

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND**

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*Live out of your imagination, not your history.*

—Stephen R. Covey

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## **THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN**

**May 1, 2016**

**Vol. 59, #9**

**Editor: Mary Holdampf**

**May 1, 10:30 a.m.**

**Mark Judelson**

### **East Ramapo**

“East Ramapo” is a series of monologues and conversations of individuals directly affected by the situation in the East Ramapo Central School District. These include high school students from both public and private schools, administrators and community activists. The goal of the play is to provide an artistic opportunity for individuals and communities with widely divergent beliefs and cultures to recognize and hear each other in a safe setting.

**Coordinator: Mike Steger**

**May 8, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cristina Biaggi**

### **The Once and Future Goddess**

The Great Goddess was the first numinous being; she has been here since the beginning. The Primordial Goddess represents the feminine principle rather than a personified deity acting willfully in the world. She is undifferentiated. She is Potential. She is so prehistoric, no words or name can truly describe her

**Coordinator: Barrie Peterson**

**May 15, 10:30 a.m.**

**Sadie Lansdale**

### **Answering the Call**

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. What does this mean when so many are suffering and living in undignified circumstances? Join seminarian and FDNY chaplain intern Sadie Lansdale for a worship service about the awakening of human worth in the midst of desperation.

**Coordinator: Tricia Larkin**

**May 22, 10:30 a.m.**

**Mike Steger**

### **Islam and UU Principles:**

#### **Theme Service No. 6**

Islam, Unitarianism and Universalism developed in different places at different times. What do they have in common? Our last theme service of the year will explore UU principles embodied in Islam.

**Coordinator: Jane Cowan**

**May 29, 10:30 a.m.**

**tba**

**Please see our website for upcoming**

**details: [www.uurocklandny.org](http://www.uurocklandny.org)**

**Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow**

## RE NEWS

This is our last month of Religious Education classes. Wow, how the time has flown! We will be completing our final Seuss and Jedi classes, and preparing for RE Sunday which will take place on June 12th this year. We also have two special All-Ages classes this month, led by Tamika Adjemian. Tamika will be sharing her passion of gardening and earth care with the RE classes on May 8th and May 29th, with plans in the works to create a small raised bed garden on UUCR grounds.

As we look ahead to next year, I invite everyone in this congregation to consider what part you will take in the religious education of our children and youth. UUA staff leader Connie Goodbread writes: "Faith Development is all we do. Unitarian Universalism is all we teach. The congregation is the curriculum." How will you share your gifts so that we can grow in faith together? Whether you can give a little or a lot, your gifts are vital to our whole community. Please consider teaching (average commitment is about eight times per year), assisting (even just once!), or contributing through a special role or project. Information about next year's classes and sign-up sheets will be available toward the end of this month and into June... we are aiming for full participation from this community! You can contact me at any times if you have questions, thoughts, ideas.

Terri Pahucki [dre@uurocklandny.org](mailto:dre@uurocklandny.org)

### May RE Schedule

May 1- Children's Worship Service, RE Classes  
May 8- All Ages Class  
May 15- RE Classes  
May 22- RE Classes

**DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER  
May 22, 2015, 6 pm**

## TREASURER'S NEWS

We are in the final quarter of this fiscal year. Between tax preparation and Helping Hands, I will be a bit late in getting out statements to members with pledge balances outstanding.

We had to replace our very old hot water heater and pay our tri-annual herbicide water testing with the town of Ramapo (between the two, it was over \$3000).

If there are any questions regarding our financial status, please speak with me. Barbara Francis

## MEMORIAL GARDEN SPRING CLEANUP

Sunday, May 1st after services, the Memorial Garden Committee will be sponsoring a cleanup of the Memorial Garden area and the paths leading to it. Please join us in clearing leaves, weeding, trimming away withered plants, lining paths with rocks, refinishing benches and other activities to help maintain and update the space where we honor those who have gone before.

We could especially use help from those individuals who are strong and sure footed enough to bring a good number of our plentiful rocks from around our more wild portions of our grounds to where they can be placed to demarcate the edges of the paths.

In appreciation, lunch will be provided to volunteers.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### May Greeters

May 1 - Denise Waithe and Emily Kratzer  
May 8 - Roberta Chang and Sally Andriette  
May 15 - Susan Brunelli and Alex Finger  
May 22 - Seamus Gallaher and Edward Donnelly  
May 29 - Geraldine Shaw

May Coffee Elves - Membership Committee

# FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We thought you might be interested in a brief overview of the issues that were discussed by the BOT this month. The first three items had priority; the order of the rest is random.

1. **Hiring a half-time minister**—The search committee reported on its interviews of ministerial candidates. They have identified two applicants who, they believe, are highly qualified to lead our congregation. The candidates' names are withheld until we have furthered our negotiations.
2. **Stewardship campaign**—The campaign results so far are reported elsewhere.
3. **Planning a budget**—Treasurer Barbara Francis and a BOT subcommittee have proposed a budget of \$102,000 for the coming year, based on a successful stewardship campaign. The line items within the budget are much the same as the current year, except that we hope to be able to pay our staff as salaried employees. This means that we contribute to social security and other such expenses.
4. **Window repair**—The side windows (sliding doors) in the Worship Room no longer function and are in danger of falling out. Sally Andriette has gotten repair estimates from two companies. We plan to make that repair as soon as possible. BTW, getting estimates was no mean feat. At least three other people tried before and gave up in frustration. *Congratulations to Sally!*
5. **Roof leaks**—Ray Ahmadi has been advising us in ways to repair the roof without having to spend tens of thousands of dollars. He recommends a new product from DuPont that fits over the entire roof (like a condom says one BOT member). He is looking into possible contractors with experience installing this product. *Thank you, Ray!*
6. **Fund raising**—Carrie Steindorff is

investigating the feasibility of having a clothing drop off container on our property. She will report on what our responsibilities will be and how much income it is likely to produce.

*Thank you, Carrie!*

7. **Publicity**—While we have a website and a Facebook page, there is probably much more we can do with social media to advertise our presence in Rockland County, says Jane Cowan. Andrea Lerner of the UU Metro District agrees with her. Jane is investigating other social media outlets with help from District experts. *Thank you, Jane!*
8. **Social Action**—After many years of organizing our Helping Hands efforts, Barbara Francis is looking for some person or persons to share (or take over) responsibility. Perhaps you are one of those people? *Thank you, Barbara!*
9. **Policies and Procedures**—Our By-Laws refer to a Policies and Procedures Manual for current details of some particular constitutional stricture. No such manual exists. Emily Kratzer has agreed to lead the creation of the manual. She hopes to include the responsibilities and procedures of our various committees as well. *Thank you, Emily.*
10. **Fiscal responsibilities**—One major function of the BOT is to ensure fiscal propriety of the UUCR. At the urging of our treasurer, we are considering having our books examined by an appropriate individual or organization not on the BOT.
11. **Annual picnic**—Planning needs to begin.

Harry N. Shair

## CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will take place on May 15 at noon on the premises of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland.  
*May 15 is also the Gran Fondo bicycle tour from NYC to Bear Mountain and back. Folks, be careful on the roads!*

# LET'S BE READY TO HIRE A MINISTER

## *The Stewardship Campaign so far*

We are in the middle of our annual financial stewardship campaign and in the process of interviewing candidates for our ministerial position. As you can imagine, the chances of successfully completing those tasks are interrelated. Our congregation needs to be able to pay a fair and competitive salary in order to attract the best candidates. Hiring a minister will, in turn, demonstrate the flourishing condition of our congregation and attract greater financial commitments.

### **Here's the situation so far:**

- Goal \$55,000 (an increase of \$4000 from last year)
- Approximate number of pledges expected 53-60

We have received 30 pledges of support so far (4/14/16), which range in size from below \$100 to more than \$3000. Of those 30, more than half have increased the amount of their pledge. A few are considerable increases. The total pledged to date is \$42,000, but the remaining \$13,000 is likely to be harder to obtain. Many of the people who traditionally pledge above \$1000 have already done so.

But I am confident that we will make our goal. Why? Because I have confidence in you. Our members and friends understand the importance of supporting a liberally religious voice in these unsettling times. We understand that we can do more to further our values as a group than as individuals. We appreciate the services that inspire us to be our best selves.

Let me also tell you of two unexpected contributions:

- Most of you remember Harry Green, who was our minister from 2006 to 2012. Harry's leadership was one of the major factors that

began our renewal as a growing, active congregation. Harry sent me an email at the end of March asking me to send him a pledge form. He is enjoying life in Florida and reads our newsletter each month.

- A second contribution was sent by Ellen Bauman Metzger who also wrote these kind words:

*I thought of your congregation because I am helping to run the budget drive at my congregation, First Unitarian Society of Newton, in Newton, MA, and I know how nice it feels when former members of our congregation who have moved away continue to contribute to our pledge drive. I follow UUCR on Facebook and noticed that you are having your pledge drive, too, and I thought I might make a small donation to show my support and thanks for many wonderful years my family, the Baumans, spent there. I grew up going to UUCR with the children of Sue and Bill Chess, Alex and Bill Chase, Ugo and Rhoda Onofri, and Nancy and Dick Worthington, Bill and Marion Levitt, and Rita Boyd, among others. I am thankful for the support my mother, Jean, got from UUCR during her final years and to people like Barbara Francis for all the support my father, Norman, got before he moved to be closer to me and my siblings in Massachusetts. UUCR will always have a special place in my heart.*

Respectfully submitted, Harry Shair,  
Stewardship Campaign Chair

## **MAY SCHEDULE**

May 1: BOW Meeting: Noon  
May 14: Private Rental: 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
May 15: Annual Congregational Meeting:  
noon  
May 21: Private Rental: 10 am – 6 pm

*Al-anon meetings Mondays at 9:30 am  
& Thursdays at 7:30 pm*