

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Sept. 3, 10:30 a.m.

Cleanup Sunday

*Hard work spotlights the character of people:
some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their
noses, and some don't turn up at all.*

Come and rejoice in shared labor! Bring your cleaning rags, mops, brooms, loppers, clippers, rakes and cheerful spirit. We will prepare the society's buildings and grounds for our first worship service of the 2017-18 season.

Coordinator: Harry Shair & Members

**Sept. 10, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Homecoming/Ingathering/Opening Day**

Our first worship service of the fall season, for all ages. It is good for us to be together in these harrowing times. We will remember who we are, share the news of our summers, nourish ourselves with the strength and wisdom of our faith, and turn our eager faces to the work.

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

***October Newsletter Deadline
Sept. 17, 6 pm***

Sept.17, 10:30 a.m.

Atheists Don't Have No Songs

Musicians (UUUKes) from the UU Congregation of the Catskills in Kingston share their music with us.

Coordinators: Rob Young & Des Shaw

Sept. 24, 10:30

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Universalism:

God Bless the Whole World.

No Exceptions.

Unitarian Universalism is a mouthful, and it's common among us to skip over the Universalist part and just say we're Unitarians. This Sunday we will celebrate John Murray, a Universalist preacher who came, kicking and screaming, from England in 1770 to spread the gospel of universal salvation in America. All John wanted to do was disappear into the wilds of the New World, but his ship ran aground off the New Jersey coast, and he met Thomas Potter, an illiterate farmer who had been waiting for years for Murray to come. The rest is history.

Coordinators: Leslie d'Oronzio & Harry Shair

TRANSITIONS

I am writing on a perfect Sunday afternoon in August: warm air, bright sunshine, a little breeze. As you read this, the days of summer are waning into September. The darkness comes a little earlier each evening, and the nights are cooler. Even as we relish the last days of summer, the Earth is turning toward fall.

Nature is always in transition, changing, moving. So why, I wonder, can change seem so hard for us? Why do we humans want things to stay the same?

This summer has been long and challenging, full of political upheavals and dramatic events in our nation and the world. My son, who lives in Boston, watched yesterday as some of the people in his neighborhood walked by with protest signs, on their way to Boston Common to take part in the counter-demonstration against white supremacy and hatred. He greeted them as they passed. "Be safe." Thankfully those demonstrations were peaceful, by and large.

The privilege of believing you are safe seems less certain in these days. Who is safe here in Rockland County? In Boston? In Barcelona? Will we ever be safe again? Were we ever really safe?

Eldridge Cleaver, the Black Panther activist, said, "If I am not safe to walk down the street, then you are not safe to walk down the street." Cornell West says we are all in this together. Same thing, brother.

This summer my husband Paul and I moved from our home in Bedford Hills, where we had lived for almost 40 years, to a retirement community in New Paltz, NY. It's about 50 miles from Pomona, and I am not retiring. Our new home is a vibrant place, full of activity and promise. But the challenge of moving was greater than I had imagined. So many things to sort through and let go. I lived more than half my lifetime in that little house.

Today I am grateful to be coming back to serve UUCR again this fall.

While Paul and I were consumed with our personal transition, the world kept right on going. I was out of the pulpit this summer; others offered services of worship at UUCR week after week. I am grateful for the members of the congregation and

members of the clergy who provided continuity in this summer of change. Life, it seems, goes on.

I can't wait to see you in September. May the end of your summer be rich and nourishing, and may you be safe.

Blessings.

Dawn

RE NEWS

September marks the beginning of a new Religious Education year at UUCR. We are excited to kick off new classes and programs this year as we fill our halls once again with the joyful community of children and youth.

Religious Education classes begin September 17th. Parents will be receiving a letter from me with registration information. We welcome new families, so spread the word! In addition to Sunday morning classes, we will be holding Our Whole Lives and Youth Group at other times, so please check the calendar below and your email for important dates.

A brief teacher orientation will take place on September 3rd at 12:15, or after the Labor Day work hour. Thank you to all the people- new and old- who have signed up to teach and assist in our program this year. If you haven't yet signed up but would like to join us, let me know. I am looking forward to the year ahead!

Children and Youth Programs for 2017-18:

- Infant to 4 yrs.- *Nursery* - Our childcare providers create a warm environment for younger children and babies to play

- Pre-K to K - *Spirit Play* - A Montessori-style story-based exploration of spirituality and the big life questions. *Spirit play guides and materials will be available as the need arises, to supplement free play. We are planting the seeds to grow this unique new program for our youngest ones throughout the year.

- 1st - 5th grade - *Harry Potter and UU 101* - A social justice faith in action curriculum based on the books by J.K. Rowling. We are working closely with the

Social Justice committee on this program to plan intergenerational social action.

● 6th- 10th grade - *Harry Potter and UU 102*- This class follows the same curriculum as the 101 class but takes a deeper look at the complexities and causes of social issues (while also having fun with wands, sorting hats, potions, and charms!).

● 7th- 12th grade - *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* is a highly acclaimed lifespan sexuality education program and essential part of UU congregations. OWL for youth in grades 7-9 will take place once a month on Sunday afternoons throughout the year beginning in October. A mandatory Parents' Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 17th at 12:30 PM. OWL for grades 10-12 will happen concurrently in the winter months only. Both classes are open to both UU and non-UU youth.

● 8th - 12th grade - *Youth Ministry* – Our kick-off youth group meeting is planned for Saturday evening, September 16th from 6-8 PM. We will be creating our covenant and visioning the year ahead.

September 10	All Ages Opening Worship Service
17	RE (Religious Education) classes begin
24	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Help us serve the congregation in more ways! The Long Island Area Council is offering a leadership training day on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the UU Fellowship at Stony Brook. It goes from 9:30am to 4pm. Breakfast and lunch are available. The cost is \$20. Childcare is available if requested in advance. Look over the workshops at the registration page: <http://tinyurl.com/LIAC092017>

Topics are: communication, conflict resolution, governance, membership, pastoral care, social justice, stewardship/finances, RE and worship - the role of the worship associate.

We can carpool to attend - see Emily.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

The board of trustees is excited to begin the congregational year with the addition of two new board members: Emily Kratzer and Barrie Peterson. I thank the board for their confidence in electing me as chair this year and look forward to working with Hillary Torres as vice chair. A big challenge facing us this fall is replacing our longtime tenant in the RE building. We are continuing to work with a local realtor to find a financially stable non-profit organization that is a good fit with our UU values and would like to rent the space. Susan Brunelli has been the point person representing the board in this effort, and we appreciate all the time and energy she has invested.

Diane Bennett

TREASURER'S NEWS

Welcome back to all who were away this summer. This is an EMERGENCY PLEA: The Bd. of Trustees has been working diligently to find a new renter for the RE building. We have had no rent since April (and that was reduced). This rent is a full one third of our budget. With that in mind, it would be very helpful if pledges can be paid on time or early. We are experiencing a cash flow problem until a new renter is found.

The Bd. of Trustees has voted to use the mid-monthly collection for the Martin Luther King Center again this year. They are in need, as they have tried to fill in the gap for the East Ramapo school district.

Barbara Francis, Treas.

FALL EQUINOX

Please join us Friday Evening September 22nd 6:30-8:30pm for our Fall Equinox Celebration and Shamanic Fire Ceremony with Mikki Baloy and friends. We will celebrate the turning of the seasons and prepare to release any energies that are ready to go. Please dress for the weather and bring a dish or non-alcoholic drink to share. Drums welcome!

FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING

Do you have an idea for a new fundraiser that would really help UUCR's bottom line? Or maybe you want to participate in a regional or national UU event and need some financial help to make it happen. We're happy to announce that Emily Kratzer has taken on the role of fundraising liaison for the board of trustees. If you have any questions, or want someone to brainstorm with, please reach out to her.

Remember that any fundraising that takes place in our building, is promoted through our website or Facebook page, or uses the UUCR name, needs to be approved first by the board of trustees. Just fill out the fundraising request form, which is available on our website (click on "search" and then type in "fundraising"), or you can get a paper copy from Emily or in the office. Then return the completed form to Emily or any member of the board. Since the board only meets once a month, please give us plenty of lead time if possible to consider your request.

Planning ahead means we can coordinate with our treasurer on the best way to handle depositing funds raised, we won't have two events overlapping, and we won't go to the same group of people too often asking for financial support. We can prioritize our needs as a congregation and work cooperatively to achieve our goals. Thanks to Emily for taking this on, and here's to many successful fundraisers!

Diane Bennett

SEPTEMBER GREETERS

Sept. 3 - Emily Kratzer

Sept. 10 - Roberta Chang and Emily Kratzer

Sept. 17 - Geraldine Shaw and Seamus Gallagher

Sept. 24 - Trudy Pojman and Elaine Aldrich

SERVICE AUCTION

Oct. 21, 2017 6:30 to ?

UUCR

** Food ** Entertainment ** Service Donations **
** Unique Items **

All funds collected support the UUCR

Our last service auction was more than 10 years ago. It's time for another! Have fun and support our congregation, while you find that special item or service you need.

Are you willing to solicit services and items from local businesses and from our membership? If so, please contact Diane Bennett dbennett@alum.dartmouth.org.

If you have a service or an item to offer, Diane wants to know that too. We will be preparing a catalog of donations to be bid on.

For those who don't know, a service donation could be:

"Will cook a gourmet dinner for two", "Will drive you to and from the airport", "Free week's stay at a lakeside cottage", or "Half price on dinner at Marcello's in Suffern".

Unique items could be jewelry (designed by you or someone else), paintings, ceramics and more. Less unique items are welcome too. Do you have a new microwave oven sitting in your basement? Someone else may be looking for that exact model.

We will contact you soon to discuss possible donations.

Diane Bennett, Jane Cowan, Trudy Pojman,
Harry Shair, and Debbie Shaw

