

**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**

**April, 2018**

**Vol. 51, #8**

**Editor: Mary Holdampf**

**April 1, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey**  
**An Intergenerational Celebration**  
**of Passover and Easter**

Easter is the high point of the Christian calendar, the sudden joy of resurrection after deep disappointment, betrayal, and fear. Passover commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery and the beginning of their journey to the Promised Land. We will explore the relationship of these ancient holidays to Unitarian Universalism and their meaning for our lives today.

**Coordinator: Leslie d’Oronzio**

**April 8, 10:30 a.m Jane Cowan**  
**Knowledge Without Character**

As Martin Luther King Jr. put it, we live in a world of “guided missiles and misguided men.” We can do many amazing things but without understanding our mission, what do we accomplish? Join us for a discussion of the knowledge and wisdom imbued in ethical and moral action and the miscalculations involved when we fall short of helping others despite our best efforts to be well educated.

**Coordinator: Harry Shair**

**April 15, 10:30 a.m. Barrie Peterson**  
**Wealth Without Morality**

On tax day, we’ll look at these questions:

- Are taxes robbery?
- Can one be wealthy and ethical? Happy?
- Are the poor necessarily virtuous and deserving?

What are options for UUs to use whatever wealth we have?

**Coordinator: Leslie d’Oronzio**

**April 22, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey**  
**Turnaround Sunday**

Please join us for our yearly “turn around” service where the adults get excused to class and the children stay in the worship room with Terri and Dawn. This year we will have a short "Dirt Communion" in celebration of Earth Day. Please bring a small sample of soil to share from a place that is meaningful to you.

- Book Discussion lead by Bridget Laureira—“Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want” by Frances Moor Lappé and Adam Eichen. Daring Democracy is one of the UU common reads this year. Noam

***MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***

***April 15, 2018, 6 pm***

Chomsky states, "It is all too easy to fall into despair, but instead we can join the many others who are 'daring democracy' in many ways, as we learn from this instructive account of hopeful prospects." There are a few copies of the book at UUCR or get it at your local library or bookstore.

- Music and Singing lead by George Rigney- "Singing outside the hymnal" contemporary music that speaks to UU values.
- Earth Day Gardening - Terri/Dawn will lead a outdoor gardening activity with the children and ask that our member who are gardeners join us. Please bring gloves and gardening gear.

**Coordinator: Rob Young**

**April 29, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cara Downey**

**ROWE Camp Director**

### **Kids Live What They Learn**

Rowe is more than a camp. It is an experience in community. Cara Downey, Director of Youth Programming at Rowe, will speak to this idea, with some assistance from those at UUCR who have participated in this journey - and what it meant to them.

**Coordinator: Tricia Larkin**

## ***UUCR MINISTER'S COLUMN***

Spring is upon us! As I write this in the middle of March, the snow is still layered along the roads outside, and more snow is predicted next week. But the birds don't seem to notice that spring is getting off to a slow start. They are gathering in flocks and singing all day long. Buds have formed on the forsythia bushes outside my window. The sun sets a little later every day.

Soon the snow will melt away, maybe even by the time you are reading this, and then we've got raking and digging and planting to do in the garden, baseball and soccer games to play and watch, a bazillion end-of-the-year activities and events to plan and take in. Here at UUCR we will have UU Curious? followed by the launch of the annual pledge drive, followed by clean-up and planting for

Turnaround Sunday, followed by the annual meeting, and so it goes. We are so busy, doing, doing, doing things. There's more light and seemingly more time as the days get longer.

Spring is also the season of the slow miracle. The buds and the ferns unfurl. Trees get all fuzzy and then break out in leaves. The ground smells warm and rich and fertile, full of promise. To slow down intentionally and take in the gradual unfolding of new life is a worthy practice, a fine antidote to the sudden shift into high gear that surrounds us.

A friend who is a practicing Buddhist asked recently, "What would happen if we all stood still?" He said we're always doing and never take the time to be. "How about sitting quietly for a half hour every day?" he suggested. No technique, no agenda, just sit and listen. See what God or the Universe or your own heart is saying. I've been trying to follow this suggestion, and I commend it to you. If you can't do half an hour, try ten minutes. If you can't do ten minutes, think about the tempo of your life and ask yourself who's in charge. We are human beings, not human doings.

Once when I was visiting another UU congregation, I caught sight of a bumper sticker tacked on the edge of a book shelf in one of the church offices. "Mean People Are Suffering." It's a sermon in four words. Reminds me of the study about what determines whether or not a person will help a stranger. It's not your theology; it's your perception of time. People who are in a hurry are less available to be helpful than people who think they have enough time.

Another time I heard a great mantra for those of us who tend to dwell in the shadow of self-criticism. Someone suggested saying this to yourself, "There is nothing wrong with me, and there never has been." That's pure Universalism.

Don't forget to enjoy the spring. This day. Every day.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister  
[dawnsangrey@gmail.com](mailto:dawnsangrey@gmail.com) 845-419-5323

## RE NEWS

Religious Education classes raised \$120.55 in March to pay for a family's one week stay at Ronald McDonald House in Valhalla, NY! Ronald McDonald House supports families of children who are receiving treatment for serious illness in the hospital. Thank you to all who helped us fight the Sickness Horcrux by buying bath salts, laundry scents, and soup mixes made by the RE kids, in support of this great cause!

In April, Harry Potter classes will be focusing on fighting Animal Cruelty. They are collecting cat food and dog food cans for their Annual Easter Can Hunt, which will take place on April 1st, after our Intergenerational Easter Service. These and other items will be donated to Hi-Tor Animal Shelter in Pomona.

Our Children's Worship service on April 8th will focus on the 8th UU Principle: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world. Some of our adults and youth will have just returned from the UU- United Nations Intergenerational Seminar that weekend, and we will have lots to share about how we can put our principle into action. Then, on April 22nd, our RE classes will get to celebrate Earth Day on Turnaround Sunday, along with our minister, Rev. Dawn.

We are looking forward to a month of celebration, learning, and action in April!

### *April Schedule*

- 1 Easter Sunday  
Intergenerational Service
- 8 Children's Worship Service, RE classes
- 15 RE classes
- 22 Turnaround Sunday
- 29 RE classes

Terri Pahucki  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uurocklandny.org](mailto:dre@uurocklandny.org)

## TREASURER'S NEWS

Just a reminder that March 31 ended our third quarter of this fiscal year. If you require information on your pledge status for this fiscal year, please notify me at [845-429-0506](tel:845-429-0506) or by e-mail: [bebressor@gmail.com](mailto:bebressor@gmail.com) Barbara Francis

## SPECIAL NOTE

Rev. Dawn will be out of town in April from April 6 through April 14 on vacation and on April 23 through April 27 for a professional meeting. If you have a pastoral emergency during those times, please contact our administrator, Mary Holdampf, who will know how to reach her.

## APRIL EVENTS

April 8, BOT Meeting: noon

April 15, OWL Workshop: 12:30 – 5 pm

April 22, 23, Helping Hands

*Al-anon meets Mondays at 9:30 am*

*Yoga with Roseann, Thursdays 12 – 1:00 pm*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will be called upon in April to present to the annual meeting a list of nominations for all elected positions. It shall also present nominations for any special elections that may be held.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## SEEKING INPUT

Members of the congregations of the Metro NY District are invited by the Commission on Appraisal to participate in a brief survey to help us as we prepare to select our next study topic. The Commission serves similarly to a “think tank” on larger issues facing Unitarian Universalism. Our recent study was on class in the UUA.

We have two things to ask of you.

- We would like your congregation to provide input for this survey, which is found at this [link](#). We encourage dialogue within the congregation, by focus groups, board conversations, or whatever works for you. Only one completed questionnaire is needed per congregation.
- ***We also are seeking input from individual Unitarian Universalists*** including congregation members, ministers, religious educators, administrators, etc. In other words, all UUs are invited to share their views. The same [link](#) can be used by individuals.

To learn more about the Commission on Appraisal, an independently elected body of our Association, go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and search for the Commission on Appraisal or use this link [CoA](#).

Thank you in advance for adding your voices to help us make this decision.

In Faith,  
Your Commission on Appraisal



## WE WELCOME PEOPLE WITH MANY BELIEFS

**Unitarian Universalists are people of many beliefs.**

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart. By creating meaningful communities that draw from many wisdom traditions, and more, we are embodying a vision “beyond belief:” a vision of peace, love, and understanding.

We have more than one way of experiencing the world and understanding the sacred. What we call our “Living Tradition” draws from six sources of inspiration from scripture to poetry to modern-day heroes. How do you experience the world? How do you make meaning? What beliefs and traditions are yours?

Explore the links below to learn how Unitarian Universalists weave these traditions and identities into who they are today.

### *What Unites Us?*

We are united in our broad and inclusive outlook, and in our values, as expressed in our seven Principles. We are united in shared experience: our open and stirring worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; our expressions of love.

We are building an action-oriented community, bridging races, religions, and creeds with a shared desire to make *faith, religion, and spirituality* verbs.

What we do with our beliefs is important. It’s how we “walk” our “talk,” how we make our faith real.

For more information contact [info@uua.org](mailto:info@uua.org).

*Please keep those cartridges coming!*

*They save us much money over the course of the year.*

*Mary*