep holes and re-caulk where necessary. This work will be started after the roof is entirely complete.

A fourth problem was identified when installation of the roof metal was being accomplished on the south side of the addition. It was discovered that the Jack Arch over the west portico is bowed out away from the building too much to allow the roof metal to be installed. Work on the metal for this side of the building has been halted and a mason called in to determine the problem and propose a solution. The arch is a structure constructed of three courses of brick totaling about three hundred bricks. The outer course of bricks has become separated from the inner two courses and is bowed out beyond the plane of the roof line. At this time, we are waiting for the proposal and cost estimate for solving this problem before the roof metal can be finished on the south side of the building.

Even with the unanticipated problems, the project has made very good progress during September and October, with the emphasis placed on the project by the contractor, and the number of favorable dry days during the construction period. We still anticipate the project to be completed in November at this time. The roof communication team will keep the congregation informed on the project progress.

Happening This Week

Now Showing in the Williams Gallery: "The Sweet, Simple Things" - works by artist and church member Laura Wilder. Laura's work has won many awards and prestigious commissions, and is on exhibit at more than a dozen shows per year, in many galleries and shops nationwide. Thematically, her art explores what her distant cousin, Laura Ingalls Wilder, called "the sweet, simple things of life," especially the beautiful light effects in nature. Laura is especially happy to be exhibiting at our church, which has been her spiritual home since 1964.

Meditation Classes with Jan Cook

Bring space to your transition into winter and the holiday season with a wonderful community of practitioners. There are three spaces left in Beginning Meditation on Wednesday afternoons, and Ongoing Meditation on Thursday evenings. Contact Jan at livingandworking.info@gmail.com.

Roc/ACTS Public Action Meeting and Potluck Supper is this Thursday, November 2. The Potluck Supper will be 5:00-6:00pm at our church in Room 110. The meeting will be at 6:30pm at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church (304 Joseph Ave. 14605). A carpool/caravan is available at 6:00pm from our church to Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Join with Roc/Acts Faith Community to add your voice for racial and economic justice: Police Accountability, Childcare Assistance and Wage Equity for Healthcare Workers. RSVP to Penny Quill at ptquill@gmail.com or Tom Perry at tom.perry164@gmail.com.

The next meeting of the LAVA (Literature and Visual Arts) group is this Friday, November 3, and the book under discussion is *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. This is a Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel that is a savagely funny exploration of identity. The narrator is a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who comes to the U.S. after the fall of Saigon. In Los Angeles, he secretly works as a spy for his communist superiors in Vietnam. For more information, contact Bill Fugate at wrfugate@frontiernet.net or go to <http://www.frontiernet.net/~wrfugate/lava/>.

Starting Point is offered this Saturday, November 4, 9:00am-2:00pm in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. Have you attended UU101 and are ready to find your place at our church? Then join us for Starting Point, a 4-hour Saturday class that offers an opportunity to explore ways in which Unitarian Universalism can make a difference in your life and help you connect with others. Register in advance by emailing Shannan Foes, Membership Coordinator, at membership@rochesterunitarian.org.

Enjoy the best bagels in town brought to you by the UU/Schools Partnership, on sale this **Sunday, November 5, after each service**. Don't forget to turn your clock back one hour on Saturday night!

No One Left Behind Forum

After services this **Sunday, November 5, at 10:30am and 12:15pm**, our Junior Youth Ministry will host guests from No One Left Behind, a refugee resettlement program in Rochester for Afghan and Iraqi interpreters and their families. Families and all are welcome. For more information, email CaTyra Polland at c.polland@yahoo.com or go to their Facebook page, No One Left Behind, Rochester NY Chapter.

Uke Jam

Bring your ukulele and join our little group this **Sunday, November 5, at 1:00–3:00pm** in the Youth Room (basement) for an informal session of music making. We play an eclectic variety of tunes, some of which are selected from *The Daily Ukulele* by Liz and Jim Beloff. Contact Dave Teegarden at beakertee@aol.com for more information.

Currents Discussion Group is meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 12:15-1:45pm. Back in the early days of radio, TV, and no computers, it was possible to have a "national conversation" that allowed people of varying viewpoints to weigh in. Today, with so many sources competing for our attention, complex issues have been reduced to simplistic, polarizing talking points, and public response through polling, etc. is frequently ignored. Is there a way back? The topic of our next discussion is "Having Our Voices Heard: Moving from Polarization to Communication." We'll be discussing how to work from (small-d) democracy on the local level (including our own small group) to the national level of large groups and government. Drop-ins are welcome to join our discussion. If you wish to be on our mailing list and receive readings, please notify Gary at gpudup@gmail.com or Sue at srcalnek@aol.com.

UUs Reading Non-Fiction will be meeting again on Wednesday, November 8, 7:00-8:30pm, the day after Election Day which may add an extra dimension to the discussion of our next book, *The Making of Donald Trump*, by investigative journalist and author David Cay Johnston. The book contains substantial biographical information as well as a view of Trump's ascendancy in business and influence from his earliest years. Drop-ins are welcome to join in the discussion. For questions, contact Audrey Perry at auperry066@gmail.com or 585-244-4013.

Agging Gratefully's next meeting is **Thursday, November 9, 1:30-3:00pm** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. This is a group open to anyone aged 60 and above which meets on the second Thursday of every month to discuss a topic chosen by the group. The topic for discussion this month is "Our Greatest Achievements: What are we most proud of?"

Friends of Labyrinth Quest, we invite you to join us for a Labyrinth Walk at our church on **Thursday, November 9, 7:00-9:00pm**. Our many partners – local energy healers, Sage-Thyme, Sonam Targee, and Christina Ivanna, and the Onondaga School of Therapeutic Massage – will be with us. As always, everyone is welcome. And as before, the program is free but we appreciate donations – your generosity has supported our Labyrinth Program for many years. We look forward to seeing you! For more information, contact Harriette Royer at 585-436-9174 or walk@labyrinthquest.org.

Calls to Action

A Request for Action from your Environmental Climate Task Force

When you go to the polls on **Tuesday, November 7**, the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) recommends you turn over your ballot and vote YES on Proposition 3, the Community Health & Safety Land Bank Amendment to the NYS Constitution. When a community in the Forrest Preserve areas of the Adirondacks and Catskills, which are protected by stringent rules of the Forever Wild Clause, needs to make local improvements, it has been a laborious process of approval and small-town-by-small-town voting. Prop 3 more easily enables and streamlines the approval of basic infrastructure projects, and is not damaging to the beautiful countryside. For more detail, go to NYLCV via out01.thedatabank.com for "No Net Land Loss, No Problem." Reduce, Reuse, Re-Purpose, Recycle.

UU/Schools Partnership Needs Volunteers to help with crafts and games at Abraham Lincoln School #22's Fall Cultural Awareness Night: In the Eyes of Hispanic Heritage on **Thursday, November 9, 6:00pm**. Carpooling from our church can be arranged. To sign up or for more details, contact Cassie Carbone at 845-489-2120 or cassiecarbone@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars to support the change we wish to see in the world. **Benefits Boutique** will be **Saturday, November 11, 10:00am-4:30pm** and **Sunday, November 12, 10:00am-1:00pm**. Purchase unique gifts, tasty soups and sweets while supporting our Social Justice efforts. Every vendor donates at least 20% of your purchases to our Social Justice groups. New this year, Kids' Gift Making Stations, **Saturday, November 11, 12:00-3:00pm** in the Williams Gallery, \$3 per craft, or 2 crafts for \$5, with 100% of the proceeds going to support our social justice action. Invite your friends! For more information, contact Jenny Cos at jennycos717@gmail.com or Andrea Porter at porter.aa@gmail.com.

WE NEED HELP with hospitality and ushering for the **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**, on **Thursday November 23, at 10:00am**. Please consider being an usher or a greeter, or bringing some cookies for the reception following the service. Let's show the community our radical hospitality. Contact Fritz Lange to offer support at fflange13@gmail.com.

Support RAIHN (Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network) with food and fun at their **Shop 'Til You Drop Fundraiser** on **Tuesday, December 5, 5:00-9:00pm**. Visit One World Goods in Pittsford Plaza on Monroe Avenue and a portion of your sale will be donated to RAIHN. In addition, make reservations to eat at Benucci's Italian Ristorante and they will donate 20% of your check to RAIHN. (Reservations are suggested: 585-264-1300.) RAIHN helps homeless families achieve sustainable independence in partnership with our congregation.

Cranberry sauce and stuffing still needed for Thanksgiving baskets provided by the **Brighton Food Cupboard**. Leave your contribution in the basket in the church Lobby under Susan B. Anthony's portrait. For questions, contact Alison Wilder at awilder@frontiernet.net or 585-342-2459.

Pledge Payment Options

You have options in the way your pledge payments are processed. Some choose to send a check directly to the church. Another good alternative is automatic ACH contributions from your checking account. They are the easiest way for our Church Office to receive pledge contributions. They are easy to set up and save us credit card fees. Your monthly contributions would come out of your account on the 15th of each month. Contact Al Gundlach at 585-271-9070 x103 if you are interested.

Other News and Reminders

Roof construction is underway! Until further notice, the south parking lot is unavailable for church use. Also note that the back door is to be used as an emergency exit only.

The inaugural meeting of the new Immigration and Refugees Task Force is Thursday November 9, 3:30pm in Room 115. Come and join us to help set the agenda for the coming year, and learn about opportunities to help these two populations in our community. There are many support activities already happening, and many different ways for you to become involved - volunteering, advocating, simply learning of the issues. For more information, contact Paul Minor at minorarch@aol.com.

Join in the 55th Anniversary Celebration of our building on Friday, November 10, 7:00pm in the Williams Gallery, and for a conversation with our architect Louis Kahn, portrayed by Lew Ward-Baker. Marlin Potter, a project manager who worked with Louis Kahn, will share his memories. The celebration will be followed by cake and beverages. Extra cake will be offered to anyone wearing something from the late 50's or early 60's. This event is sponsored by the Kahn Building Appreciation Committee. For questions, email Nancy Koch at nkoch@rochester.rr.com.

Next Up at Café Veritas is John Gorka on **Saturday, November 11, at 7:30pm**. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.cafeveritas.org.

Honduras Task Force

Every six months, a member of the Honduras Task Force joins a small team of physicians from the University of Rochester's Department of Family Medicine's Global Health program to deliver health care, public health projects, and educational programs in San Jose, Honduras. Please join Carol Thiel in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge on **Wednesday, November 15, 6:00pm** for her presentation on the update of her fall trip. This is a potluck supper with discussion and a video program. Carol was an avid photographer on her third trip. We are confident this will be an educational program for all. For more information, contact Barbara Gawinski at bgawinski@gmail.com.

Surrender to your inner child and join in some community fun for Intergenerational Game Day at our church on **Saturday, November 18, 4:00-7:00pm** in the Williams Gallery. Participants are asked to bring a favorite, non-electronic game to play and share. Parents and guardians of children under age six are encouraged to bring age-appropriate games or toys to share. Pizza will be at 5:00pm, and guests can feel free to bring snack foods to share with the group. Contact Fritz Lane with questions or suggestions at fflange13@gmail.com.

First Muse: British Buddies

Join us for a glorious evening of music by British composers on **Sunday, November 19, 7:30 pm**. Featuring the vocal talents of tenor Anthony Dean Griffey (Met Opera) and instrumental talents of guitarist Lynn McGrath, pianist Kurt Galvan, and violist Melissa Matson in music of John Dowland, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Frank Bridge, and Benjamin Britten. Twenty-five percent of ticket revenue will be donated to Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN). Tickets for this concert (\$15 general) will be on sale this **Sunday, November 5, after both services**. You can find more information at www.FirstMuse.org.

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is at our church this year on **Thursday, November 23, 10:00am**. Please join our Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant brothers and sisters for a joyful celebration of gratitude. Rev. Dr. Marlowe Washington will offer the sermon, our First Unitarian Choir and the Praise Team from the Historic Parsells Church will offer rousing music. This is not to be missed. In case you didn't know, this is a tradition that originated with our congregation, Temple B'rith Kodesh and First Universalist in 1874.

Kahn's Corner today continues the quote from Wendy Lesner's newly published book *You Say to Brick – The Life of Louis Kahn*: "There was something, too, about having the light delicately entering from the corners as the roof descended slightly in the middle that conveyed an entirely different spiritual quality from that of a dome or arched building. In those more traditional churches, one was meant to sense an all-powerful God drawing everything upward toward himself. Here, in contrast, the sense of power was more diffused and less focused, as if what was being worshiped was more like sunlight, say, or humanity in the aggregate, or simply the possibility of peaceful contemplation."