

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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HAVE A HAPPY SPRING!

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

March 2018

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

March 4, 10:30 a.m.

Harry Shair

Gandhi's Seven Deadly Social Sins, #5

Science without Humanity

In college and as a doctoral student, I learned a lot about how to do science. There was even considerable discussion of the dangers of pursuing scientific questions without considering the consequences. Although no set of unambiguous rules was defined, we learned how various thinkers addressed the issue and tried to formulate our own answers (remind anyone of UU philosophy).

It is clear that if science becomes all technique and technology, it quickly degenerates into man against humanity. If all we do is superimpose technology on the same old problems, nothing basic changes. Without humanity we see precious little real human advancement. We become victims of our own technocracy. All the old inequities and injustices are still with us. About the only thing that hasn't evolved are moral and ethical principles - the true north on the compass. Science and technology have changed the face of most everything else. But the fundamental things still apply, as time goes by. (Paragraph adapted from the book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey.)

Coordinator: Des Shaw

March 11, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Nature Is Everything There Is

Nature is more than our national parks and the flowers that bloom in the spring. Everything we have, everything we are, everything we have constructed and created on this Earth comes out of the resources of the natural world. Nature is everything. It's all we've been given, and all we've got. Come celebrate all of nature as Daylight Saving Time begins and we consider what we can do to preserve and protect this precious gift.

Coordinator: Trica Larkin

March 18, 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group

**Inspiring and Supporting our Transitions,
Discoveries, and Spiritual Growth**

As a Unitarian Universalist community, we know that we need one another to inspire and support our transitions, discoveries, and spiritual growth. Unitarian Universalism offers programs, curricula, wise words, and other roads to transformative experiences across the lifespan. We support one another's growth through every age and stage. Come join us in this youth-led service where we discuss the ways we are served by UU community during different life stages.

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

April Newsletter Deadline

March 18, 6 pm

**March 25, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Pledge Drive Launch**

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the congregation who could give more money would just increase their pledge by a thousand dollars or a hundred dollars or whatever the traffic will bear, and then we could be done with raising money and get back to the real work. Why not make this the year that happens? I'll offer a sermon to encourage your thoughtful and committed generosity.

Coordinator: Rob Young

THAW/FREEZE/THAW: REPEAT

The weather in February this year was all over the place: thaw/freeze/thaw. One Saturday night the roads looked so bad the service was cancelled, and then the next morning it was beautiful. So it goes.

You never know about March. Some years it's just the first month of a lovely spring. Winter recedes without any fanfare, buds begin to show, birds return. Another year winter will hang on, blustery and cold, until April.

Local experts (two of the guys on the maintenance crew I was chatting with this morning here at Woodland Pond in New Paltz) are predicting one more big snow storm before winter relents this year. That groundhog did indeed see his shadow. The *Farmer's Almanac* suggests a "snowier than usual" month of March in the Northeast, due in part to two full moons, on March 1 and 31.

One way or another spring will come. It always has.

Those moons also influence the spring holidays, so the first night of Passover is March 30 and Easter is April 1 this year. The northern vernal equinox, aka as the spring equinox, is one of the two days each year when night and day are the same length. It's a sun-driven holiday. The dates for Passover and Easter are governed by the first full moon after the spring equinox, so they're moon-driven and variable.

Here at UUCR we have much to celebrate. Here are just a few highlights.

In addition to our continued support for the homeless through Helping Hands, the congregation is joining with the Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow as a

sponsor for Photo Requests from Solitary, images requested by prisoners held in solitary confinement. The exhibit is on March 2 and 3 at CEJES here in Pomona.

A new book group is forming to discuss the UUA 2018 Common Read selections: a collection of essays called *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry* and *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want* by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen.

UUCR has two elected governing boards, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Worship. BOT is responsible for the congregation's fiscal health so they will be preparing the 2018-2019 budget as well as discussing the terms of the minister's new contract and gearing up for the pledge drive later this month. BOW sponsors the spring equinox service on March 17 and continues their year-long series on Gandhi's Seven Social Sins.

The UU Harry Potter curriculum continues to delight the children in our Religious Education program with a monthly focus on a social justice challenge and action projects to address it. Last month's horcrux (evil to be defeated) was Hate, countered by the intergenerational service Share the Love. Our DRE, Terri Pahucki, and the RE Committee provide exemplary support.

We are moving forward in many ways, deepening our connections to each other and the world beyond our walls. So much in bud! Keep in touch for details about this good work. Ask me or your lay leaders for the information you need.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister

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HELPING HANDS

We are hosts at the Warming Center March 28 and 29 (Thurs & Fri). Sign-up sheets will go out the beginning of March. We will need meal servers and also people to donate: Desserts, large bottles of juice, cases of individual water, etc.

Bill Capowski and Barbara Francis



STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF

at the Potluck March 25

The annual stewardship campaign is almost here. This is the time of year when we ask you to consider your role as stewards to our religious home. Come to the potluck, make a generous pledge, and then enjoy the food and company.

During this current year, we saw the danger of depending on an outside source of income to sustain the UUCR. Rental of the RE building has traditionally provided about 40% of our income. This year we had no renter. The Board of Trustees had to spend its time dealing with that issue, rather than concentrating on mission, vision, and long-range planning. To survive, we cut back on expenses; organized fundraising events like the Service Auction; and spent our accumulated savings. Thus, the new roof had to be postponed... again.

Don't know much about the budget? We plan for expenses of ~\$105,000. Where does it go? Salaries for our minister, DRE, and administrator make up the largest category. Next is maintaining our buildings and grounds (~\$28,000). Office, Board of Worship, and childcare expenses cost ~\$13,000. Dues to help support the UUA, our national organization are ~\$6000. Smaller amounts go for committee expenses, publicity, training, etc.

During last year's campaign, we received 61 pledges that totaled \$62,655.00. That is approximately 60% of our needed income. For a church to be relatively secure, it is recommended that at least 80% of should come from pledges.

To reach that goal, the average pledge needs to be \$1377, an average increase of \$400 from last year. Can we do that? Why not?! An increase of \$1000 is an extra \$2.70 per day. Many of us can afford to increase our pledge the price of a cup of coffee each day. If that is too much, think about an increase of \$1.00 per day. An extra \$365 almost reaches the average increase necessary.

Remember that a budget is a moral document.

Not only our UUCR budget, but also the budget of each of us individually. Most of us have some choice about how we spend our income. Please think carefully about the importance of the UUCR and liberal religion in general. The next generation depends on us to keep these spiritual and moral traditions alive.

RE NEWS

Harry Potter and UU Classes are taking on the sickness horcrux in the month of March. There are many ways that we can work together to help children with childhood illnesses. One of those ways is by making sure the people around them are cared for and supported. A few years ago, my cousin's 2 year old child was diagnosed with leukemia and they had to make many trips out of town for treatment. They were greatly appreciative of the warm welcome and hospitality they received from Ronald McDonald House, which provides housing, support and resources to keep families near their children who are receiving care in the hospital. On March 4th, our RE kids will be selling bath salts and soup mixes that they have made in class with the goal of raising \$105 to pay for one week of a family's stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Valhalla, NY, near the Maria Ferrari Children's Hospital. Please stop by the RE children's table during coffee hour on March 4th and make a purchase or a donation to help them meet their goal, and to support a family struggling with sickness.

Our youth have also been very active and have a lot to look forward to in the coming months. Thank you to everyone who supported our food sales fundraiser in February. The funds raised will support our youth participating in the UU-UNO Intergenerational Seminar in April. In March, the UUCR is proud to be the hosts of a Youth-Adult Committee meeting which brings a group of teens from throughout the district to our space for a daylong event. Some of our youth will also be leading the service on March 18th. Thank you to Jane Cowan for her leadership with our senior high youth program this year, which has included a lot of joint programming with the UU Ridgewood/ Paramus youth group! Our junior high youth will also be attending their second youth retreat/ conference of the year on March 24-25.

March RE Schedule

March 4	RE classes, CWS (children's worship service)
11	RE classes
18	RE classes
25	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
 Director of Religious Education
 dre@uurocklandny.org

ARE YOU UU CURIOUS?

Rev. Dawn and members of the congregation will be offering an introduction to Unitarian Universalism, UUCR, and the meaning of membership on Saturday, March 31, from 9 to 1. The gathering is called "UU Curious?"

Newcomers and new members will come together with some more seasoned congregational leaders to share their spiritual journeys in an informal meeting with good conversation and some tasty refreshments.

We will talk about our theological diversity, and each person will be invited to share their religious perspective. We'll also go over some details about how the congregation works, and how UUCR relates to our larger denomination.

This UU Curious? session will also cover the rights and responsibilities of membership. Membership is open to anyone who accepts our principles and signs the membership book. The membership book will be available for anyone who wants to join UUCR.

Please consider joining us for this important conversation. Newcomers bring a fresh perspective that is essential if UUCR is going to continue to grow in spirit and effectiveness. Our community needs to hear your voice.

Rev. Dawn would also be happy to meet with you privately to answer your questions about Unitarian Universalism and the congregation at any time.

UU COMMON READ

On Sunday, March 18th after the service, Bridget Laureira will facilitate a discussion on one of the Common Read books: *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want* by Frances Moor Lappé and Adam Eichen.

TREASURER'S NEWS

Just returned from a three week trip to beautiful, interesting Vietnam! The UUCR finances are looking up now that we have a new renter. But, it will take us some time to recover from those last lean months.

Barbara Francis

SPRING EQUINOX FIRE CEREMONY

MARCH 17, 2018, 7 - 9 P.M.

Let's celebrate the Vernal Equinox-- and the end of winter-- with a fire ceremony!

Releasing the stale energies of winter and "seeding" our intentions for the new season, we'll enjoy time together with the transformational element of Fire. All are welcome! Please bring a drum or rattle if you have one, along with a vision for what good things you'd like to grow in your life. If you have trouble standing, please bring a folding chair.

We will also say a special blessing in honor of St. Patrick's Day, to honor immigrants, our ancestors, and all those who have left one home to put down roots in another.
Jane Cowan

MEMBERSHIP

March Greeters

- March 4, Nel Hubbard
- March 11, Alex Chase
- March 18, Susan Brunelli
- March 25, Alex Finger



THANKS, DENISE
WAITHE

MARCH CALENDAR

- March 3, UU Youth/Adult: 9 am – 4:30 pm
- March 11, BOT: 12 pm – 1 pm
 OWL Workshop 12:30 pm – 5 pm
- March 17, YAC Overnight
- March 18, UU Common Read: 12 pm – 1:00 pm
- March 31, UU Curious: 9 am – 1 pm
 Al-Anon meets on Mondays, 9:30 am

