

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

October 2017

Vol. 51, #1

Editor: Mary Holdampf

Oct. 1, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner
Nurturing Nature through Awe and Wonder

Humans have a great capacity to nurture themselves, and all of nature. In this era of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and polarized political processes, many lack the resilience and tools to nurture themselves, let alone care for the many that need our urgent and focused presence. One way we can nurture ourselves and grow our compassion for ourselves and others is to develop our ecological intelligence through the practices of awe and wonder. Rev. Kim will lead a small group discussion of the First Principle Project after the service (see announcement on page 3).

Coordinator: Harry Shair

Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m. tba

Please check website for upcoming announcement.

Coordinator: Des Shaw

Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
White Supremacy Teach-In

Last spring in response to events in the nation and at the UUA, our congregation joined with over 700 other UU congregations in a teach-in about white supremacy. This service will continue the conversation with special attention to the characteristics of white supremacy culture, those invisible ways of thinking and being that perpetuate racism. Please read the articles in the fall issue of the *UU World* magazine for a review of last spring's teach-ins and updates on new developments.

Coordinator: Harr Shair

(Potluck)

Oct. 22, 10:30 a.m. Mikki Bolay
Nature of Grief

What we call grief here in the West is actually part a wide spectrum of experiences that includes bereavement, outrage, disappointment, and shame: often the feelings we try hardest to hide. By contrast, ancestral wisdom teaches us that grief is a vital energy in need of *shared* expression. Whether our sadnesses are private or part of a collective outpouring, accepting and witnessing our tenderness can be a sacred practice, one that ultimately deepens our capacity for joy. This Sunday, Mikki recounts what tribal elders have imparted about the nature and function of grief, and why it deserves to be honored.

Coordinator: Rob Young

Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. Terri Pahucki
and Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Days of the Dead

We miss those who have died, grieve their loss, and remember the joy they brought us. Many cultures and religious traditions set aside a day or a season every year to celebrate the dead: in Mexico, Dia de los Muertos; in western Christianity, All Saints Day and All Souls Day; among pagans, Samhain. In this inter-generational service, we will explore these different holidays, and observe the UUCR tradition of sharing our personal remembrances. Bring a picture or other memento of your beloved who has passed away and share a few words of your grief and your joy.

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH REV. DAWN AND WHY YOU MIGHT WANT TO

Every Wednesday afternoon from 3 until 6, I come to my office at UUCR to keep my weekly office hours. I'm available to meet with any member who wants to get together with me during this time. Occasionally I spend part of my office hours visiting a member at home or in the hospital, so if you want to be sure I'll be at the church, it's a good idea to let me know ahead of time.

You can call me at home (845-419-5323) or leave a message for me at the church office (845-354-1789) or send me an e-mail (dawnsangrey@gmail.com). In addition to these hours at the office, I'm available between 9 AM and 9 PM on e-mail and by phone for church business and pastoral care six days a week. Thursday is my day off. In an emergency, you can contact me anytime.

During my office hours, I usually spend some time with Mary Holdampf, the congregation's administrator. We put the finishing touches on the order of service for Sunday if it's one of the Sundays I'm preaching, and we check in with each other about whatever the congregation might need. Sometimes people just come by, and we visit.

As many of you know, I am a part-time consulting minister with a year-to-year contract. Recently Diane Bennett, chair of the Board of Trustees (BOT), and I signed this year's contract, which includes a "memorandum of anticipated duties" for the minister.

First on the duties list is preparing and conducting two Sunday services a month, and second is working with the BOT and Board of Worship (BOW). The third item asks me to "provide pastoral care...hold scheduled office hours... and be available by telephone and e-mail for consultation on UUCR business or with members seeking counsel or support."

Pastoral care includes everything from visiting someone in the hospital to sitting with a member in the office and chewing over something in their personal life that's bothering them. I'm not a therapist, but I can help you find one. All conversations with the minister are confidential, and you can be sure that I won't talk about our meeting with anyone else unless I have your permission.

The BOT has engaged me to be your minister so that I can help care for the people in the congregation. I share this responsibility with lay pastoral caregivers,

members of the congregation who also provide support for those in need.

I look forward to seeing you this year at the Sunday service and perhaps during my office hours. We might even go out for lunch.

Blessings.
Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister
dawnsangrey@gmail.com 845-419-5323

RE NEWS

October has arrived, and our Religious Education classes are full of magic! Harry Potter and UU houses are making wands, learning charms, and making plans to confront the oppression of our world with the power of love. To fight the first horcrux-- Illiteracy-- RE classes will be collecting new and gently-used children's books over the next few weeks, to help children most in need have access to books and learn to love reading. Our children will share more about this project in an upcoming service and have a box for collecting books near the entrance. We welcome donations of your favorite children's books!

We also welcome the whole community to join us for a Harry Potter Potluck and Movie Night on Saturday, November 4th. We will be watching the movie *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The potluck starts at 5PM. Please save the date and join us!

Our Whole Lives classes, youth group activities, and an intergenerational service to remember the dead are also part of our October magic. 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.

In faith,
Terri Pahucki

October 1	RE classes
8	Children's Worship Service, RE classes
15	RE classes
22	RE classes
29	All Ages Worship Service- <i>Days of the Dead</i>

FIRST PRINCIPLE PROJECT

Join a discussion of the First Principle Project on Oct. 1 after the service!

The Vision of the First Principle Project

Understanding the inherent worth and dignity of every being, Unitarian Universalists live deeply in joy and compassion, nourishing themselves as they nurture, care for, and protect the many others in a multispecies world.

Supporters of the First Principle Project propose altering our First Principle from "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote... The inherent worth and dignity of every *person*... To...The inherent worth and dignity of every *being*..."

The UUA Board at General Assembly June 2017 announced that it will appoint a Study Commission to look at possible changes to our Principles and Purposes. LoraKim Joyner will lead a small group discussion of the First Principle Project after her service on Oct. 1. All are welcome.

LABOR OF LOVE

Labor Sunday worshipers worked around our building to prepare it for the coming worship year. Then on Monday, a few returned to do some outdoor work, to make up for the rainy Sunday. Credit for all that work goes to Harry Shair, Mike Steger, Ray Ahmadi, Ken d'Oronzio, Rev. Dawn, Hillary and Luis Torres, Denise Waithe, Rob and Laurie Young, Sarah Wade, Michelle Solomon, Susan Brunelli, Emily Kratzer, Terri Pahucki, Trudy Pojman and Nel Hubbard. The "Young ones," Maggie and Zach, plus Elise Pahucki helped prepare aids that will be used with the Harry Potter curriculum in Religious Education.

TREASURER'S NEWS

Sept. ends our first quarter of the fiscal year. We are still without a renter in the school building, so keeping pledges current is very helpful. Many of you have heeded the call!

This month we were in receipt of the bequest of the Charlotte Gross estate. We hesitate to use that money to fill holes in our budget, but that may become necessary.

B. Francis, Treas.

REV. DAWN WANTS TO GIVE YOU CHOCOLATE

For the next few Sundays or until things improve a lot, I will be giving out chocolate to everyone who is in the worship room five minutes before the service begins. Here's why. This year I've noticed that too many people in the congregation have reverted to their old bad habits of coming late to the service. The first two Sundays, only a handful of people were in the worship room at 10:30, and people trickled in shamelessly for the next half hour.

What happens when people arrive after the service starting time:

1. the worship coordinator has to decide if he/she is going to begin on time or wait. Waiting seems sensible and polite, but it's a dark rabbit hole since not starting on time leads to more and more lateness over time. After this last Sunday, I will prevail upon the coordinator to start on time *no matter what*.

2. Those who do come on time have to put up with all those who enter after the service begins as these latecomers come in chatting, push their way to the center of the row of chairs, shuffle around, get their hymnals, lean over to ask what's happening, silence their cell phones, etc. etc.

3. In those minutes between only a few bodies in the room and more people, the speaker, who has toiled long and hard over a message, feels disheartened and wonders why nobody came. *Why did I ever say I would do this? What was I thinking? Why doesn't this congregation support the people who speak?*

It is not that hard to be on time. You just have to try. I know we all have complications and children and partners who dilly dally and traffic and all the rest, but in the end, we are talking about a little extra effort in return for the reward of knowing you are doing the right thing, being polite to your fellow congregants and those who are offering the service, and setting a good example. Please come to the service on time. I will give you chocolate. Thanks!

HELPING HANDS NEWS

The Helping Hands benefit dinner will take place at Town & Country on Rte. 9w in Congers on Sunday, Nov. 5th from 4-8 p.m. Tickets will be \$100. Invitations are forthcoming, and I will keep the congregation up-to-date. Helping Hands guests will not be visiting us until the first week in December.

Barbara Francis

INVITATION TO OUR GALA AUCTION PARTY

The fall fundraising auction will be held on Saturday evening, **Oct. 21, at UUCR, (6:30 pm)** and you won't want to miss it! You'll have a chance to socialize with UUCR friends and maybe catch up with some you haven't seen for a while. We hope you'll also invite other friends, family and neighbors (adults only please) to join us so we can meet some new faces. The more the merrier!

Delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served, along with some sweet treats. We'll have beer and wine served by a professional bartender and plenty of soft drinks as well – all included in the price of your ticket.

Be sure to bring your checkbook because we'll have services and items galore for you to bid on. Why not pick up a gift certificate to try out a new restaurant? Or nab an invitation to wine and cheese party with stimulating conversation guaranteed? We'll have gorgeous hand-painted cotton designer fabrics, plants for the gardeners, jewelry, a car ski carrier and much much more. Services include a ride to the airport as well as help with your computer, with eBay sales, or with financial planning. Stays at vacation homes in Vermont and Pawling will also be on the auction block. When you buy these items and services at our auction, every dollar goes to UUCR.

Tickets are on sale now for \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. While tickets will be available at the door, please buy your tickets in advance to help us prepare for the right number of guests. Just stop at the auction table in the back of the worship room after services. Every ticket holder at the auction will receive a Levity Live comedy club pass for two tickets to an upcoming show (subject to availability, special events not included). See you at the auction!

The UUCR auction committee
Diane Bennett, Jane Cowan, Trudy Pojman, Harry Shair, Deb Shaw

November Newsletter Deadline
October 15, 2017
6 pm

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Potluck on Oct. 15

Good food and good fellowship! We plan to have the first potluck of the season after the Oct. 15 service. We will have signup sheets out on Oct. 1 and Oct. 8 to be sure that we get a nice variety of dishes.

Also, our *Circle Suppers* can begin any time a host is willing to set a date. If you are interested in hosting a small dinner party (you provide entree, guests bring the rest), let Emily Kratzer know. We hope that at least one host will have a kid-friendly environment for our families who might want to participate.

As part of our UUCR mission of caring for each other, also let Rev. Sangrey, Emily or Trudy know of anyone who is housebound or under the weather and needs a visit or a call.

The Membership Committee

OCTOBER GREETERS

10/1/2017

Sally Andriette
Alex Chase

10/8/2017

Alex Finger
Denise Waithe

10/15/2017

Roberta Chang
Emily Kratzer

10/22/2017

Seamus Gallagher
Geraldine Shaw

10/29/17

Elaine Aldrich
Trudy Pojman

*A huge thanks to
ALEX FINGER
For our brand new coffeepot!*

OCTOBER EVENTS

- Oct. 8, BOT Meeting: noon
 - Oct. 15, Potluck after the service
 - Oct. 22, Membership Meeting: noon
 - Oct. 21, Service Auction: 6:30 pm
 - Oct. 29, BOW Meeting: noon
- Al-Anon, Mondays: 9:30 am
Thursdays: 7:30 pm

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Please keep using the **amazon icon** on the right side of our home page for shopping,
www.uurocklandny.org (keep cartridges coming too!)