



# THE UNIVERSALIST ADVANCE

FLORAL PARK

LONG ISLAND

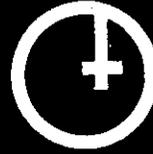
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**ADVANCE**  
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## THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF FLORAL PARK

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1953

"THERE'S SOMETHING ETERNAL ...", and it has to do with human life, says one of the characters in Thornton Wilder's play, "Our Town". It's another way of saying there is something important, something that really counts. Can we know what it is?

Service of Worship — 11:00 A. M.

Beginner's Class — 11:00 A. M.

Church School — 9:45 A. M.

Universalist Youth Fellowship — 7:00 P. M.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

- Sat. Sept. 26 - 10 a.m. Painting the Church!  
 Sun. Sept. 27 - 9:45 a.m. Church School.  
                   11:00 a.m. Worship.  
                   7 p.m. Youth group.  
 Mon. Sept. 28 - 7 p.m. Boy Scouts.  
 Tues. Sept. 29 - 8 p.m. Playcrafters.  
 Wed. Sept. 30 - 6:30 p.m. PARISH SUPPER-ANNUAL MEETING.  
 Sun. Oct. 4 - WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY.  
 Wed. - Thurs. Oct. 7-8 - RUMMAGE SALE.  
 Thurs. Oct. 8 - 8 p.m. Men's Club.

### WHAT KIND OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

In a world which seems to have almost suicidal tendencies, despite all its cleverness, skill and power, many people feel that some essential ingredient of life has been ignored. Something important has dropped out of the picture. We are alarmed when we see the power of Communism to inspire fanatic hate. We readily agree that our democratic way of life ought to inspire a comparable, if more constructive zeal. Yet we find it very hard to put our finger on the source of faith. And we are a little afraid of the risks it may require us to take if we do. We are so comfortable, now.

Many therefore turn to religious education, and hope that if a future generation of Americans receives proper religious instruction, they may exhibit the clear loyalty and fortitude to meet the crisis.

But this hope is likely to be vain if that religious education is limited to the young, or if it consists only in attempting to press their minds into molds of the past.

Disquieting though it be to the modern, comfortable and tolerant churchgoer, religion is important if it is related to the strenuous quest for survival, and not otherwise. This has always been true, and accounts not only for the zeal of some of the classical religions of the past and present, but very often for their intolerance as well. One dare not jeopardize, lose, or weaken that on which survival depends. The same premise accounts for the weakness of religion today: it has ceased to be essential to survival, in the minds of the multitudes of non church-goers, and even many nominal church members. And when people conclude that as for religion, they can "take it or leave it alone", sooner or later they leave it alone for good. It is ironic but true, that we of the liberal churches bear much of the blame for this situation. We have been so eager to remove "superstitious fear" from religion, that we have failed to appreciate the real grounds for a healthy anxiety over the salvation of the world and our own souls. We have done much to make religion an "elective" rather than a "required course" in the curriculum of life.

Still, the religious education called for by the present spiritual crisis, will not be accomplished by traditionalists who

"THE SEEKERS OF THE LIGHT ARE ONE"

would instill as "fixed and eternal truths" the particular beliefs of one or another period of the past. The world has gone by those historical expressions of survival-concern. They have not become empty of meaning, but new experiences have caused the questions to be rephrased. Old answers to old questions are still important, but leave a need unmet, concerning the new.

A religious education program which will restore the church's vital role in the survival-effort of mankind will embrace adults as well as youths and children. It will endeavor to afford a universal frame-of-reference within which each one may find himself by finding the wholeness and unity of existence. This will be a progressive experience, beginning always with the person as he is thus far, and encouraging the full development of his own creative powers in the light of the full heritage of the spirit of man.

Such a colossal function by so tiny a church, with its brief worship service and school? The idea seems preposterous, and is, if we think of it as the work of our hands alone. But if we are fellow-workers with the ultimate power of survival, which we pray we may be, then our effort is justified.

#### PARISH SUPPER - ANNUAL MEETING

One of the most important occasions of the year becomes this year doubly important, as we honor and bid farewell to Dr. Fred C. Leining, Superintendent of the New York State Convention of Universalist Churches.

Every year for 23 years Dr. Leining has come to our annual meeting, to encourage, challenge and inspire us. This congregation has had no more loyal or enthusiastic friend than he.

Now on the eve of his retirement as Superintendent, we rejoice to hear him again, and to express our appreciation for his splendid work.

You will not want to miss this occasion! Be sure to send your reservations in early, to Mrs. Fred Knudsen, Fieldstone 7

2422.

An added incentive to come to the Parish Supper, is the old-home-week touch provided by chickens from the Winslow's farm in Iowa! They are being shipped, frozen, and will be stored in freezers around the parish until time to cook! If Harry, Irma, and Roger eat chicken the same evening, it'll be a mighty big parish dinner table we sit at, with one end in Floral Park, and the other in Iowa!

A.U.W.

The women of the A.U.W. enjoyed a picnic supper last Wednesday, at the home of Mrs. Allen S. Dawe. Reports from Unirondack, Murray Grove, Ferry Beach, and Andover, were given, and plans for the coming year discussed.

#### CONCERNING DOORS AND WINDOWS -

- especially after they have received a coat of white paint, long overdue! Those who came through the front door, Sunday, (and the congregation seemed rather better than average!) surely noticed the fruits of a Saturday well-spent by Emery Hamlin, Horace Clapp, John Conklin, and the parson. This is just a "sample" of what these and other men in the church expect to accomplish within the next few weeks, working Saturdays when weather permits. All the white trim needs attention. We may then apply some preservative stain to the shingles where most needed, and tackle a few other repair and clean-up jobs about the place.

This is the best way, by all accounts, to do these things. Not only are the obvious results desirable, but also the hidden results: the enriched fellowship of those who work together, and make a common investment of themselves in the improvement of our place of worship.

#### CHOIR NOTES

Following the service, Sunday, our choir had its first rehearsal, and will make its first appearance in the service for World-Wide Communion Sunday, October 4.

Several of our members, however, are still "not heard from", although we need them very much. Another rehearsal will follow next Sunday's service. We hope for a full crew!

#### RUMMAGE SALE - OCT. 7 and 8

A Rummage Sale sponsored by the A.U.W. will be held in the social room of the church all day Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8. Those who have things to contribute may have them called for by telephoning Evelyn Stern, Floral Park 4-4158.

#### THE COST OF THE ADVANCE

While we have no subscription, every copy of the ADVANCE costs approximately 2 cents to produce and mail, or about 80¢ a year, per "subscriber". Contributions to defray this expense will be gratefully received.

Mrs. Charles Schmidt and the minister, moreover, would appreciate the services of one more volunteer to help with the folding and mailing, which takes place either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning.

#### CHURCH SCHOOL

Our classes and Junior Church services have begun, with attendance picking up slowly. We greatly miss the young folks away at college this year. We note, hopefully, however, that the enrollment in the Kindergarten and Beginner's Departments is up.

#### NOBILITY

There is nothing noble in being superior to some other man. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self.

- Hindu proverb.