

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

130 Concklin Road, Pomona, NY 10970

Office (845) 354-1789,

www.uurocklandny.org

e-mail: administrator@uurocklandny.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

May 2017

Vol. 50, #9

Editor: Mary Holdampf

May 7, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
White Supremacy Teach-In

Our congregation will join with hundreds of other UU congregations in an exploration of white supremacy and how it affects our nation, the Unitarian Universalist Association, our congregation, and each one of us. Bring an open heart and a willingness to learn to this service.

Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow

Dr. Katherine Wilson, the model proposes a radical new way to form inclusive communities. The congregation's Annual Meeting follows this service.

Coordinator: Laurie Young

May 14, 10:30 a.m. Mike Steger
Celebrating Mother's Day Through Poetry

Join us as we celebrate mothers and our Unitarian Universalist values through poetry. Congregants and visitors are invited to present poems original (or non-original) poems of their choosing

Coordinator: Mike Steger

May 28, 10:30 RE Youth
Standing on the Side of Love

A celebration of courageous love and justice led by the UUCR youth group.

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

May 21, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
The Myth of the Serpent

Not that snake from the Garden of Eden but a black serpent from an old northern European story called "The Lindworm," a cautionary tale about what happens to the things we try to push away and exile. They come back to bite us. Rev. Dawn will share some of what she learns at the interim ministers' seminar this year about how to build bridges in a polarized and divided society. Based on the work of

NEW MEMBER WELCOME CEREMONY

We welcomed five new members at a ceremony during our April 2nd service. The new members and congregation committed themselves to one another during the ceremony and then shared in fellowship and cake afterwards. Welcome to Carlos Barrett, Ken and Leslie D'Oronzio and their daughter, Claire, Bridget Lauriera, and Bill Schmidt. Be on the lookout for more of an introduction in the next newsletter.



THE LUSTY MONTH OF MAY

You may remember the song from the Broadway musical *Camelot*. Queen Guinevere sings while the villagers and courtiers get ready for their May Day revels: “Tra-la, it’s May, the lusty month of May, that lovely month when everyone goes blissfully astray.” Apparently a certain amount of license was granted on the first of May in Camelot for boisterous behavior and amorous explorations.

Our Pilgrim ancestors erected a Maypole in 1627 in Massachusetts, brewed some excellent beer and danced around a pole, which so incensed the Puritans of Plymouth Plantation that they interrupted the party and cut the Maypole down with their swords. The Rev. Jane Rzepka reports, “Myles Standish, the well-known non-dancer, non-singer, and non-celebrator, gathered America’s first vice squad and called a quick halt to what were later termed “the beastly practices of the mad Bacchanalians” (*From Zip Lines to Hosaphones*).

On a fine May day, any of us might want to follow the example of our ancestors and just put up a Maypole and dance around it. But duty calls. May is not summer, and we have work to do to complete our congregational year. The annual meeting of the congregation on May 21 includes election of new members for the Board of Trustees and the Board of Worship along with a discussion and vote on the 2017-2018 budget.

The Nominating Committee (Seamus Gallagher, Barbara Francis, Rachel Rosenthal, Deb Shaw, and Rob Young) is hard at work filling these positions. Please be ready to say yes if you are approached and able to serve, and don’t hesitate to volunteer if you are ready to serve. If somehow you are reading this and you haven’t yet made your pledge, contact Harry Shair at once and make your most generous promise to support UUCR in the coming year.

Speaking of summer, the Board of Worship is looking for speakers for summer services, so if you have a topic to offer the congregation, get in touch with Mike Steger or Tricia Larkin, co-chairs.

We’ll also have some more fun in May. We’ll sing and gather for worship and eat chocolate at coffee hour. The usual good times. I’ll see you in church.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey

dawnsangrey@gmail.com

914-666-6398

RE NEWS

It’s hard to believe we are nearing the end of the Religious Education year. This has been a very full year! May brings with it not only beauty and flowers, but also time for deep remembrance and reflection.

On May 7th, all programming at UUCR will follow the call of our Unitarian Universalist Association to hold a teach-in centered on examining racism and white supremacy, to look within ourselves and our congregations in order to strongly combat these systems of oppression. LREDA, the professional association of UU religious educators, has taken the lead to create age-appropriate stories and activities to engage our children and teens in this important discussion. More info about this day can be found here: <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/teachin/>.

I invite you to contact me if you have any questions.

Also in May our youth group will be collecting money for Helping Hands. They will be holding a “Cardboard City” sleepover for homelessness awareness, a project that many teens throughout the county participate in, in solidarity with this vital organization. The youth will also be leading the “Standing on the Side of Love” service on May 28th, rescheduled from the snowed-out service in February.

It is not too early to begin thinking about your role in next year’s Religious Education program. Our focus for 2017-18 will be on Social Justice, and we’ll be drawing many of our lessons from Harry

Potter! We will also be offering the Our Whole Lives curriculum to youth in 8th through 10th grades, in combined sessions on 6-7 Sunday afternoons throughout the year. This is an essential sexuality education program which most of our UU congregations offer. We are seeking one or two men who may be interested in joining the OWL teaching team. Training will be provided. Teachers and assistants will be needed for ALL our programs, so

please consider joining us. More information about next year's programs will be available soon.

Also look out for quiche and muffin sales after services in the month of May! All sales support the RE program.

May Calendar

May 7- Children's Worship Service, RE Classes (Teach-In)
May 14- All Ages Class
May 21- RE Classes
May 28- Youth-Led Intergenerational Service



CIRCLE SUPPERS

There are two circle suppers planned in the month of May. The hosts will provide the main dish and up to 6 additional guests bring accompanying dishes.

Hillary & Luis Torres will be hosting a dinner on Saturday, May 6th at 6pm. Children welcome. If interest, reach out to Hillary at [845-558-5569](tel:845-558-5569) or hillary279@gmail.com.

Trudy Pojman will be hosting a dinner on Saturday, May 20th starting at 6:30pm. If interested, reach out to Trudy at [845-446-3404](tel:845-446-3404) or lpojman@aol.com.

If anyone else is interested in hosting a Circle Supper (or maybe a Circle Wine & Cheese Night, or Circle Dessert & Coffee event) please reach out to Hillary at [845-558-5569](tel:845-558-5569) or hillary279@gmail.com.

MAY GREETERS

5/7/2017
Alex Chase
Elaine Aldrich

5/21/2017
Susan Brunelli
Alex Finger

5/14/2017
Sally Andriette
Trudy Pojman

5/28/2017
Denise Waithe
Hillary Torres

PLEDGE DRIVE REPORT

As of 4/12/17, pledges for the 2017-2018 financial year total \$47,500. Our goal is \$64,000. Thirty-six out of approximately expected sixty pledges have been made. The average pledge from our members and friends has increased significantly. If this keeps up, the drive will be successful indeed.

Keep the momentum going!

A budget is a moral document. If you haven't made your pledge yet, be generous. Join your friends in supporting the spiritual, social action, and educational life of our congregation.

Remember, an increase of \$1000 is only \$2.70/day; an increase of \$300 is only \$0.82/day.

THANKS



A MILLION

TREASURER'S NEWS

Just two more months in our UU church year. If you are unsure of your pledge balance, please contact me at 845 429-0506 or bebressor@gmail.com The month of April alone, we had to pay our W/C insurance (\$1200) AND 1/2 of our building insurance (\$2000). Considering our rental issues, this has been an expensive period for us. Up-dating your current year pledges is very helpful at this time.

Barbara Francis, Treas.

MAY SCHEDULE

- May 7, Membership: noon
BOW: noon
- May 13, Private rental
- May 21, Annual Congregational Mtg.: noon
Al-Anon, Mondays: 9:30 am;
Thursdays: 7:30 pm

HELPING HANDS

We have just completed our season with Helping Hands. We could not accommodate our guests without the help and assistance of so many of you. I would especially like to thank Harry Shair for completely taking over some nights, so that I need not show up at all. But Emily Kratzer has achieved 'saint hood' status for all of the work and effort... even offering to stay 3 nights in a row!

It is heartening to see that many of our new members have gotten very involved with the program...Denice, Bridget, Leslie and Carlos. I know I have missed thanking some, but please know that all you have done is appreciated by the Safe Haven (Helping Hands) organization.

When I requested towels and toothbrushes, everyone came through. I took over to HH at least 300 toothbrushes and 3 full lawn & leaf bags of towels.

Thank you all. See and hear from you in the fall.

Barbara Francis

& THANK YOU, BARBARA, for running this program for us. The interest, time and effort you put into this is enormous, and we all appreciate it!



LOST & FOUND

Many various items can be found in our Lost and Found box located on shelf in the coat closet. There are also articles of clothing on the wall hooks. Please check. All items will be disposed of in the beginning of June

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

The Board of Worship is looking for speakers to present summer services. If you are interested in leading a summer service, please contact Mike Steger or Tricia Larkin.



SHOPPING FOR..

- June brides?
- Graduating grandchildren?
- Summer paraphernalia?
- Pool supplies?

Don't forget to use the **amazon icon** on the right side of our home page:

www.uurocklandny.org



Come to the edge
We can't, we are afraid
Come to the edge
We can't, we will fall
Come to the edge
They came
And he pushed them
And they flew!

~Guillaume Apollinaire

June Newsletter Deadline
May 21, 2017
6 pm