

First Unitarian Society of Rockland County Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The members of the First Unitarian Society of Rockland County (Pomona NY) are celebrating the society's 50th year as of February 5, 2006.

The society had its first meeting at the Masonic Temple in Suffern. Members met in homes and then met in the YWCA in Nyack. The charter was signed February 5, 1956, by some 60 members. The first minister, Lynn Partridge, called in 1959, was driving home on the Palisades Interstate Parkway when he assisted a driver in distress, Michael Striker, a Unitarian Universalist from Brooklyn who lived in Pomona. As a result of this meeting and subsequent friendship, Mr. Striker and his wife Hilda donated the acreage on Concklin Road that remains the home of the congregation.

Members had architect Charles Winter design a building that could be built with largely sweat equity and the main building was finished and dedicated in 1962.

To mark its 50th anniversary year, the society will have a family potluck on February 5, 2006, during which the Striker family plaque will be rededicated; a gala party on April 8; and a series of special services throughout the year. The services will examine the history of the society and the wider UU movement during the past 5 decades. On September 18 and November 13, the decades of the 1950s and 60s were covered. The next decade will be the topic of the sermon on December 11: "Celebrating 50 Years of Unitarian Universalism: The FUSRC in 1970s". The 1980s will be discussed on January 15, 2006, and the 1990s on March 12. The series will culminate on May 7, 2006 with a sermon on our aspirations for "The Next 50 Years."

The society is seeking people who were involved with its founding and invites back its friends who have not visited for a while. People with memories of those early years are invited to share them with the society by letter to First Unitarian Society of Rockland, 130 Concklin Road, Pomona NY 10970, or by email to administrator@fusrc.org. The phone number is 845-354-1789.