

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

November 2017

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

**Nov. 5, 10:30 a.m. Reverend Lucas Johnson
Acting with Faith**

Acting with faith in the midst of refugee crises, increasing prison populations, increased nuclear threats, and record breaking hurricanes.

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

**Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
On the Road from Greed to Giving**

As we approach the abundance of the holidays, let's pause to consider the disparity between the feasts on our own personal tables and the poverty and deprivation in our nation and the planet beyond. How can we feast with a good heart when so many others are without food? How can we celebrate our own good fortunes when so many lack the basic necessities of life?

Coordinator: Harry Shair

**Nov. 19, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
and the Board of Worship
Agape**

Join us for our annual AGAPE feast and celebration of gratitude and sharing. Agape has been defined by Martin Luther King Jr. as "understanding, creative, redemptive good will for all humanity... it is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return." Following the service we will share a potluck dinner.

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzo

**Nov. 26, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Allen Wells
Enjoy Living Without "Shoulds"**

We're so used to basing our morality upon "shoulds" that we may think a world without "shoulds" would be immoral. But, the reverse can be the case. We can live freely and compassionately and furthermore without guilt and blame which creates most of our problems anyway. I would also like to touch upon how so living can reduce political conflict.

Coordinator: Des Shaw

Gather together
with
Thankful Hearts

*December Newsletter Deadline
Nov. 12, 2017 6 pm*

WELCOME NOVEMBER

RE NEWS

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be Halloween time. The world of commerce is already busy turning another religious holiday into a marketing bonanza. I can remember when costumes were homemade and trick or treating was a neighborhood affair. I can remember when Halloween was for children. My mother didn't allow us to trick or treat—she thought it was begging—so I didn't get to go out on Halloween until UNICEF boxes were born, and then she let us get dressed up and take them around.

Dressing up, putting on a costume, wearing a mask—these disguises can be liberating, ways to try on alternate identities and become someone else for a night. I once dressed up for a Halloween party at our UU fellowship in Mt. Kisco as a wannabe actress, a somewhat shady lady. Her name was Tawdry Starlet. I'll leave the costume to your imagination.

It's been a curious fall season so far: mostly warmer than usual with cool and misty mornings that warm into pleasant, sunny afternoons. Here in the Hudson River Valley the fall foliage has been subdued because of less rain than usual and so far (I'm writing on October 15), no frost.

In other parts of the country, climate change has contributed to the extremes in weather predicted years ago: violent hurricanes and terrible fires. Closer to home we witness a more subtle shift.

November can be an unsettling time as the days grow shorter and the harvest is gathered in. We pause on the brink to catch our breath and settle into the stillness. Soon enough we will turn our attention to the remaining holidays: Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, the Solstice, and Christmas.

In this time of growing darkness, let us consider how we can engage these days with thoughtfulness, gratitude, and deep joy. Our community of faith offers us opportunity and challenge: the opportunity to look deeply into our customs and the challenge to be faithful to our values and principles. Together we will find the balance.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister
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845-419-5323

Thank you to everyone who joined us in fighting the Illiteracy Horcrux in October! The Harry Potter and UU classes collected eight pairs of children's pajamas and twenty-four new books for the Pajama Program and their Reading Centers, which serve children in shelters in New York and throughout the United States. We also collected many gently-used books for the UUCR Little Free Library. You may have noticed our children decorating and painting this yellow and purple box outside on the picnic tables. This is our Little Free Library which we will be setting up on UUCR property soon. Everyone is invited to take a book and leave a book in exchange. The library will be listed in a general website directory and available to the larger community for use. For more information, see <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>.

In November, we turn our attention to the issues of Hunger and Poverty. Look for announcements about how you can help us address these issues in the coming month. We also invite you to join us on Saturday, November 4th for an intergenerational potluck and movie night. We will be watching the movie *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The potluck starts at 5PM.

Thank you to everyone who made, sold, and bought soup during the month of October! All the proceeds of our soup sales benefit the Religious Education program.

In faith,
Terri

November 5	Children's Worship Service, RE classes
12	RE classes
19	All Ages Worship Service- <i>Agape</i>
26	Special Children's Program



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We care about you!



Do you have a special care, concern or joy that we should know about? The Membership Committee, working with Rev. Sangrey, extends to you all the invitation to share life events with us so that your larger caring community can be there for you. We know that some people prefer to keep such things private and not share with the group, and we respect that as well. But we can't give you hugs if we don't know what is happening.

Circle Suppers!

If you would like to host a Circle Supper in your home, let us know. Pick a day and time, indicate if your event is child- or youth-friendly, and we will put a sign-up sheet out in the worship room. The host prepares a main dish and the guests bring sides, salads or dessert. While the host decides the number of guests, typically about 6 guests attend. Or, if you prefer, host a Circle Wine & Cheese Night, or a Circle Dessert & Coffee event. Circle Suppers are a wonderful way to get to know folks in the congregation on a more personal basis. To make arrangements, contact Emily Kratzer.

NOVEMBER GREETERS

11/5/2017

Sally Andriette
Alex Chase

11/12/2017

Alex Finger
Denise Waithe

11/19/2017

Roberta Chang
Emily Kratzer

11/25/2017

Seamus Gallagher
Geraldine Shaw



*MANY THANKS TO
SALLY ANDRIETTE*

REIMBURSEMENT RECAP

Often when you make a purchase on behalf of UUCR, you can have an invoice mailed to the office, or just give the bill to our treasurer, Barbara Francis. She can then pay directly. But sometimes you may need to pay for something upfront and then ask for reimbursement. Here's the way to handle those situations.

A reimbursement request form is available in the office, on top of the mailboxes. Fill out the form and attach your receipt(s), which should have the business name, date and amount spent printed on them. Just leave the form in the treasurer's mailbox and soon you'll have your check! Our tax-exempt form is also available in the office and should be used for UUCR purchases. If you don't use the form, the sales tax is on you, because it can't be reimbursed.

Receipts should be submitted as soon as possible so that boards and committees can keep track of how much money remains of their budgeted funds. The board of trustees has adopted a policy that receipts should be submitted within one month of when expenses are incurred. If there's a problem with that time frame, speak with the treasurer and request another month. However, because we close our books at the end of the fiscal year, all receipts must be submitted by June 30 of the fiscal year in which expenses are incurred.

If you have overlooked some receipts and find them after June 30, please consider those purchases to be additional donations from you (separate from your pledge) to UUCR for your tax purposes. The treasurer can provide a letter documenting these donations if you need one. If you have any questions about this policy, please talk with any member of the board of trustees, or our treasurer.

HELPING HANDS NEWS

TREASURER'S NEWS

Our Helping Hands guests will be with us in early December. The Dates are Thurs. and Fri. Dec. 7 & 8. The sign-up sheets will be in the Worship Room in early November. Please remember that the Helping Hands basket is always out on the table at coffee hour. Remember that your donations there are collected over months and then sent as a contribution to the Helping Hands organization.

Our first quarter for the fiscal year ended on Sept. 30. It has been helpful and critical that so many of you have been paying your pledges early. We still do not have a renter for the RE Building which is approximately one third of our budget. At the end of the first quarter, our expenses exceeded our income by over \$7400. This is quite a short-fall for our small organization.

Barbara Francis, Treas.

It is another way for you to assist our County homeless. Do remember that Rockland County is the ONLY county in NYS without a homeless shelter for men

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

PROMISES KEPT!!

RE Movie Night: Nov. 4, 5-8 pm
BOT: Nov. 12, Noon
Yoga with Roseanne: Thursdays, 12-1 pm
Al-Anon: Mondays, 9:30 am
Thursdays, 7:30 pm

Auction Party promised:

Food * Entertainment * Services * Unique Items
(All funds collected support the UUCR)



“It was a magical evening” said Bill Chase as he lit a candle at the Sunday Service.

The magic was evident even before entering the building. Lights illuminated the pathway. The paintings of Allan Avery graced the walls once you were inside.

The second UUCR service auction of this millennium was held last night to the great enjoyment of all who attended. Ten tables were set up with services and valuables for a silent auction. Six special items stimulated bidding during a live auction. Two tables were loaded with delicious food from A.J.'s Catering of Pearl River. Another table provided wine, Defiant Brewery beer and soft drinks, expertly served by Cory Shair, former RE participant and now head bartender at an NYC restaurant. George Rigney provided just the right mix of musical accompaniment and musical entertainment to the event. Carlos Barrett delighted us all with his fine singing in English and Portuguese.



There are too many highlights to mention them all, but here is a sampling:

- The most spirited bidding was for Rev. Dawn's offer to preach a service on a topic chosen by the winner.
- Janet Avery and her family came and received a multitude of compliments on the exhibition of Allan Avery's paintings.
- When 2 bidders competed to rent Barrie Peterson's lake house, he generously offered to let each of them have a week. Barrie also won the 50/50 raffle but donated his winnings back to the congregation!
- Cory Shair donated the contents of her tip jar to the cause.
- Everyone seemed to have a great time.
- Although the total is not yet fixed as not all expenses have been submitted, the event earned at least \$4000 (and probably more than \$5000).



The event was a group project with many people involved by making donations; soliciting donations from local businesses; organizing the event; setting it up; and cleaning up afterwards. Again, there are too many to acknowledge all of them, but we must single out the Auction committee for special praise. Jane Cowan, Trudy Pojman, Harry Shair, and Debbie Shaw worked hard under the leadership of Diane Bennett. Diane deserves special credit as she kept track of all the details and created the catalog using a software package that she taught the rest to use. (see p.5 for pictures)

Magical Night

