

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND**

**130 Concklin Road, Pomona, NY 10970**

**Office (845) 354-1789,**

**www.uurocklandny.org**

**e-mail: administrator@uurocklandny.org**



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## THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

**December 2017**

**Vol. 51, #4**

**Editor: Mary Holdampf**

**Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m.**

**Tom Kelley**

### **Growth**

Tom Kelley, local men's coach and facilitator of growth in boys and men, will be speaking about the troubling state of manhood in today's world. He will lead us in an exploration of how men can be caring, compassionate, and trusted while fully expressing their masculinity.

**Coordinator: Tricia Larkin**

**Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Dawn Sangrey**

### **The Seven Social Sins**

Rev. Sangrey will reflect on sin in Unitarian Universalism and provide some context for Mahatma Gandhi's Seven Social Sins: wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; religion without sacrifice; politics without principle; and business without ethics. The Board of Worship has selected Gandhi's sins as their 2017-2018 theme. Each BOW member will develop a service on one of the sins in turn throughout the year. Des Shaw offered Religion Without Sacrifice in October.

**Coordinator: Rob Young**

**Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m.**

**RE Team**

### **Holiday Happening**

This year, our intergenerational service will take inspiration from our Religious Education program's Harry Potter-themed curriculum. We will explore the magic of the holidays: how we can put love and light into the world to make it a better place. After a shortened service featuring some great music, we will adjoin to take pictures, decorate the Christmas tree, and make some magical crafts. Great fun for all ages!

**Coordinator: Jane Cowan**

**Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.**

**Rev. Dawn Sangrey**

### **Christmas Eve**

Join us at 6PM for our traditional Christmas Eve observance. We will sing carols and light candles and hear the ancient stories of the season.

**Coordinator: Des Shaw**

**Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m.**

**Jane Cowan**

### **Welcome 2018!**

Join us the morning of New Year's Eve for a worship service dedicated to welcoming the New Year. Service will include a Meditation, a talk on Buddhism, and a Puja Ceremony. Let go of what no longer serves you and ask for what you would like to bring in!

**Coordinator: Harry Shair**

**January Newsletter Deadline  
December 10, 2018, 6 pm**

# NASTURTITIUM

All through October and into the warm November days, the nasturtiums in my garden just kept blooming—bright orange flowers and abundant silver-green foliage spilling into the corners of the little bed by the porch where I have been growing things. And then we finally had a real frost, and overnight they were limp green rags, flopping down to cover the ground. Well, the frost was overdue, and we know that winter is coming.

When I went out to pull up the dead plants, spread underneath the frozen leaves, I found what looked like brown furrowed peas, tossed all over the ground. Seeds! Even in their death, the nasturtiums left the promise of abundant life to come. I took them up and set them on trays to dry.

In these seasons of harvest after the crops have been gathered in, the fields lie fallow, but this is not the end of the story. It's just the next chapter as the wheel turns. Soon more cold and darkness, and then the slow move toward more light and eventual spring. I will save the seeds until the ground is warm again. Life wants to live. Beauty wants to go on. Nothing is lost.

Our congregation is full of life this fall. We had a splendid service auction party—a boost for our spirits and our bank account. The children and their families are deep into Harry Potter with a fabulous movie night and fighting the Hunger Horcrux with Thanksgiving Boxes for families in need. The Board of Trustees enjoyed a Saturday retreat with time for planning and dreaming. The Board of Worship selected their theme for the year and engaged Susan Buffington to play the piano for some of our services.

We continue to be challenged financially because of the loss of our renter. End-of-the-year donations are especially welcome this year.

Because of the early darkness, I've moved my office hours to 2 to 5 PM on Wednesdays. Please be in touch if you need help or just want to talk.

It is a blessing to serve you, and I am grateful.

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

# RE NEWS

*Now is the moment of magic*, writes Rev. Victoria Safford, in a blessing that lifts up the many holidays of light and miracle that mark the month of December. Magic is all around us this month, if we only open our eyes to it. On December 18th, we invite you to join our RE classes for our annual Holiday Happening Intergenerational Service. Who better to lead us in a holiday celebration of magic than our young Harry Potter and UU magicians in training?

We will continue to use our magic to fight horcruxes (a Harry Potter term which we are using to mean social injustices) this month. Thank you to everyone for your help in addressing Hunger in November! We collected several bags of food items and gift cards for Thanksgiving Baskets to be assembled and distributed by Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley to families in need. In December, we will be working to challenge Poverty. A youth group member suggested a project supporting the Nyack Homeless Project. We will be collecting new and slightly used winter coats, hats, and gloves for men, women, children and teens at UUCR through December 17th. The youth group will be coordinating the drive and all are invited to attend a Donations Sorting Party on December 24th from 9:30-1 at the Auditorium for the Performing Arts at Nyack College.

In addition, we continue our annual collection for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through Guest at Your Table. Donations support the UUSC's work to advance human rights worldwide. Boxes may be returned at the Christmas Eve service, or anytime through December 31st.

## December RE Calendar

December 3	Children's Worship Service RE Classes
10	RE Classes
17	Intergenerational Service <i>Holiday Happening</i>
24	No RE
31	All Ages Class

Terri Pahucki  
[dre@uurocklandny.org](mailto:dre@uurocklandny.org)

## TREASURER'S NEWS

Many thanks to the Auction Committee who raised \$6200 for our lean budget. It was a special night of fun, good food and socializing! I also want to thank all of you who have paid your pledges early, on time and even extra, to help us get through this tight financial period. We are hoping to have a new school rental by next year.

Barbara Francis

## HELPING HANDS NEWS

As many of you know by now, the Helping Hands format has changed. The guests will no longer be staying at the various houses of worship, but be housed in Bldg. D at the Health complex in Pomona at the Warming Center. This is beneficial to the clients, as they will not have to go from place to place all winter.

We will continue to be active with the HH organization. We are asked to work at Bldg. D from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. during our assigned evenings. We will be serving food and assisting in the clean-up, but especially in interacting with the guests. This is a new and exciting role for all involved.

To work at the county facility, all volunteers must be 'vetted'. Many of you have already filled out the paperwork. Anyone else wishing to volunteer, obtain paperwork from me, and I will get it to the proper channels.

Our first scheduled dates are Thurs. and Fri., Dec. 7 and 8.

## FALL AUCTION PARTY

We are happy to announce that, at press time, our fall fundraising auction party had netted \$6,200 for UUCR. The final total will be slightly higher as we have a few payments still trickling in for late items. This great news is due to the hard work of the auction committee and many others who volunteered to help with decorating, set-up, clean-up, entertainment, and other aspects of the event; those who donated items and services to be auctioned; and those who bid generously in the silent and live auctions.

Besides the income, we also had some intangible "results." Those who attended enjoyed great food and drinks, heard some fine music, shared laughs and conversations with friends new and old, admired our building bedecked in beautiful lights and fall decorations, and strengthened our community ties.

## DECEMBER GREETERS

12/3/2017

Elaine Aldrich  
Trudy Pojman

12/10/2017

Sally Andriette  
Alex Chase

12/31/17

Seamus Gallagher  
Geraldine Shaw

12/17/2017e

Alex Finger  
Denise Waithe

12/24/2017

Roberta Chang  
Emily Kratzer

*Holiday Barista*  
*Geraldine Shaw*



## BOT NEWS

The board of trustees meets monthly to conduct the business of the congregation. Approved minutes of those meetings will now be made available on the back bulletin board in the worship room. Please feel free to pick up a copy so you can stay well-informed about the board's activities.





**Dec. 9, 3 – 4:30 pm**

Bring your special sweets to share. Enjoy an hour of exchanging pleasantries and perhaps some new cookie recipes – a great way to start the holiday season!

## DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- Dec. 3, 12:30-5 p.m. OWL Workshop
- Dec. 9, 3-4:30 p.m. Cookie Exchange
- Dec. 10, Noon BOT Meeting
- Dec. 16, 5-2 a.m. Solstice Celebration
- Dec. 17, 6-9 p.m. Solstice Celebration (UUCR)
- Dec. 30, 2:00 p.m. Edward Bleich Memorial Service
- Al-Anon meets on Mondays at 9:30 a.m.  
on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
- Yoga class meets on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.



Santa respectfully requests that you use the amazon icon on [www.uurocklandny.org](http://www.uurocklandny.org) for all your holiday gifts.



## EDITOR'S TIDBITS

May you all enjoy your family traditions: religious or secular.



**Christmas** – commemorates birth of Jesus Christ – this annual festival commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, and is observed most commonly on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world



**Hanukkah** - often called the Festival of Lights - the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts. This holy day commemorates the rededication, or reopening, of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century B.C.



**Kwanzaa** - celebration of Family, Community and Culture - each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the seven principles, and on each day a candle representing a specific principle is lit.

I wish all my readers very joyous and peace-filled holidays. I am spending Christmas with my family which now totals 22: from 1 year to 80 years!! Then it's off to Panama and Colombia where I expect to continue my traveling adventures.

