

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

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Oct. 7, 10:30 am Rev. Allen Wells
Sacred Activism

SACRED ACTIVISM “is a revolution in consciousness in which we begin our justice and peace work from a grounded place of inward calm, intent to heal, and desire to serve. We do not allow ourselves to be driven by external needs and outside threats, and thus we do not burn out, but remain enlivened. In short, we’re pro-active and not reactive.”

Coordinator: Harry Shair

Oct. 14, 10:30 am Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Science and Religion: An Introduction

What is science? What is religion? How are the two related? For most of human history these two ways of looking at the world had not yet evolved into the conceptions we know now. They were not seen to be in conflict. We will briefly explore the history of science and religion, and then we will look at where we are today with the rise of skepticism, the diminishing role of facts and analysis, and the continuing influence of fundamentalist religion

in American public life. The Board of Worship has chosen this theme for 2018-2019. Each BOW member will present a service about Science and Religion during the church year, beginning with Harry Shair’s offering last month.

Coordinator: Brigid Laureira

Oct. 21, 10:30 am Cynthia Williams
Solitary Confinement
in the Criminal Justice System

Cynthia Williams has had her own experience with the criminal justice system and is currently an advocate for social justice. She is a proud member of Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow (RCENJC) and is a volunteer organizer with the New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC). Her work is concentrated in the Lower Hudson Valley Region. She will give an overview of the criminal justice system with a focus on Solitary Confinement.

Coordinator: Brigid Laureira

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**Oct. 28, 10:30 am Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Terri Pahucki**

Remembering the Ancestors

Many cultures and religious traditions set aside a day or a season every year to celebrate their ancestors: in Mexico, Dia de los Muertos; in western Christianity, All Saints Day and All Souls Day; among pagans, Samhain. In this inter-generational service, we will explore our family ancestries and observe the UUCR tradition of sharing personal remembrances. Bring a picture or other memento of your beloved who has passed away and share a few words of your grief and your joy.

Coordinator: Rob Young

OCTOBER SONGS

As I write it is late September, a sunny Sunday afternoon, highs in the 80's. The flower garden around my porch is flourishing, the morning glories bursting with blooms. It feels like high summer today, endlessly warm and bright. The corn fields are loaded with fat, ripe ears; the sunflowers are nodding their heads, heavy with seed; yellow finches flit among them and then settle to feast.

Still, the first signs of autumn can't be missed. Goldenrod and asters dot the roadsides here. The sumac is just beginning to turn. Wild geese part the skies with their V formations, calling each other into line. And the days are getting shorter. By the time dinner is over, the sun will be setting in brilliant oranges and pinks across the valley sky.

Here in the congregation October marks the beginning of your life together after the all-congregation retreat. You will have just created a new mission, vision, and covenant. I have high hopes for this weekend and its aftermath.

For all of us it's a time of anticipation: now what? Living into your hopes and aspirations will take time and commitment as you come together to create your future. Imagine the possibilities!

And is October the beginning of the holiday season? Columbus Day weekend comes early this year and Halloween at the end of the month. Calling it "Columbus Day" has become controversial. Some of us prefer to call it Indigenous People's Day to honor the ancestors who lived in these lands before the Europeans came and committed genocide in the name of manifest destiny.

I can remember when Halloween was not such a big deal, but nowadays it has become as commercialized as Thanksgiving and the December holidays. Today at the local farm stand, the pumpkins and all the decorations had just been put out. Too soon, I want to say. What's the rush?

May your autumn days be filled with peace and joy. May you celebrate the holy days of October thoughtfully, as you choose and not as the culture dictates. May your new mission, vision, and covenant show you the way to new life for the congregation as you become even more than you are now.

Blessings.

Dawn

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

"...THE YEAR'S LAST,
loveliest smile."



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Religious Education Year is off to a great start! The children and youth are exploring what it is that they believe and care about in all our classes as we focus on spirituality and theology this year. I am grateful to a strong teaching team that has stepped in to lead our RE classes. But there is still a need for assistants and substitute teachers to help us out! Please add your name to the RE volunteer calendar on the back table in the worship room, or contact me if you can help. Being a part of religious education is a great opportunity to nurture our spirits in community, as we journey with and accompany our young people.

Fall food sales begin in October. This year our RE fundraiser will go to support youth in the Coming of Age class who plan to attend a Credo-Writing Retreat at Murray Grove Conference Center in March 2019. We currently have seven youth signed up for the Coming of Age class, which begins the first Sunday in October. Please support them by stopping by the table to purchase soup, chili, or other prepared foods.

The first youth group game night of the year will be held Friday, October 12th from 6-10 PM. All high school youth are welcome to attend (and bring a friend!). The middle school youth had a great time at their first Metro New York retreat in September, and the first high school youth conference (“Con”) will be held in October at the UU Congregation at Montclair. For more details about youth programs, please speak to Jane Cowan.

We welcome new families in RE throughout the year-- so please continue to spread the word about our programs, and invite a friend!

Welcome

October RE Calendar

October 7	Children’s Worship Service/ Coming of Age & Timeless Themes(TT) RE Classes
14	RE Classes (Simpsons and TT)
21	RE classes (Simpsons and TT)
28	All Ages Worship Service: Remembering the Ancestors

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

POTLUCK!

Our first potluck of the year will be on Oct. 28. We invite you to share a main course, vegetables, juices, desserts and other delightful delicacies!! This is also the Sunday that we **Remember Our Ancestors**, so maybe a dish based on a family favorite recipe is in order.



YUMMY!

We welcome you to bring treats for our coffee hour. Although the Membership Committee prepares coffee and tea, we depend on congregation members for the treats. Let the coffee crew know that you've brought light snacks or fruit or cheese, or that you plan to bring some the next Sunday. A bottle of juice or diet tea is welcome also. Thank you!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct. 6: Archery event – 5 – 7 pm
Oct. 12: Family Fun Night – 6:30 pm
Oct. 14: BOT Meeting – noon
Oct. 21: Newsletter Deadline
Oct. 28: BOW Meeting – noon
Oct. 28: Potluck after service

Al-Anon Hope Group meets on
Mondays at 9:30 am
Yoga with Roseann meets on
Thursdays at 9:00 am

Many private rentals are on calendar – please check with Mary before any scheduling.

OCTOBER GREETERS

We welcome all to our services!

- Oct. 7: Alex Finger and Seamus Gallagher
- Oct. 14: Trudy Pojman and Denise Waithe
- Oct. 21: Sarah Gordon and Sally Andriette
- Oct. 28: Geraldine Shaw and Susan Brunelli

FALL LEADERSHIP DAY (successor to Defying Gravity)

**Saturday, October 13, 2018 –
9:30 am to 4:00 pm**

Community Unitarian Church of White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605

A variety of informative and interesting workshops is being offered. Please register as soon as possible. Registration deadline is October 8.

Full information and Registration link for lay leaders appears at: <https://www.uua.org/central-ea-st/events/region/leadership-da-y-ny-1018>

DEADLINE FOR November ISSUE
Oct. 21, 2018, 6 pm

EDITOR'S TIDBITS

Continuing thanks to those who bring in used cartridges. They lower our office costs and are very much appreciated.

The office now has its computer linked to the copy machine which eliminates the need for a printer on my desk. Less clutter, and that makes me happy! Many thanks to Rob Young who helped to set it up and whose expertise is always cheerfully available.

FUN FALL FACTS

Did you know the largest pumpkin on record made 5,000 slices?

- **Leaves**

When leaves change colour in the fall, they are actually becoming their true colour. In the summer, the chlorophyll (which is how the leaves receive nourishment from the sun) takes over and causes them to turn green and hide their colour.

- **Colors**

Black and orange are typically associated with Halloween. Orange represents strength and endurance, whereas black is the symbol of darkness and reminds us that Halloween was once a festival about life and death. The first known instance (in print) of trick-or-treating took place in Blackie, Alberta in 1927. Many countries, however, such as Australia and France, don't celebrate Halloween because they see it as an overly-commercial American tradition.

- **Bobbing for apples**

Although this is a popular game that kids and adults play at Halloween, it actually started as a British courting ritual. Every male was assigned an apple and then the young eligible ladies would bob for them, hoping to grab the apple of their beloved.

