

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m.

Tricia Larkin

Letting Go of 2016 and ??

Letting go of 2016 and...what would you like to leave behind, and, what are you looking forward to as the New Year brings opportunities and experiences that move us. It would be easy to dwell on the many issues that arose in 2016 - some that create fear/concern/worry - but there were also stepping stones to the future, and it is now. Please join as we both let go and grab on!

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Learning to Exhale

As we begin a new year together, these questions: How can I make room for the new in my life? What can I release, let go of? What am I willing to surrender, to question, to sacrifice in order to realize the world that I believe in? How can I become more open to working with other people? What can we do together in this religious community to bring the world we live in closer to the world we long for?

Coordinator: Laurie Young

Weather Cancellation – Check Facebook or call

Jan. 15, 10:30 a.m

Laurie Young

Spirit in Practice Service No. 2:

Mind Practices

Our second theme service explores the intersection of reason and spiritual practice. The spiritual life and the intellectual life do not have to be mutually exclusive. In fact, we may discover that actively involving our minds is essential if we are to have a whole and well-rounded spiritual life.

Coordinator: Mike Steger

Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Baby with the Bath Water

Continuing our exploration of theology begun last month with humanism, we will take up the thorny question of religious language. Can we talk about what we believe with words that everyone can hear? What prevents us from accepting the religious discourse of others? The sermon is an argument in favor of traditional religious language. Opportunity will be provided for congregational reflection and sharing.

Coordinator: Gale Lavinder

office at 845 354-1789

Jan. 29, 10:30 a.m. Mike Steger
Spirit in Practice Service No. 3:
Justice Practices

We would like to change the world for the better. As Unitarian Universalists, our spiritual lives and our social engagement should not only co-exist but should be fully integrated. This interactive service will focus on finding the intersection between faith and action while identifying how we can turn spiritual intent to do good in the world.

Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow

DREAMING THE POSSIBLE

The promise of the New Year is that we will be able to start over. This dream of a new beginning has persisted among many different peoples on the Earth for as long as we can remember. In spite of it all, we are a hopeful species. How many times have you been born again?

Much as I wish for a clean slate, my New Year comes full of unfinished business: evergreen needles scattered across the living room rug, still-to-be-answered cards piled on the desk, leftover cake in the fridge. I wish things were all straightened up and tidy, but what's greeting me the last week of 2016 is more of the ongoing messiness of life.

In our congregation, messiness abounds. The Board of Trustees and I have been trying for a couple of months to carve out some time to create a covenant together, but immediate concerns keep getting in the way: a leaking roof, a tenant who is struggling, questions about rental policy, filling a vacant Board seat, calendar conflicts. We finally decided to get together for two hours on a Saturday morning, put regular business aside, and dwell in our dreams for the Board and for UUCR. How will we relate to each other? What can we hope to accomplish?

The world looks messier than ever. How can we keep a spirit of love and peace alive in these times? How can we resist the voices of bigotry and hatred that divide us?

Unitarian Universalism is a faith for the New Year. We believe in new ideas and fresh solutions. At the heart of our religion beats a

profound optimism. Revelation is not sealed. Each child who is born is a holy child, one more redeemer. We've never done it that way, and we're willing to give it a try. All things are possible.

Yogi Berra is said to have said, "In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice, there is." The secret is to dream the possible. To know what's possible. To dance along the edge between what's possible and what's more than we can hope for. And to be ready to be surprised.

As we begin the congregational New Year, let us dance along this edge together. We step across the 2017 threshold, messy and imperfect and engaged. Let there be laughter, dancing, singing, working for justice, building up the community. Let us welcome the newcomers among us and bring them in. Let us listen deeply to each other. Let us honor the children as they grow and the elders as they teach us the way things have been. Tethered to our UUCR traditions, grounded in our commitment to each other and to our faith, let us dream the possible together.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey

HELPING HANDS ALERT!

Our guests will be with us for two nights in January, Sun. Jan 15 and Mon. Jan, 16. The signup sheets are available in the worship room. Please note that because of the very cold weather, the average number of guests is 35 or more. If you wish more information, please call Barbara Francis at 429-0506.

TREASURER'S NEWS

December was the half-way mark for our fiscal year. I will be sending our up-dates on outstanding pledge balances and letters showing your monetary contributions for the 2016 tax year.

Kudos to the Youth Group. The raffle for the gingerbread houses that they made brought in \$101, which they are donating to ACLU!

RE NEWS

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful, restful holiday season, and that you are ready to start the year with new energy. The movement for love and justice in our world is needed now more than ever.

Thank you to all who supported our holiday activities. A special shout out to Marc Levy and Debbie Shaw for joining me and our youth in the Gingerbread House making overnight, and to Jane Cowan for help with organizing! The youth raised \$101 from raffling the houses, which they donated to the ACLU. Thanks to all who contributed. Also a shout-out to Michelle Solomon for accompanying our youth on a UU Racial Justice conference in early December. I am inspired by the way our young people are putting their UU values into action.

Also sending special thanks to Tracey Hancock for her creative leadership with our Holiday Happening service this year, for writing the *Christmas Carol* script, and directing the children in their performance. Thank you to everyone for helping make this day a great success! We also sent off many toys to Hour Children this season, including items collected from the Rockland Families for Social Justice event which UUCR hosted in early December. We were happy to host this newly-founded local organization which shares our values of raising compassionate children and including them in social justice activities, and look forward to future collaborations.

There will be no Religious Education classes on January 1st at UUCR. However, we have received a special invitation from minister, Rev Chris Antal of our nearby congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, to join him and his family for early morning ice-skating and breakfast at Bear Mountain Park. The ice-skating (from 8:15 to 9:45), rentals, and refreshments are free. RSVP to antal@uuma.org. I will also be there with my family.

Religious Education classes resume on January 8th. Our Neighboring Faiths class will begin the year with a look at the Protestant Christian religions and a visit to a Lutheran church. The Spirit of

Adventure class will be focusing on the topic of Food, with lessons about famous UU's Henry Bergh and Fannie Farmer. Assistants and special visitors are needed and welcome!

January Schedule

- 1 Happy New Year – No RE classes
- 8 RE classes – Children's Worship Service
- 15 RE classes
- 22 RE classes
- 29 RE classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

CLM from CER *What? Commissioned Lay Ministry*

A program from **Central East Region** for members and friends who would like to expand their understanding and improve their leadership skills in one of these areas:

- Worship
- Pastoral Care
- Adult Religious Education
- Membership Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Leading Rites of Passage (weddings, memorial services, child dedications)
- Social Justice Organizing

Interested? Ask Rev. Dawn for a brochure or go to uua.org/central-east/programs/clm.

SPECIAL SERVICE

Please be sure to join us on January 8 at 10:30 am, when members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palisades will be our guests for a joint service. Afterwards, we will share friendship and a potluck brunch.

<p>Deadline for February Newsletter January 22, 2017 6 pm</p>

A GATHERING FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The UUCR leadership will invite new members and newcomers early next year to gather for two meetings to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about UUCR.

We will talk about our congregation's history and about how things work now, getting into the nitty-gritty of our boards and bylaws, committees and ceremonies. Representatives from the Board of Trustees, the Board of Worship, and the Membership Committee along with members who have attended for many years will give an overview of UUCR's inner workings. Rev. Dawn will conduct the meetings. Please let her know if you want to come.

Looking at Saturdays in January and February, 10 AM to Noon. Potential dates: January 14, February 4 and February 18. Please save the dates!

***Thank You
from Hour Children for the Gifts***

Three fat bags filled with toys and other gifts from UUCR were delivered to the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility so that incarcerated mothers would have a chance to give gifts to their children. Thanks to everyone from the congregation who participated in this project. The beautiful presents you selected will help cement the bonds between families during the holidays, keeping hope and love alive. And thanks to the children who helped create baskets for the gift collection. You helped remind the congregation to bring their gifts in on time.

You are all good Santas!

EDITOR'S NEWS

I wish all my readers a very Happy New Year – filled with love, good health and cheer.

I'm off on my annual adventure – this time to Cuba where I will be meeting with folks from all walks of life – can't wait!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS New Year, New Nametags

It has been a while with our current nametags so time for a refresh. We have also heard your feedback about first names not having enough prominence. Look in the New Year for the debut of updated nametags for everyone, for members, friends, and a new format for newcomers as well.

JANUARY GREETERS

1/1/2017

Elaine Aldrich
Emily Kratzer

1/8/2017

Sally Andriette
Ed Donnelly

1/15/17

Susan Brunelli
Alex Finger

1/22/17

Denise Waithe
Hillary Torres

1/29/2017

Roberta Chang
Alex Chase

BARISTA FOR JANUARY
Geraldine Shaw



JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 1: Al-Anon Meeting – 1 – 2:30 pm
- Jan. 7: BOT/Rev. Sangrey – 10 – 12 pm
- Jan. 8: Potluck; BOT Meeting – Noon
- Jan. 15, 16 Helping Hands Overnight Shelter
- Jan. 18: Eldercare Workshop – 1:30 – 4:30 pm
- Jan. 29: Al-Anon Workshop – 1:30 – 5 pm
 - Al-anon: Mondays at 9:30am and Thursdays at 7:30 pm
 - Yoga with Jane: Sundays at 8 am,

Earbuds or over-the-ear headsets are available for better audio quality. Please ask greeter.

Also, Sunday services are recorded and posted to our website, <http://uurocklandny.org/>.

Please return Guest at Your Table boxes no later than Jan. 8. Thank you.

