

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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Nature never did betray the heart that loved her.

~William Wordsworth

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. Maureen Byrnes
Leveraging Hospital Community Benefit Dollars
to Improve Community Health

In exchange for being exempt from paying taxes, all nonprofit hospitals are obligated to invest in health and healthcare in their communities. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) strengthens and clarifies this obligation and offers new opportunities for nonprofit hospitals to work in partnership with community-based organizations to improve their community's health. This presentation will provide a brief overview of community benefit and highlight how community benefit dollars might be leveraged to improve community health.

Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow

Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m. Terri Pahucki
Share the Love Sunday

On Share the Love Sunday we join congregations nationwide in celebrating love, the heart of our Unitarian Universalist faith, and lifting up the work of the UUA Standing on the Side of Love campaign. After the service, we will continue to share the love by making valentines for homebound congregants. Join us for this intergenerational service of love, community, and prophetic action.

Coordinator: Barrie Peterson

Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Jon Mundy
I'm Nobody; Who Are You?

We long for authenticity and for a life lived in accordance with the highest good, and yet we easily follow our ego's guidance and wind up creating a *make believe self* which leads to despair. We can even more easily follow inner guidance, what Henry David Thoreau call our "inner genius," which leads to authentic happiness and inner peace.

Coordinator: Luis Torres

Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. Laurie Young
Theme Service #4: Taoism and the Principles of UU

The Chinese character for *Tao* combines the image of a step with that of a head, implying that those who choose "The Way" of Taoism both choose the direction of their steps and seek to learn from their path. This is a familiar goal for Unitarian Universalists as well. Join us for our next theme service as we explore the connections between UUs and Taoism.

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

March Newsletter Deadline
February 21, 6 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DENOMINATIONAL

Monday, January 17 (MLK Day) through Sunday, February 14 (Valentine’s Day) is designated as “Thirty Days of Love” on the UUA calendar, a time for deepening reflection and dialogue on the power of love in the face of oppression. In January’s children’s worship we looked at how the life and words of Martin Luther King Jr. demonstrated his love to work for racial justice, and in February, we will continue to reflect on how we can activate that love within ourselves. On February 14th, all ages will join together to celebrate “Share the Love Sunday”, as we lift up the work of the UUA’s Standing on the Side of Love campaign and reach out to members of our own community in loving action.

On February 7th, all ages are invited to participate in a fun intergenerational outing! Join us from 1:00-3:00 PM for ice-skating at the outdoors Ramapo Ice Park, located at nearby Provident Bank Park. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 children and seniors, cash only. (For more details, please visit: <http://www.ramapoparks.org/>).

We will also be resuming soup sales throughout the month of February. This is an important fundraiser for the religious education program at UUCR, so thank you in advance for your support!

February RE Calendar

7-Feb	RE classes
14	All Ages Service – Share the Love Sunday
21	No class – All RE age programming
28	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
dre@uurocklandny.org

TREASURER’S NEWS

This month, we sent \$500 to Helping Hands as a donation. This was the accumulation of monies collected at the coffee hour over an 18-24 month period. Many thanks to all who contributed when partaking of our 'after the service' treats.

Online Training Opportunities

UU Leadership Institute offers a number of online courses that cost \$30 per course. Check out the spring offerings at

<http://www.uuinstitute.org/spring-2016/>

Along with **Healthy Leadership 101**

(recommended for all leaders) they are offering:

Membership Ministry with Lori Emison Clair of UUAMP

Public Theology with the Rev. Tom Schade of The Lively Tradition blog

Spiritual Direction with the Rev. Phil Lund

History & Theology of Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie

Outreach and Growth with Carey McDonald and the Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

Intercultural Skills with the Rev. Rob Keithan

Stewardship with Patricia Infante

Small Congregations with a team of instructors

Adaptive Leadership with the Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

Courses open on January 22 and will run through June 30, 2016. For more information, visit the website or contact info@uuinstitute.org.

The Metro NY District Assembly is May 6-7, 2016 in Morristown, NJ. The theme is Better Together, and the keynote speaker is Taquiena Boston, UUA Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness. It would be great to have a group of us go and experience this together. If you are interested in attending, let Hillary Torres know.

Visit Nicaragua with UUCSJ In partnership with Equal Exchange, the UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) is excited to offer a new immersion learning program- Nicaragua: Fair Trade and Environmental Justice-focused on sustainable development. Nicaragua's history has been profoundly affected by U.S. interventions - both military and economic - and also by solidarity from U.S. citizens. As much as ever, there is a need for our partnership, understanding, and vocal resistance to destructive policies. Join them May 21-28, 2016. Visit the UUCSJ website for more information and to register. Learn more about General Assembly in Columbus (June 22-26) at <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

MLK JR. CENTER GALA

We (Sally Andriette, Sarah Gordon, Emily Kratzer, Trudy Pojman, and Harry Shair) had a wonderful time representing our congregation at the annual gala for the Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center. Our UUCR table was in the hallway near the entrance. At least from our vantage point, the event appeared to be a great success. Everyone passed by. Everyone was extraordinarily friendly and ready to have fun in a good cause. The hall was crowded; the gymnasium was packed; and the auditorium was standing room only as the young people of the Spring Valley community put on a series of amazing performances. According to one organizer, Mark Pessin, the number of sponsors increased from ~70 last year to more than 100 this time.

Here's a list of some of the people we saw at the gala:

- Hillary, Luis, Miquela, and Micah Torres
- Seamus Gallagher
- Newcomers to our congregation, Bridget and Ann
- Debbie Shaw, whose organization "Keep Rockland Beautiful" had its own table
- Rachel Rosenthal's parents, who told us that Rachel is planning a trip to Poland
- Members of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, from whom we learned of a local interfaith organization working for immigrant rights
- A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Spring Valley, where Sally used to belong (FYI, if you attend next year, be sure to try some of the food prepared by St. Paul's!)
- A Guatemalan man who wanted to know if any of our services were in Spanish. He was disappointed in our response but still entertained us with a series of comic stories.
- Sherrill Murray-Lazarus, the principal of Ramapo High School, who was not only very welcoming and helpful, but also described visiting her sister's UU congregation in Juneau, Alaska

Enjoying the Center Gala >>>>>



MYSTICISM SPECIAL WORKSHOP

On Sunday, February 21st, after he leads the service that morning, Reverend Jon Mundy will conduct a workshop in the Worship Room from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

What Is Mysticism?

Many of those we think of as the founders of the Unitarian tradition were mystics, folks like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman and Louisa May Alcott. This workshop answers the question what is mysticism? Are some of us possibly mystics ourselves?

Rev. Jon Mundy Ph.D. is an author, lecturer, the publisher of *Miracles* magazine and the Executive Director of All Faiths Seminary International in New York City. He taught courses in philosophy and religion from 1967 to 2008 at the New School University and SUNY with a specialization in *The History of Mysticism*. The author of 9 books, his latest book is *Lesson 101: Perfect Happiness*. Rev. Mundy has given presentations in 25 different Unitarian churches, and served as part-time minister of UU Middletown from 2008-2013.

Suggested Donation: \$20 (split between UUCR and Rev. Mundy)

WANT TO KNOW WHY?

UUCR members sometimes ask why they must make a recorded contribution of at least \$100 to be a "voting member". That is, to have the right to vote in official congregational meetings. For couples who pledge as a unit, the amount is \$200. The reason is simple. For each "voting member", our congregation is expected to send \$60 to the UUA, our national organization, as well as \$29 to the district organization. Thus it costs the UUCR \$89/year/voting member. We round off to \$100 for simplicity and processing costs.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

All members are welcome and encouraged to join the Social Justice Committee. This month we will be focusing on Black Lives Matter and racial justice in America. Many UUs come to racial justice conversations with good intentions but a lack of information about the realities of racial inequality and injustice as it exists today in their own communities. In an attempt to get up to speed, we are restarting our book discussion group with the UU Common Read selection for 2016, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (2014, Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House) Please get the book from the library or bookstore and start reading. Our next meeting is February 7 @ 12 pm. Subsequent meeting dates are 2/14 and 2/28 @ 12 pm.

COME JOIN US!

We will hold a New Member Education Class on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland, 130 Concklin Road in Pomona. This session replaces the Jan. 23 class, which is being postponed due to the storm. The class will discuss the Congregation's history, the structure of the UUA and the Congregation, our principles and the opportunities that UUCR provides. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Congregation, please contact Harry Shair or Mike Steger by clicking "reply" to this email.

FEBRUARY GREETERS

February 7 - Denise Waite and Emily Kratzer
14 - Roberta Chang and Sally Andriette
21 - Susan Brunelli and Elaine Aldrich
28 - Seamus Gallagher and Alex Finger

FEBRUARY COFFEE SPECIALIST

Seamus Gallagher
Thank you, Seamus

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Feb. 7: Social Justice meeting, noon
BOW Meeting: noon
Feb. 14: Social Justice meeting, noon
Feb. 20: New Member Class, 2:00 pm
Feb. 21: Social Justice meeting, noon
BOT Meeting: noon
Rev. Mundy workshop on Mysticism,
12:30 – 3:30 pm
Feb. 27: Private rental, 5 – 11 pm
Feb. 28: Social Justice meeting, noon
Private rental, 2 – 6 pm

Al-Anon: Mon. at 9:30 am/ Thurs. at 7:30 pm

CIRCLE SUPPER!

Harry Shair and Susan Brunelli are hosting a Circle Supper on Sunday, February 14 (Valentine's Day). We can accommodate six adults. We will start at 6:00 pm. Guests are invited to bring a dish. Call 845 357-0267 to RSVP.

EDITOR'S TIDBITS

After a month in Sri Lanka and Southern India, it's good to be back home. India is indeed incredible, and its people are the friendliest on the planet! Climbing up the Sigiriya Rock, visiting the Temple of the Tooth and Dambulla's Cave Temple were some of the highlights in Sri Lanka. Pongal festivals in Tami Nadu, Republic Day celebrations in the schools were among my favorite activities. Best of all was my opportunity to leave the group and spend a couple of days with a friend, stay in a local home and meet many wonderful people in India. I even received a wedding invitation which unfortunately I can't take advantage of. Now it's back to reality and culture shock. I think I suffer more from that when I return to the USA than I do when I go to another country.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY