

**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**

**Sept, 2018**

**Vol. 52, #1**

**Editor: Mary Holdampf**

**Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m.**

**Rob Young**

### **Cleanup**

Come join us as we prepare our building and grounds for the new church year. We have one or two tools, but it would be most helpful if you could bring your own.

**Coordinator: Rob Young**

**Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m**

**Rev. Dawn Sangrey**

### **Homecoming**

We gather once again as a community of faith to sing and share our stories, teach and learn, nourish our spirits, and affirm our heart's deep longing for a better world. If this is your first time with us, come and be welcomed. No matter how many years you have been a part of UUCR, this year will be new. Come and help create the community you love.

**Coordinator: Tricia Larkin**

**Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m.**

**Harry Shair**

### **A Neuroscientist Thinks about the Afterlife**

In the discussions over the relationship of science and religion, it is often asked what science says about the existence of life after death. While that may form the topic for a service later this year, it is not the topic today. Rather, we will take a more fanciful view of the afterlife from the writings of neuroscientist David Eagleman.

**Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio**

**Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m.**

**Rev. Dawn Sangrey**

### **Be Alive Until You Are Not**

Many different religious traditions in different times have pointed to the human potential for joy and fulfillment and peace. Our UU faith promises that love can make us whole and justice is the legacy of all. Congregations embody these hopes and dreams, offering us a place to try and fail and try again to create the beloved community. How can we be governed by what Mary Oliver calls "the holiest of laws: be alive until you are not"? How can each of us in our personal lives and all of us in our congregational life become more alive?

**Coordinator: Rob Young**

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

**Rev. Kim**

### **Nurturing Nature through Awe and Wonder**

Humans have a great capacity to nurture themselves, and all of nature. In this era of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and polarized political processes, many lack the resilience and tools to nurture themselves, let alone care for the many that need our urgent and focused presence. One way we can nurture ourselves and grow our compassion for ourselves and others is to develop our ecological intelligence through the practices of awe and wonder.

Rev. Kim will lead a small group discussion of the First Principle Project after the service.

**Coordinator: Des Shaw**

## *Welcome Home and Happy New Year*

This year our Homecoming Sunday falls on the same day as the first night of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It seems to me the Jews have the right idea about when to celebrate new beginnings—September with school starting up again and the harvest in full bloom makes much more sense than January's cold and dark. A New Year is full of excitement and promise, an opportunity to make a new start, to have a fresh perspective, to take a bold step.

This September at UUCR we will share a weekend retreat full of new year's promise. Imagine the Possibilities! Our seasoned facilitator, Mark Bernstein, will guide us through the creation of a new mission, vision, and covenant. It's a rare opportunity for the congregation as a whole to answer some fundamental questions about why UUCR exists, where we are going, and what kind of people we want to be. Come and be a part of this creation, a congregation giving birth to itself.

I've been excited and inspired by the advance planning for the upcoming church year. The Board of Worship (BOW) and the Board of Trustees (BOT) have each spent a summer day in retreat, preparing for 2018-2019.

BOW's theme for the year will be "Science and Religion," and they've come up with some fascinating ideas for worship services, all variations on the theme. A fine roster of guest speakers will fill out the fall season. BOT's work is dedicated to the health and well-being of the congregation through such goals as supporting the search for a new RE Director, helping to develop new committee leadership, maintaining fiscal health, and managing the many aspects of our institutional life.

Both boards are filled with dedicated volunteer leaders who are committed to the congregation and to each other. Working with them is a privilege and a joy.

I can't wait to see you and to hear about your summer adventures.

Blessings.

**Dawn**

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

## *Religious Education News*

We are excited to begin another year of Religious Education for Children and Youth! The RE Committee met in August to plan for the year ahead, and have put forth an exciting vision. We've begun our work of preparing and partnering to create a lively and engaging program where all ages learn and grow together. Please check out the RE curriculum plan and calendar below for important dates, and join us!

Children and Youth Programs for 2018-19:

- Infant to 5 yrs.- *Nursery*- Our childcare providers create a warm environment for younger children and babies to play
- 1st - 5th grade - *Timeless Themes*– Based on the Hebrew and Christian Bible Stories. A brief meeting for interested teachers and assistants for this class will take place on Sunday, September 5th at 12PM.
- 6th- 12th grade – *D'Oh God*- Explore theology through the TV series, *The Simpsons*. This class will take place on all RE class Sundays *except* the first Sunday of the month. Youth in this class will join either Timeless Themes or Coming of Age on the first Sundays. A brief meeting for interested teachers and assistants for this class will take place on Sunday, August 26th at 12PM
- Ages 13 and up are also invited to participate in the Coming of Age Program. Classes will be held on the first Sunday of each month starting in October and include other special activities.. Each youth will work with an adult mentor in exploring their theology and UU identity, and developing their own personal credo statement. An Introductory Coming of Age meeting for parents, youth, and mentors will be held on Sunday, September 16th from 12-1PM.
- 9th-12th grade- Youth Group activities are planned throughout the year, including social, spiritual, and service events. Our first youth group meeting will take place on Sunday, September 9th at 12PM.

The RE Team also invites people of all ages to come together for the family-friendly Fall Equinox Fire Ceremony and Song-Sharing on Saturday, September 22nd from 6:30-8:30. This is a great opportunity to bridge generations in community as we welcome in the fall.

Religious Education classes begin September 16th. New families who would like to register children, find our more information, or join our email list can contact me at the email below.

## RE SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

September 9	All Ages Opening Worship Service
16	RE (Religious Education) classes begin
23	RE classes
30	RE classes

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

## BOT NEWS

The Board of Trustees is very excited to be bringing in Mark Bernstein, a UUA Consultant, to help us "Imagine the Possibilities"!! He will guide us through some dynamic, hands-on work as a congregation related to:

- our mission (why do we exist?)
- our vision (where do we want to go?) and
- our covenant with each other (how do we want to be with each other?)

It promises to be a fun, interactive couple days as we work together. We invite UUCR Members & Friends to PLEASE JOIN US on our journey on Friday, 9/28 from 6-9pm and Saturday, 9/29 from 9am-3pm. We encourage people to attend both sessions if at all possible.\*

There will be a potluck dinner on Friday night where we can share food and fellowship. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. Childcare will be available on both days.

If you have any questions about this event, please feel free to reach out to me, any Board of Trustees member or Dawn.

\*If you are only able to attend for part of the time, we would rather have you involved for part of the time than not at all.

Hillary Torres



## NEW YEAR NEW LEADERSHIP

For the new year, here are the new leaders on Boards and Committees:

### Board of Trustees

Hillary Torres, Chair  
Emily Kratzer, Vice-Chair  
Denise Waithe, Secretary

### Treasurer

Barbara Francis

### Board of Worship Co-Chairs

Tricia Larkin  
Des Shaw

### RE Committee Chair

Jane Cowan

### Membership Chair

Emily Kratzer

### Memorial Garden Committee

Nel Hubbard

## TREASURER'S NEWS

September ends our first quarter of the new fiscal year. Time does seem to fly! Anyone who is unclear regarding their outstanding pledge for our prior fiscal year (ending 6/30/18) OR anyone needing a reminder as to their pledge for this fiscal year, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

This year Carlos Barrett has been appointed by the BOT as Asst. Treasurer. **Welcome Carlos!**

Barbara Francis

## ANY IDEAS FOR A FUND-RAISER?

We love the enthusiasm you bring to helping make our congregation better! If you have a fund-raising idea, let Emily Kratzer know. She's coordinating fund-raising efforts for the Board of Trustees. There is a form in the UUCR office for proposing a fund-raiser, and everyone is welcome to use it.

## HELPING HANDS NEWS

Remember that the basket placed out at 'coffee hour' is a collection for the Helping Hands organization. Please be as generous as members and friends are who provide those treats.

Raoul Cansaco, the founder of Helping Hands (all voluntary) has retired and moved back to California with his wife and where their family resides. If anyone is not replaceable it is Raoul! Ya'el Williams has resigned as HH Director and a permanent replacement is yet to be named. The County legislature has not authorized HH to have access to the Bldg. at Summit Park, and we are waiting to receive official word as to when we can get in there to set up for the new season. The season for HH is Nov. through April.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Membership Committee extends a hearty WELCOME to everyone as we resume our more formal worship year. We offer greetings, hospitality and more - and we'd love to have you join us. Even if you help out on occasion - perhaps as a greeter at the door, perhaps as a helper with refreshments - we appreciate you being there for the congregation. We meet monthly and would love to have you sit in with us.

Emily Kratzer, Membership Committee chair

## SEPTEMBER GREETERS

Sept. 2, Alex Finger and Seamus Gallagher  
Sept. 9, Nel Hubbard and Denise Waithe  
Sept. 16, Susan Brunelli and Sally Andriette  
Sept. 23, Trudy Pojman and Roberta Chang  
Sept. 30, Emily Kratzer and Sarah Gordon

**MANY THANKS TO OUR COFFEE HOSTESS  
FOR THE MONTH**

**EMILY KRATZER**



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 9: BOT - 12:00 – 1:30 pm  
Sept. 22: Fall Equinox – 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
Sept. 28: Imagine the Possibilities – 6 – 9 pm  
Sept. 29: Imagine the Possibilities – 9 – 3 pm  
Al-Anon meets on Monday mornings at 9:30  
(exception: Sept. 3, 9 – 10 am)



**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE**  
Sept. 16, 2018, 6 pm