

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP SERVICE

“A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE SERVICE...”

June 12, 2016

My name is Generic Genericson and I'm the news anchor at A2U2 News. This morning's announcements are printed on the program, insert in your order of service. I would like to call your attention to the following announcements:

(Read announcements)

We especially welcome our newcomers and visitors. We are delighted that you are with us today. If you would like to receive our weekly e-new for a few months, we invite you to sign our guest book, located near the door you used to enter the church.

Everyone is invited to stay for coffee and conversation in the foyer following the service. If you have any questions about the church, please ask me or someone else before you leave.

(Emma hands Corey a message. Fiona enters with news ticker tape)

Breaking news: humble Unitarian Universalist church's only reverend gone missing, whole church is pretty sad.

Elliot: Call me a pessimist, but I believe something terrible must have happened

Jessie: Call me an optimist, but I think we're going to be fine. Let's continue the service as planned.

Generic Genericson: To discuss the problem of the missing minister, I'd like to ask our special guests President Barack Obama and Alaskan Sarah Palin to come forward.

Sarah: It's too bad the reverend has gone missing but you know we need to remember the 9th W Principle –

Colin *(shouts from audience)*: It's UU!

Sarah: Yes, that's what I said. W.

Obama: No, it's U and then U.

Sarah: Yes W, anyway the 9th principle states that we have the freedom as Americans to shoot guns and play hockey.

Obama: No, no. There is no 9th Principle, Sarah. (*Danielle to ad lib something inspiring*) No matter what, we will find Reverend Myke!

Sarah: Youbetcha! I can check Russia because it's right outside my kitchen!

Obama: I will check the rest of the world because I'm still president! Obama out.

ACT 1:

Everett (*shouts from congregation*): We need a detective! Is there a detective in the house?

Gal Noir: I'm a detective! And I'll solve this case if it's the last thing I do. I'm Gal Noir, private I. Each person must be able to search for what's true and right. Each person has something of value to share. Let me contact my three witnesses.

(*Three witnesses enter and strike poses*)

Gal Noir: Witness 1, where were you on the night of June 11th?

Emma: I was at the church and I saw I tall bald guy with tattoos...

GN: Tell me about this man. Did he look shifty?

Emma: He looked shady, he was here after hours. He was lurking around someone's car, it was a Prius. I'm not sure but I think it was (*Dramatic pause, ominous chord*) Colin McGrillis!

(*Another ominous chord*)

GN: Curious...You're dismissed.

(*Emma exits, Fiona moves into witness chair*)

GN: Witness 2, where were you on the night of June 11th?

Fiona: I was working in the garden when I saw a woman sneaking through the trees, she looked like she was heading for the parking lot...

GN: Describe the woman for me.

Fiona: She's got short white hair. I'm not sure but I think it was (*Dramatic pause, ominous chord*) Sonia Tonelli

(*Another ominous chord*)

GN: Curious...You're dismissed.

(*Fiona exits, Hope moves into witness chair*)

Hope where were you on June 11th?

Hope: I was here planning today's service.

GN: How were you planning it?

Hope: We were planning on Reverend Myke being here. I saw someone suspicious...

GN: Tell me about him

Hope: He's very stylish and wears white sneakers

GN: Curious...You're dismissed.

(*Hope exits*)

GN: Hmm, the only stylish person I know in this church is (*Dramatic pause, ominous chord*)

Mark Evan Chinsky

(*Another ominous chord*)

I think I'm gonna need to call in some back up...

(*UUMan dances down aisle, strikes poses*)

UUMan: I AM UU MAN!

Generic G: And now a word from our sponsor

15-second Prius ad on the TV

Jessie: Let's get things back on track, we're sure Reverend Myke will show up soon.

Elliot: I doubt it.

ACT 2:

GN: Now I've called some suspects. Take a seat. I have some questions for you three. Colin, you were seen creeping by a Prius last night. What do you have to say for yourself?

Colin: I'm innocent, I mean, like how you can turn a Prius on without a key?

GN: Likely

Colin: I was visiting my sister's brother's aunt's goldfish's babysitter.

GN: I don't believe you!

UUMan: Whoa, whoa, whoa! According to our second UU principle all people should be treated kindly.

GN: Okay, continue.

Colin: I was in the office doing paperwork with Robyn the blonde dame. She left early though.

GN: Interesting. Now get out. I'm watching you!

(Colin exits, Sonia enters)

Sonia, what were you doing in the woods last night?

Sonia: Well, Robyn called and asked me to meet her at church but I couldn't find her anywhere.

GN: Robyn...you mean the blonde dame?

Sonia: Yes.

GN: What were you going to do with Robyn?

Sonia: We were going to build fairy houses.

GN: That's a lie!

UUMan: No, no! According to UU Principle 1, we believe every person is important and has something of value to share.

GN: That's true, suspect dismissed.

(Sonia exits)

Mark Evan Chimsky, the most fashionable man at A2U2.

(Mark enters)

Mark: You talking to me?

GN: What were you doing the night of the 11th?

Mark: Do you like my outfit?

GN: Tell me what you know about the disappearance of Reverend Myke.

Mark: I was working late, the candle was burning down and I was having a long discussion with Robyn.

GN: The blonde dame?

Mark: Yeah, the blonde dame. But then I had to go because I had an important engagement and I left Robyn here all alone.

GN: Ah, interesting. You're dismissed, but you're still a suspect.

(Mark exits)

GN: Hmmm, this is a tough case to crack. I almost seems hopeless. But I'm Gal Noir, Private I and I don't give up that easily!

Generic: Now another word from our sponsor –

(15-second PRIUS ad # 2)

ACT 3:

(GN opens up yarn board, speaks to UUMan)

GN: UUMan I feel stumped. I think I'm missing something right in front of me.

UUMan: what could it be?

GN: There has to be a common thread between this. It's right in the middle, looking me in the face. *(Dramatic pause, ominous chord)* ROBYN WILEY!!!

(Ominous chord)

(Robyn stands up at back of congregation)

Robyn: It wasn't me!

GN: You're guilty!!

UUMan: Wait, wait! According to UU Principle 5, people have the right to vote on things that concern them.

GN: Ok, let's ask the congregation. With a show of hands, who thinks that this conniving abductress is guilty?

(Scans congregation)

It's unanimous. You're guilty, Robyn!

(Loud knock knock knock. Rev. Myke enters)

Reverend Myke: Hi, hi everyone. Sorry I'm late.

GN: I've got it! She was...

UUman: Running with the bulls?

Reverend Myke: No

GN: She was...

UUMAN: Skydiving with nuns?

Reverend Myke: No

GN: She was...

UUMAN: Playing hockey with Sarah Palin?

Sarah Palin: Well no, but she's always welcome to, dontchaknow.

GN: No I've got it! It's been right here. She was...

Rev. Myke: Pardon me, Gal Noir, the reason I'm late was because the Prius I bought from the Prius Man you see all over TV broke down when I was on my way here!

GN: That's what I was going to say all along!

Robyn: (*goes to front of sanctuary*) I think someone owes me an apology!!

EVERYBODY: SORRY, ROBYN!

Rev. Myke: So what have you all learned today about the UU principles?

Elliot: # 1: In our service, we showed how the first UU Principle, which says that each and every person is important, was followed when we made sure to interview all the witnesses to find out

their point of view. In my everyday life I use this Principle when I make sure to listen to everyone's opinion.

Corey: # 2: The second UU Principle says that all people should be treated fairly and respectfully. This is seen in UUMan when he helps the detective with her interrogation. I see this Principle in my own life every day when I interact with people. I always try to make sure they are treated with the respect and the dignity they deserve.

Fiona: # 3: UUMan showed Gal Noir how to follow the third UU Principle of accepting one another and learning together by being accepting of all her suspects. The optimist followed the third Principle by encouraging the spiritual growth of the pessimist and the congregation, even though Rev. Myke wasn't here. I follow the third Principle by accepting other people's beliefs and encouraging them to form their own ideas.

Everett: # 4: When Gal Noir was investigating Reverend Myke's absence, she was exercising the fourth UU Principle, demonstrating her freedom to search for what is true and right in life. I exercise my freedom to search for what is true, so I can make informed decisions in my life.

Danielle: # 5: When UUMan and Gal Noir asked the congregation to vote on the innocence of the suspect Robyn, they were helping us exercise the fifth UU Principle: We believe all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them. Now, as a legal adult, I can exercise this Principle in the U.S. democratic process and vote in this next presidential election – which certainly concerns me and this whole congregation.

Emma: # 6: The sixth UU Principle says that we believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world. I'm part of the Civil Rights team at my school, which helps spread the idea of equality and makes sure our school is a safe place to be. I feel that I am following the sixth Principle by being an active member of the Civil Rights team.

Jessie: # 7: The seventh UU Principle states that we believe in caring for the earth, the home we share with all living things. This principle was very briefly touched upon in the service when Sonia mentioned making fairy houses with Robyn. My family and I have followed this principle for several years. During the summer, we would often go to a small brook near our house, and we would almost always bring small garbage bags to pick up any litter thrown away alongside the pathway that leads to the brook. Even though we did not always gather a huge amount of trash each visit, every little bit was a caring act for the earth.

Helen: What we learned today is...*(Helen to sum up with a thoughtful line or two)*

SONG: "Give Us Hope"