

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

February, 2017

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Sensing the Enemy

The election this fall revealed Americans to be a deeply divided people. Many of us do not recognize our neighbors who are on “the other side.” Where did they come from? Who are they? On the world stage, the United States seems entrenched in perpetual war. Since 1776, America has been at war **222** out of **239** years. Who are our enemies? How can we find our way to peace?

Coordinator: Emily Kratzer

Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. RE Youth
Standing on the Side of Love

We join Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide in celebrating courageous love and justice on this day. After the service, we will continue to share the love by making valentines for homebound congregants.

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

Feb. 19, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
An Inescapable Network of Mutuality

What Charles Darwin discovered about the physical relationship of human beings to all other forms of life mirrors what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught about our human relationships: we are one. King wrote about the interdependent web of life, “We must all learn to live together as brothers. Or we will perish together as fools. We are tied together in a single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality (**Potluck Sunday**)

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

Feb. 26, 10:30 am Rev. Sarah Lenzi
Hope

Hope can be understood as an act of resistance in and of itself. How do we retain hope in a world that so often can feel overwhelming and big? Join us as Rev. Sarah Lenzi leads a discussion about how our Unitarian and Universalist forebears left us a legacy of hope and love to sustain us in dark times.

Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow

March Newsletter Deadline
February 19, 2017 5 pm

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

MIDWINTER THAW

The temperature crept up above freezing again in the past few days, and the skating pond in the woods where I walk has a dull and dangerous sheen. Here and there along the edges the ice has melted away from the shore, and you can see into the dark cold water. Yesterday I discovered something growing there, plants that looked like the leaves of tulips or daffodils—spears of green, six inches tall, thrusting up toward the sun. “Hey!” I said to them. “It’s the middle of winter. What are you doing?”

These leaves are probably skunk cabbage, a swamp plant that puts out large heads of what look like cabbage leaves in early spring. You may have seen them—they are one of the first woodland plants to show green. The skunk cabbage actually flowers in January, so I guess they are right on time.

We might think the natural world shuts down in the winter months but there’s lots going on. The trees are resting, but the lilac bush in the front of my house has little green buds on all the branches and every time we have a thaw they get a little bigger. The moss on the rocks is bright green against the snow. Life is percolating along even in the dark of winter. And of course the sun is with us a little longer every day now.

UU poet Peter Meyer wrote “Blue Boat Home,” “Where Is the Light?” and a song about midwinter called “Green”:

Death may raise its voice today
Oh, but Life will have its say
Speaking in lovers and in children
In poets’ pens and philosophers’ visions
Life is a planet’s daring dream
Earth’s devotion, spoken in green.

As we brace ourselves for radical changes in our nation, some of us fear the months ahead will bring only darkness and cold. The darkness of greed and hatred. The cold of wholesale rejection of all we value most. Even as we keep watch, waiting for what will come, we can join together, mobilize our strength and call upon our power to resist. There are no hands but our hands, no hearts but our hearts, to do this vital work. People in recovery remind each other to “keep it green.” Remember where you have come from and what matters to you.

Change and growth come in many forms, sometimes in disguise with hidden opportunities and surprises. Let us

welcome the new green shoots wherever we find them and look for the gifts they bring.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey

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TURNAROUND SUNDAY

One of the breakout sessions during Turnaround Sunday (March 19th) will feature a discussion of the UUA’s Common Read for 2016-17. This year’s Common Read is *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016). According to the UUA, “*The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition-building in a society that is fractured and polarized.” The Social Justice Committee will lead the discussion. The book is available at uuabookstore.org.

BOW NEWS

Get Them to the Church on Time!

Our worship service is a full, rich hour of words, music, and community. Rev. Dawn and the others who plan services do their best to shape an experience that will engage and enlighten and inspire you. Your part is to get there on time!

Please make the extra effort to leave a few minutes early so you are in your seat and ready to be open to the worship at 10:30. Many thanks. The Board of Worship

SAVE THE DATE

Book Club Discussion February 19 @ 12 pm

We will be discussing the *bestseller Between the World And Me* by Ta Nehesi Coates. This book on the *New York Times*’s bestseller list chronicles Coates revealing to his son observations, frustrations, and experiences about being black in the United States.

Social Justice Action Committee

RE NEWS

In January, we kicked off our new year with a worship service about Hope. The children explored their own feelings about hope-- how it is sometimes hard to find, and how we need each other to help us feel hopeful. Seeing our children in action brings me hope. This past month our Spirit of Adventure class learned about UU heroes Fannie Farmer and Henry Bergh and had fun bringing their minds and hands into lessons about food-- from peanut butter playdough, to doggy treats, to popcorn. They raised money to give to the Humane Society and spent time sharing a lesson with a friendly dog. The Neighboring Faiths class spent the month exploring Protestant faiths. They learned from congregants what it was like to be raised Lutheran and visited a nearby Lutheran church. We are off to a great start to the New Year and look forward to continuing our learning together!

In February, we will join Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country for study and practice of the Thirty Days of Love, an annual reflection time that extends from Martin Luther King Day to Valentine's Day. This year's theme is Fortification and focuses on the sources of strength and courage that sustain us in the work for justice. On February 12th, our youth will lead the Standing on the Side of Love service. Join them to reflect on what it means to stand for human rights and to rejoice in our shared power.

Also this month, the Neighboring Faiths class will be taking a look at Earth-Centered religions. They will attend a Pagan Imbolc ritual at Brid's Closet in Cornwall, NY on February 4th. The service is family-friendly, and all are welcome to join us. Contact me for more details. The Spirit of Adventure class is diving into science, with lessons on Tim Berners-Lee, Maria Mitchell, Lewis Latimer, and Alexander Graham Bell-- UU's who made an impact in various scientific fields. If you have an interest in this area, please join us as an assistant for a lesson. All classes will join Emily Kratzer for a special bread-making class on February 19th.

We will also be resuming soup sales after services 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 Schedule

Feb. 5	RE classes; Children's Worship Service (CWS)
12	All-ages Worship Service – <i>Standing on the Side of Love</i>
19	Special Children's program
26	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
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UU CURIOUS??

- **Feb. 4 and Mar. 4: 10 am – 12 pm**

The UUCR leadership invites new members and newcomers for a 2-part series to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about UUCR.

We will talk about the history of our faith tradition along with 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. If you have not already expressed your ability to attend this series and are interested, please let Dawn know.

WELCOME

We'd like to welcome Bridget Laureira to our membership! She has been attending since September 2015 and was previously a member of UU congregations in Queens and in Huntington, LI. She signed the membership book back in mid-December and has been active with the Social Justice Committee.

Welcome to UUCR, Bridget!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

February Greeters

2/5

Geraldine Shaw
Seamus Gallagher

2/12

Alex Chase
Elaine Aldrich

2/19

Sally Andriette
Ed Donnelly

2/26

Susan Brunelli
Alex Finger

Barista – Hillary Torres



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION COMMITTEE

The MLK birthday celebration on January 16 hosted by the Martin Luther King Community Center brought hundreds of community members together to honor the legacy of Dr. King and promote unity. Simply put, we - as a country and a community - need healing and action, and events like this are important opportunities to bring people together in a meaningful way. UUCR members were there tabling, sharing information about Unitarian Universalism and enjoying the entertainment. Thanks to all who volunteered!

A number of our congregants attended the Women's March in Washington, DC and NYC on January 21. It was an amazing turnout of people standing together in solidarity for the protection of our rights, our health and our families-recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

Lastly, The UUA has prepared a Declaration of Conscience stating in the strongest possible terms our commitment in these troubling times. Please read and share.

The Declaration Of Conscience

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change – actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet – we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice. The time is now.

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands were our guests on Jan. 15 and Jan. 16. We housed 37-38 guests each evening! The homeless problem in Rockland seems to be increasing. Certainly a shelter is needed.

Thank you all for the food, the serving, the supplies and especially the four sleepovers: Trudy, Bill S., Emily and Harry!

If you did not participate this time, remember that we will be hosting Helping Hands once again in mid-April. We will have guests for three nights, so help will be needed

Barbara Francis

TREASURER'S NEWS

Congratulations to the Congregation!

Our mid-month collection for the MLK Center (Sept.-Jan.) brought in a total of \$750!! A check has been forwarded to the Center. This money is very much needed by the Center, as they have been trying to 'fill the holes' for the losses in the East Ramapo School District for the young people that they serve.

All year-end statements have been sent. If you did not receive yours, please notify me.

Barbara Francis

PLEDGE DRIVE 2017-2018

The annual pledge drive for the upcoming fiscal year will begin in late April. Many new members and some longer-term ones have asked "What is an appropriate amount?" Here is the Fair Share Contribution Guide from the UUA. (The guide is enclosed within this newsletter) We hope their suggestions will help you decide. FYI, the fiscal year is 7/1/17 to 6/30/18. Note that the suggestions are given as monthly amounts.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR



Al-anon: Mondays: 9:30am; Thursdays: 7:30 pm

Yoga with Jane: Sundays: 8 am

Feb. 4, 10 am – 12 pm: Pathway to Membership

Feb. 5, Membership Meeting: noon

Feb. 12, BOT Meeting: noon

Feb. 25, 5 pm – 11 pm: Private Party