

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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Ambitious people climb, but faithful people build.

—Julia Ward Howe

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

October, 2016

Vol. 50, #2

Editor: Mary Holdampf

Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
How to Survive the Next 36 Days

Our Presidential election is more than a month away, and it feels as if it's been going on forever. Let's pause as the campaigns move into their final weeks to reflect on the role of the religious community in political discourse and on our heart's experience of this year's campaign. The Rev. Karen Brammer asks, "What in the world does 'love thy neighbor' mean in the midst of deep polarization in our communities?" How does our UU faith inform our political decisions and behavior?

Coordinator: Laurie Young

Oct. 9, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Allen Wells
What Does It Mean to be Vulnerable?

...to our feelings, with intimate partners, to difficult persons, to the onset of illness and old age, and to the possibility of a terrorist attack? This is the question that provoked The Buddha's quest. It arises anew for us as we face chaotic politics and confront climate change

Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow

Oct. 16, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Trash Talking: Spirit in Practice

What does spiritual practice look like among Unitarian Universalists? The Board of Worship has chosen "Spirit

in Practice" as their organizing theme for 2016-2017. Each BOW member will offer a service during the coming year on a variation of the theme: mind practices, body practices, soul practices, life practices, justice practices. Today we will take a walk down Haines Road with Rev. Dawn and consider the spiritual practice of picking up the trash. **Coordinator: Trish Larkin**

Oct. 23, 10:30 a.m. Dan Hanchrow
Soul Practices

This is a discussion of one portion of this year's theme "Spirit in Practice." Our creative souls need nurturing and understanding. How do we remain creatively open? Where does our inspiration come from? How can we embrace our negative selves? What can we say to our internal judges and critics? How can we best share our creativity? **Coordinator: Mike Steger**

Oct. 30, 10:30 a.m. Tracey Hancock & Terri Pahucki

Dia de Los Muertos

We celebrate and affirm the lives of loved ones who have passed in this all ages service of remembrance. Bring stories and mementos that give comfort and good memories. Our service is inspired by the joyous Latin American festival and includes activities for children.

Coordinator: Laurie Young

TURN, TURN, TURN

Now the Earth turns toward the dark a little sooner each day: sunrise a few minutes later, sunset a few minutes earlier. The autumnal equinox arrived on September 22 so it's officially fall—season of harvest and falling leaves, evenings cool enough for sweaters and blankets, bees busy in the goldenrod. School settling in. Soccer and football. Elections (yikes). The Halloween cards have been out for weeks at the CVS.

“Tis a gift to be simple, ‘tis a gift to be free, ‘tis a gift to come down where we ought to be...to turn, turn will be our delight, ‘till by turning, turning, we come ‘round right.” These words from an old Shaker hymn remind us to go with the flow, to keep on turning until we land where we’re supposed to be. Good advice for Earthlings, who live on a planet that keeps on changing every single day.

UUCR is also turning and turning as we move into the season of our new ministry. I am finding my way into your customs and traditions, learning your institutional habits, getting to know your leaders and staff. The Sunday service is a little different each week as we try things out, one way and then another. It’s a season for experiments, a time to see what works best for us now. A time to take some chances, make some different moves.

As we begin our ministry together, changes will come—big and small. Some will matter a lot to you; others will hardly register. Please talk with me and the congregation’s lay leaders about your reactions so that we know what’s going on. You’re not a retiring lot. People have been generous with their early comments. Keep it up!

You can call me (914-666-6398) or put a note in my mailbox in the office or send me an email (dawnsangrey@gmail.com) or come around during my Wednesday office hours (4 – 6 PM). It takes courage to put yourself out there and say what you’re feeling. If you’ve been letting others speak while you hold back, take a chance and say something. We need to hear from everyone as minister and people shape our congregation’s life.

Jack Mendelsohn, a UU minister who served our movement for more than 50 years, said our future

“is almost totally dependent on two factors: great congregations (whether large or small) and effective, dedicated ministers. The strangest feature of their relationship is that they create one another.”

I can’t wait to hear from you.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Try out the Small Group Ministry experience!

Have you been intrigued by the idea of Small Group Ministries? Feeling that you might like to join with a group of seekers sharing thoughts about spiritual issues? Tempted to join a Small Group, but wanting to know more about it before committing? Speak to Harry Shair or Emily Kratzer. Meetings are held once a month

TREASURER’S NEWS

This has been a very eventful summer for UU. With a great deal of effort from a handful of people, the RE rooms are beautiful, AND we didn't break the bank!

After all of these many years, we are finally in a position to pay our minister, Dawn, on a W2, instead of as contracted labor. This is such a positive step for us.

We did have a major breach in our bank account (by AT&T no less). After over 30 years with that account, it had to be closed and a new account opened. Everything is finally in place. Now looking forward to the new church year!

Money Matters

Did you know that the UUCR fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 31st? That's why, when you get the statement of your annual contribution in January from our treasurer, what is listed for tax purposes may not be the same as your annual pledge.

RE NEWS

Religious Education had a great September kick-off! Our Neighboring Faiths class has begun to explore what it means to be religious and to choose which religions they would like to learn more about and visit. They will be looking more closely at Judaism in October. Stay tuned for an update on upcoming field trips... we'd love to have you join us as we learn more and build relationships with our neighbors.

The Spirit of Adventure class started their program year with an exploration of how we can live our UU principles through our first adventure unit: Sports. For each adventure unit, we are looking for guests to join us who have a special interest in each area. Our next unit is Medicine. So if you have experience or interest in these topics, we need you! Let me know if you are able to join us as a classroom visitor and assist in the month of October.

Our first youth group gathering of the year will take place on Saturday, October 1st at 6PM. Youth in grades 8 through 12 are invited to join for food, fellowship, and fun. We will be creating a covenant and looking ahead at activity ideas for the year.

Last, please save the date for the [UU-UNO Intergenerational Seminar](#), which will take place April 6-8, in New York City. This year's theme is Interfaith Action to End Armed Violence, and UUCR's own Max Solomon-Frye will be serving as a youth dean. I am also on the planning committee, and Rev. Chris Antal from the UU Congregation at Rock Tavern is a featured presenter. We'd love to see great representation of adults and youth from UUCR attending this event!

For more information about religious education activities, I send out a weekly email to parents, teachers, and interested friends. If you would like to be added to this list, please let me know.

Terri Pahucki
dre@uurocklandny.org

October RE Calendar

October 2	RE classes, CWS (children's worship service)
9	RE classes
16	RE classes
23	RE classes
30	All Ages Worship Service- <i>Dia De Los Muertos</i>

JON FRIED'S STATUS

Our former member Jon Fried has been moved to Rogerson House in Jamaica Plain in the Boston area. His brother Alan reports that Jon's mental decline has progressed more rapidly than they expected. The GoFundMe.com page "Jonathan Fried's Care Fund" is still active for those who wish to help his brother with non-insured expenses.

EQUAL EXCHANGE FUNDRAISER - OCTOBER

Just in time for holiday gift giving, UUCR is holding an Equal Exchange catalog fundraiser. Place your order during October, and items will be delivered by mid-November. All the products sold meet fair trade and sustainability guidelines, so you can buy with confidence and a clean conscience! Equal Exchange works directly with small farmer co-operatives all around the world, offering organic coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa and more.

Catalogs will be available at the back of the worship room in October, with all orders due by Sunday, Oct. 30. Please consider sharing your catalog with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers – anyone who might be interested in ordering these high-quality products. Selling outside of the immediate UUCR community will help make our fundraiser even more successful. Thank you for your support!
Dianne Bennett

HELPING HANDS NEWS

Dates have not been selected for our hosting of Helping Hands guests. The dates should be set up within the next two weeks. UUCR will likely host only 6 or 7 evenings and no more than two consecutive nights.

This is a big job for one coordinator, especially since I have resumed Treasurer duties. If anyone is interested in coordinating with me, please get in touch ASAP. The duties are not difficult, if shared.

They involve:

- Buying supplies at the outset of the season and replenishing when needed
- Seeing that sign-up sheets are complete and calling volunteers the day before
 - they are responsible for items
- Helping find volunteers for 'sleepover'
 - (two UU members are needed to sleep over each night that we have guests)
- Being present when guests are here to be certain that tables are set up and staying through dinner service

If you are interested in assisting with our HH guests, please contact me.

Peace, Barbara Francis

[845-429-0506](tel:845-429-0506)

bebressor@gmail.com

HELPING HANDS GALA

Save the Date!

Please join us at the
*Helping Hands
Gala Dinner and Silent Auction*

Wednesday, November 16th
6:00 Silent Auction
7:30 Dinner and Entertainment

Further information will be in the November newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

October Greeters

10/2/2016

Geraldine Shaw
Seamus Gallagher

10/23/16

Susan Brunelli
Alex Finger

10/9/2016

Alex Chase
Elaine Aldrich

10/30/16

Denise Waithe
Hillary Torres

10/16/2016

Sally Andriette
Ed Donnelly

OCTOBER EVENTS

Oct. 2, BOW Meeting: noon

Oct. 9, BOT Meeting: noon

Al-anon meets Monday mornings at 9:30 am and Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm

MONEY SAVERS

Holidays are approaching (faster than you think!). Please use the Amazon link on our website for gift purchases. It really helps. And keep those cartridges coming. I really appreciate them. Mary

