

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m.

Rob Young

Board Theme: Politics without Principle

Gandhi said, "If there is no principle, there is no true north, nothing you can depend upon." More often than not we see elected officials focus on their party above principle or country. Join us on February 4th as we jump into the deep end of the swamp and figure out how we can Make Politics Principled Again.

Coordinator: Harry Shair

Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Not a Valentine. A Muscle

Valentine's Day is over, but the world still needs love. If we believe that love is the answer to the world's indifference and the world's evil, what prevents us from being more loving? What stops us from exercising the muscle of our loving heart in the world? What keeps us from doing more good? Why can't we put saving the world on our agenda?

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio

Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m

**Terri Pahucki
& RE Team**

Share the Love Sunday

We join Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide in celebrating courageous love and justice on this day. After the service, we will continue to share the love by making valentines for homebound congregants.

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

Feb. 25, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey

The Family As Metaphor

Speaking about their UU congregation, some folks say, "I love it. It's just like a family." They mean the good kind of family, of course. The family where everyone is loving and kind and helpful. Let's explore the appeal and the limitations of this metaphor for congregational life.

Coordinator: Rob Young



WHY AREN'T WE GROWING?

One of my new neighbors at Woodland Pond is a woman who plants flowering bulbs in pots and puts them around in the public spaces for everyone to enjoy. After the holidays, a pot of white tulips sprouted and bloomed outside her apartment door. Right now among her gifts is a spectacular collection of five blood-red amaryllis in one big pot, stems close, blossoms merging into a bouquet. She put them in a sunny window in the hallway on the way to the community center. Just in case you were getting a little discouraged by all this cold and snow.

The bulbs are self-contained: set them in soil, add water and light, and the flowers come. This congregation is like that: full of potential for growth.

Last year at the Board of Trustees retreat, the board and I were looking toward the future, and someone asked, "Why aren't we growing?" UUCR is the only Unitarian Universalist congregation in Rockland County. I have no doubt there are hundreds of people in a thirty-mile radius who need our life-giving message. How can we reach out to them and invite them in?

UUCR has been here on Concklin Road for more than 60 years, fat years and lean years. At one time the congregation had over a hundred members and so many children they had to put up another building for religious education. Nowadays you are smaller, and another board member at that same retreat said, "Our mission is to survive."

Well, yes. But what do you need to bloom?

Congregational growth takes many forms. Getting more people to walk in the door is no easy matter, and inviting the ones who come to become a part of our community can also be a challenge. Increasing your numbers isn't the only way to grow, of course. The members who are here now can grow in many ways: by learning more about our UU beliefs and values, by studying white supremacy, by nurturing your spiritual lives, by joining with others to work for justice.

There's no one answer.

I am encouraged by the stirrings of new growth in BAGGIT (Building and Grounds Informal Task Force) where plans are afoot to refurbish the bell tower this spring. Improving our curb appeal will go a long way toward making us more attractive to the hundreds? thousands? of people who drive past our property every day.

The Social Justice Committee is learning how other small congregations have made a difference through the Love Resists campaign, a UUA program for creating safer, more just, welcoming, and sustainable communities. Check it out at lovesresists.com. And stay tuned.

UUCR's Religious Education program continues to thrive with the Harry Potter curriculum and Our Whole Lives (OWL). Our youth are active in conferences and workshops at the regional and national level.

Individuals can also make a difference. You could bring a friend to a worship service. You could say yes to the nominating committee. You could increase your pledge.

After the Christmas Eve service I was introduced to a woman who said she had been a friend of the congregation for many years. "What are you doing to grow this congregation?" she asked me rather fiercely. "If we don't grow, we're going to die." I appreciated her concern and her confidence in me, but the question is misplaced. Ministers don't grow congregations. Congregations do.

May we bloom and grow together.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister

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RE NEWS



*We're going to Kansas City ...
Kansas City here we come! GA 2018*

Religious Education Classes are taking on the hatred horcux in the month of February. Sadly, we have seen an increase in hate crimes in the United States over the past couple years, aimed at people of different nationalities, religions, races, and sexual orientations. Our Love Army is getting ready to fight back. Join us on February 11th as we join with UU congregations nationwide to Share the Love, a program of Side with Love. This interfaith public advocacy campaign promotes respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person by confronting issues of exclusion, oppression, and violence based on identity.

The RE Committee, parents, and youth will be selling soup, quiche, muffins and other goodies in the month of February. Sales will go to support UUCR youth participation in the UU-UNO Intergenerational Seminar. This year's UU-UNO event will take place from April 5-7 and is focused on the global refugee crisis. I am serving as a chaplain for this event, and Max Solomon-Frye is senior youth dean. Please support other youth who hope to join us by purchasing food after services.

The UUA General Assembly (GA) will take place June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri, and it's not too early to make plans to attend. There will be workshops, lectures, exhibits, worship and witness opportunities, as well as business sessions and programming for children and youth. Spending time with over 4,000 enthusiastic and engaged UUs from around the country while taking part in the amazing GA programs is a wonderful way to grow in your UU faith.

The registration fee is \$395 for adults, \$225 for high-school youth, free for children. If that sounds too steep, note that a wide range of volunteer assignments are available for adults and youth, who get **free registration** in exchange and still have plenty of time to participate in GA activities. A number of scholarships and matching grants are available through the UUA as well. Applications for volunteer work and financial assistance are only accepted from **March 1 to 31**. Detailed information is available at the UUA website, UUA.org/GA. There is also some money in the UUCR budget targeted for leadership activities that would be available to help with registration fees.

UUCR is eligible to send two voting delegates to GA. If you are interested in attending and might want to be a delegate, please speak with any member of the board of trustees. There are always a number of resolutions, amendments, etc. to be voted on at GA, and it would be great to have our congregational voice represented in the voting.

More information about housing, travel and other details is available at UUA.org/GA. Please check it out!
Diane Bennett

February Schedule

Feb. 4	RE classes, CWS (children's worship service)
Feb. 11	All Ages Worship Service – <i>Share the Love</i>
Feb. 18	RE classes
Feb. 25	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Help us welcome worshipers! The Membership Committee will switch over to one lead greeter starting in February. Each greeter will contact a congregation member the week before to help them greet. The Membership greeter can escort new visitors to the nametag/card box and return to the door to assist the congregation member.

- Feb. 4, RE Meeting, 9:15 am
Membership: Noon
- Feb. 11, BOT Meeting: Noon
- Feb. 18, Potluck after service
- Feb. 24, Private event
Al-anon: Mondays at 9:30 am
Yoga: Thursdays from 12 to 1 pm

FEBRUARY GREETERS

- Feb. 4, Geraldine Shaw
- Feb. 11, Emily Kratzer
- Feb. 18, Sally Andriette
- Feb. 25, Elaine Aldrich

VACATION OVER! Colombia & Panama Definite "must sees"

It's good to be back on US soil! My vacation was indeed an adventure this year & filled with a few mishaps. My friend with whom I was traveling was deported back to the US from Colombia due to invalid documentation. Fortunately she was able to complete the Panama segment, and so we have that memory. In Panama a boating accident resulted in a few injuries, although I managed to escape that casualty at the last minute. However, I was left in the jungle after a night safari on the river looking for wildlife! I managed and now feel like Wonder Woman!!

My favorite times involved meeting people and using my limited Spanish to communicate more personally. In Medellin, Colombia the transformation of Comuna 13 to a thriving viable neighborhood was a testament to the imagination and resilience of its inhabitants. The outdoor escalators and metro cable with their spectacular and unusual surroundings were great fun to ride on. I can't even begin to imagine the area before the escalators! The graffiti walk in Medellin was remarkable, and our guide couldn't have been more informative and enthusiastic. I very much enjoyed the Gold Museum in Bogota, but my favorite was the Museo Botero in Medellin.

All in all, it was a great trip, one I would heartily recommend to everyone. Your editor – Mary

Emily



Kratzer

UU COMMON READ

Each year, the UUA suggests books which we can all read and discuss. The books for 2017-18 are "Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry" by Mitra Rahnama and "Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want" by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen. Consider adding them to your "to read" list.

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY ♡**