

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

130 Concklin Road, Pomona, NY 10970

Office (845) 354-1789,

www.uurocklandny.org

e-mail: administrator@uurocklandny.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

June, 2018

Vol. 51, #10

Editor: Mary Holdampf

**June 3, 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Reuben Modek
How the Rabbis Put God On Trial,
Hebrew Spiritual Wisdom in A Gavel
(or nutshell)**

The Hebrew Sages taught that God is to be obeyed with eyes wide open and many questions asked. This deep sacred irreverence is expressed in a number of earlier and later tales of the Hasidim and others. We will explore Hebrew Spiritual philosophy as it appears in these tales of wit and wisdom.

Coordinator: Des Shaw

**June 10, 10:30 a.m. RE Team
Celebration of RE**

In this service, we will celebrate our faith development from this past year and recognize those who have worked hard to support our children and youth.

Coordinator: Harry Shair

**June 17, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Flower Festival**

Bring a flower to add to our festive bouquets as we celebrate the unique beauty of each one who comes to worship, the amazing diversity of color and texture we create together, and the gift of another flower to take home. A bridging ceremony, litanies of gratitude for all our volunteers, and blessings on the cusp of summer will complete the morning. This is our last regular service before the summer.

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

**June 24, 10:30 a.m. Harriet Dunkerley
The Power of Music in Worship**

Harriet Dunkerley has recently received her Masters of Sacred Music and will join us to explore the power that music and song play in our worship and spiritual practice.

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio

Our vases would be very happy to have a few flowers from your garden for our June services!

**Newsletter deadline for summer issue
June 17, 2018, 6 pm**



Summer always surprises me, and even more so this year since we had such a long, cold, rainy spring. Finally it got hot for a few days, and all the leaves and flowers who had been waiting for some encouragement burst forth. It's been quite a show with the daffodils and cherry blossoms followed by lilac and magnolia. My neighbor's peonies are up and full of fat rosy buds, so they will be next.

Those of you who garden have been scurrying around to catch up. The flowers we planted at UUCR in April are flourishing, and I have heard from at least one person who planted those nasturtium seeds and something green came up. This is good news for me, especially since the ones I planted didn't. One of the lessons of working in the soil: sometimes things work out and sometimes they don't.

I will be with you on Sunday, June 17, for our last worship together before the summer services begin. We will celebrate flower communion, enjoy a bridging ceremony for our graduating high-school seniors, and celebrate the volunteers who make our congregational life possible.

Then over the summer I'll be getting together with the Board of Worship in July and the Board of Trustees in August for our annual retreats. I'll be taking some vacation time and also some leave time for study. Once my schedule is firm, Mary will let you know. When I am on vacation, another UU minister in the vicinity will be covering for pastoral emergencies, and Mary will know who to contact.

Keep in touch and let me know how you are faring. Summer is for rest and rejuvenation. I wish you whatever time you need to nourish your body and soul during these long days of warmth and light.

Blessings.

Dawn

Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister

dawnsangrey@gmail.com 845-419-5323

Congratulations to our Religious Education children and youth for a successful completion of the RE year! In May, five youth received certificates for completion of the Our Whole Lives program. I am proud of how articulate and grounded in their values these youth have grown throughout the yearlong sexuality education program. Our Harry Potter and UU classes also completed their curriculum in May. They succeeded in challenging seven different social injustices throughout the year! Way to go! We look forward to celebrating all our learning during RE Sunday on June 10th, and recognizing all the teachers, parents, and supporters who made this year possible. Please join us for this special service, which will be followed by a picnic outside.

On June 17th, we will celebrate a Multigenerational Flower Communion with Rev. Dawn Sangrey. This service will also include a bridging ceremony for Max Solomon-Frye and Zane Hancock, who are graduating high school and heading to college in the Fall. Summer services begin on June 24th; childcare will be provided in the nursery. We are looking for a second nursery assistant to help Danielle, so if you know of someone age 18 or older who can help us, let me know. Older children are encouraged to attend the services and may bring a book or quiet activity.

We are also in the process of putting together plans for next year. Please consider getting involved as a teacher, assistant, advisor, or mentor. The relationships built between adults, children, and youth are more important than any curriculum. They are essential as we nurture the next generation of Unitarian Universalists. We are currently looking at Coming of Age (for youth in grades 8-11), The Simpsons Theology, and Timeless Themes, a curriculum based on Hebrew and Christian Bible stories, for next year. In addition, we hope to offer Our Whole Lives for Grades 4-6 (a developmentally-appropriate sexuality education program that includes 8 hour-long lessons), along with Youth Group and district events for high schoolers. .

Sign-up sheets for next year's teaching, assisting, and youth advising teams will be available in the worship room throughout June. Please see me if you would like to join us in any way!

June Schedule

- June 3 Children's Worship Service, RE Classes
10 RE Sunday
17 Flower Communion/ Bridging Sunday
24 Summer Schedule Begins

RE classes resume in September

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education

Below is the Minister's Annual Report which was inadvertently omitted from the 2017-2018 Annual Reports

Minister's Annual Report—May 2018

Unitarian Universalism calls us to get our act together in these times when everything is fluid and changing, when people cannot agree about even the most fundamental facts, when the loss of a moral compass in government and cultural life can leave us disoriented and reeling. Everywhere we look we can see the need for affirming the power of love, strengthening our congregations, and working for peace and justice within our faith community and in the wider world.

Here at UUCR our relationships have deepened in this second year of our life together. Minister and congregation have grown in trust as we have come to know each other. We can see our work more clearly, and we encourage and support one another.

I serve you as a half-time Consulting Minister employed by the Board of Trustees (BOT) with an annual contract. This year as part of their development of personnel policies, the board conducted a formal performance evaluation of my work. Best personnel practices call for setting goals at the beginning of a year of employment, working on the goals during the year, and then evaluating progress at the end of the year. In this spirit, the BOT talked with me about my work in each of seven categories outlined in my contract: preparing Sunday services and preaching, leadership development with the BOT and the Board of Worship (BOW), pastoral care, UU orientation for newcomers, congregational development, support

for Religious Education, and participation in denominational and community activities. Our conversations have been fruitful, enlightening, and affirming. The BOT has offered and I have accepted a contract to work with UUCR for another year.

The board has also made commitments to work with the congregation on your mission, vision, and covenant. In the coming year, you will be invited to answer some fundamental questions: Why does UUCR exist? How do you envision the congregation's future? What kinds of relationships do you want to have in this congregation? The congregation will be encouraged to set goals for the year, and then at the end of the year to evaluate your progress. I look forward to sharing this important work with you.

I am grateful for your faithful leaders and staff, who show up and work hard. Their commitment to this congregation and to our Unitarian Universalist faith is an inspiration and a blessing. Everyone in the congregation has a role to play in weaving the fabric of our community. Your presence is a gift. Thank you.

Blessings.

Dawn

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

TREASURER'S NEWS

On Sunday the Congregation voted the new budget at the Annual Meeting. This is very good news as it will allow the Board to proceed with important projects. This year, not only will be able to continue paying Rev. Dawn on the W2, but we will also begin paying our DRE Terri and Administrator Mary also in this more professional manner. Many thanks to our strong pledgers and our new rental school for providing us with a strong budget. Bldgs. & Grounds will now be able to fulfill some greatly needed work on the 'plant'. I encourage all newer members and members who have not attended more recently, to attend the annual meeting. It is a great way to see just how our organization works and gives you a marvelous opportunity to make questions and comments and concerns. Your input is always needed.

Barbara Francis, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The UUCR annual pledge drive provides the bulk of the funds which support the programs important to our congregation. For about one month each spring, members and friends are asked to commit to supporting the UUCR during the coming fiscal year, in this case July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The results of the campaign provide the basis for the congregation's budget which will be presented for approval at the annual meeting May 20, 2018.

This year's drive was kicked off March 25 by Rev. Dawn's sermon on the spirit of generosity and the potluck lunch that followed, not to mention the exhibition of Allan Avery's lovely paintings. Sixty-three pledge cards were handed or mailed out. The drive officially ended May 1.

During the ongoing fiscal year (2017-2018), 55 pledges were made for a total of \$63,233. As of today (5/11/18), there have been 51 responses to the new campaign for a total amount of \$63261.50, an average of \$1240 per person or couple. The median pledge is \$1000. Twelve persons have not yet responded. Of these, at least four are expected to make financial contributions. The predicted total of the drive is \$65,500. A further one to two new people are likely to pledge support during the coming year.

Harry Shair, Stewardship Chair

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS *General Assembly June 20-24*

The General Assembly 2018 of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held at the Convention Center in Kansas City, Mo., on June 20-24. The theme is "All Are Called." Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. We can participate in person or as off-site registrants or off-site delegates. Several of the events will be live-streamed for you to watch. Learn more by going to uua.org/ga

OUR DRE ADVANCES TOWARD HER MASTER'S

Congratulations to our Director of Religious Education, Terri Pahucki! She has completed half of her Master of Divinity degree, receiving her certificate of professional ministry on May 11 from Hartford Seminary. Terri will complete the second half of her degree at Drew University starting in the fall. She will do her degree in that way because of Hartford's unique interfaith environment (the students and faculty are Christian, Muslim, and Jewish... and other faiths, as well).

JUNE EVENTS

- Sat. June 2, Group Sing: 5 – 7 pm
- Sun. June 10, BOT Meeting: noon
- Fri. June 22, Summer Solstice: 8 – 9:30 pm

Mondays, Hope Al-anon: 9:30 am

Thursdays, Yoga: 12 - 1:00 pm

Always check office calendar as there are several private events going on also.

CAMP EXPERIENCE

Are you looking for a fulfilling, wildly fun, outdoor experience for your young one? Unirondack, a UU summer camp nestled in the foothills of the Adirondack's might be the place for you. While our high school sessions are already full for the summer, our 12-14 and 14-16 year old sessions still have room!

Campers at Unirondack live the experience of building a unique, caring, UU community that puts their experience first. Build upon the values of the seven principles, we strive to create a camp community that is intellectually stimulating, welcoming to campers of all walks of life, and gives youth the opportunity to leave the rest of the world behind while they perform in talent shows, paint with watercolors over a wild Adirondack lake, swim and canoe in nature, and let their imagination run wild in theater and music. Email Director@unirondack.org or visit www.unirondack.org for more info!