

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

Nov. 2018

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Nov. 4, 10:30 am

Please refer to our website:

www.uurocklandny.org

for updated information on this service

Coordinator: Des Shaw

Nov. 11, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Why I Am Not a Christian

During the congregation's retreat earlier this fall, a theological discussion broke out. It wasn't on the agenda, but people wanted to talk about religion. This service offers another opportunity. Each of us will be invited to share some of our religious histories and our current theological locations. We will listen and speak from the heart as we keep faith with the Third Principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." For my part, I will share why I no longer identify as a Christian.

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio

Nov. 18, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Agape

Join us for our annual AGAPE feast and celebration of gratitude and sharing. Agape has been defined by Martin Luther King Jr. as "understanding, creative, redemptive good will for all humanity... it is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return." Following the service we will share a potluck dinner.

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

Nov. 25, 10:30 am

Jill Cruz

How To Develop a Healthy and Happy Relationship with Food

Sometimes it can seem like food is our master. And we are so beholden to its charms that we are willing to forsake our goals and resolutions and to even ignore concerns for our own health and well-being. How do we overcome this? How do we gain control of our eating in a positive and balanced way? Is it possible to fall in love with eating in a way that truly nourishes us? Jill Cruz, MS, CNS, will delve into these questions and introduce some simple strategies for mastering eating habits, and enjoying food that is both nutritious and delicious.

Coordinator: Harry Shair

MINISTER'S COLUMN

The approach of November brings late fall and moves us into the darker months. For the last few days here in New Paltz frost has been predicted, that point of cold where the tender annuals suddenly shrivel and die, the end of the growing season, the beginning of the fallow time. Late fall says it's time for the Earth to rest.

We UU Earthlings gather for a celebration of our ancestors in late October and then for our Agape Thanksgiving celebration at the end of November—times for feasting, enjoying the company of friends and family, thanking the good Earth for another good harvest. Here in the congregation we share potlucks and memories, enjoying our bounty and counting our blessings.

The fruits of your September congregational retreat have been ripening this month. You may have seen the worksheets of lists and drawings from the vision session which were posted on the walls in the worship room.

Mark Bernstein, our facilitator, has shared his notes taken at the retreat with me and the Board of Trustees. We've invited a small task force of people who attended the retreat to give us their reactions to Mark's drafts of the congregation's new mission, vision, and covenant. After the task force has weighed in, we will prepare a final draft. If the Board approves, a special meeting of the congregation will be called to vote on these new documents.

Another fruit of the retreat will be the creation of a strategic plan for the next 3 years. As we look at our vision for the congregation, the next question is: How? How will we move toward these aspirations and hopes for UUCR's future? What specific steps and actions is the congregation ready to take in order to achieve your vision? This is where the rubber meets the road. Vision is essential, and it is not enough. Realizing your vision will take commitment and hard work.

Like any harvest, the creation of a new mission, vision, and covenant takes time.

The Board of Trustees and I are eager to hear from everyone as the process unfolds.

May you find some time to rest amidst your holiday preparations, and may our times together be filled with patience, peace, love and tolerance.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister
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RE NEWS

Thank you to everyone who made, sold, and bought soup and baked goods during the month of October! All the proceeds of our food sales benefit the Coming of Age class retreat this year. We hope to continue fundraising year-round, so stay tuned for future announcements.

I am so glad to see new volunteers in our classrooms this year! There are still spaces for teachers and assistants needed, so please add your name to the sign-up sheets on the back table in the worship room. The Timeless Theme children are having a great time learning about the stories of the Hebrew Bible, and are preparing an exhibit of their group creations in the RE classroom. We have a Garden of Eden, Noah's Arc, a Tower of Babel, and more to come. The Simpsons class is engaging in great discussion about prayer, heresy, sin, the soul, and other theological topics through creative inquiry. The Coming of Age class has been reflecting on self-identity and getting to know their mentors.

In November, we will have an All Ages Community Fun Night on Saturday, November 25th from 6-10. Everyone is invited to join us for snacks, games, and fellowship!

NOVEMBER RE SCHEDULE

November 4	Children's Worship Service, RE classes
11	RE classes
18	All Ages Worship Service- <i>Agape</i>
25	Special Children's Program

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

BOT NEWS

We had a great congregational retreat at the end of September at which we had about half of our members/friends in attendance. This was great! Rev. Dawn is reporting more on this in her column so I won't go into it more, but I did want to mention it and thank those in attendance on behalf of the Board.

You may or may not have already heard, but Ken d'Oronzio has agreed to step into the role of Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair. We are happy that he agreed to lead the efforts of a group of folks with lots of built-in knowledge. Thanks, Ken!

It has come to our attention that the large parcel directly behind ours, further into the woods and down beyond ours on Route 45, which is sometimes referred to as the Striker Property, is in the news. This parcel of land was up for potential development about 10 years ago but then was sold to the Town of Ramapo. Many were under the impression when that sale happened that the intention was to keep this land as green space. It seems that now years later there has been some discussion about the town possibly selling the land for the creation of a campus for yeshivas/religious schools. Skyview Acres (a cooperative community that borders on another side of this land) is very opposed to this sale and the proposed development and working hard to fight it. Here is a link to an article about it:

<http://www.fios1news.com/lowerhudsonvalley/ramapo-skyview-acres-land-to-be-sold#.W705vEUUpCaM>

Emily Kratzer is monitoring the situation on behalf of the BOT, watching what is happening with the town and in communication with the folks from Skyview Acres, so we can determine any next actions. If you have any questions or are interested in knowing more about this situation, please reach out to Emily.

CENTRAL EAST REGION LEADERSHIP DAYS

Each fall and spring, the Central Eastern Region hosts leadership days with worship and workshops for ministers and laypeople in the region. This year's fall meeting was attended by Emily Kratzer, Harry Shair, and Rev. Dawn on October 12 and 13 at Community Unitarian Church in White Plains.

The keynote speaker on Thursday was the Rev. Robin Tanner, one of the ministers at Beacon Church in Summit, New Jersey. Leading with Cornell West's statement that "Love is what justice looks like in public," Tanner talked about the relationship between spiritual or soul work and justice work. She spoke powerfully about her own transformation working with William J. Barber's Moral Monday and Repairers of the Breach in North Carolina.

Tanner described Unitarian Universalism as a faith based not in orthodoxy (right belief) but in orthopraxis (right practice). Our practice includes both spiritual or soul work and social justice work, and the two cannot be separated, she said. "You can't be in the movement and not be moved."

Tanner was inspired by *Soul Work* by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley and Nancy Palmer Jones. The book is out of print, but Rev. Dawn would be happy to lend her copy to anyone in the congregation. Another resource she mentioned is Barber's *The Third Reconstruction*, which was discussed here at UUCR last year.

- *Emily attended a workshop on using graphics for publicity outreach. The workshop, led by the Rev. Karen Johnston, taught us how to use Canva.com. Emily also attended the Congregational Safety workshop led by Patricia Infante. The UUCR has complied with or is working on several of the topics the UUA has outlined for Congregational Safety.*

- Along with about 10 UUs from eight congregations, Harry went to a workshop on stewardship planning led by Liz Coit. Liz stressed estate planning for older members and that millennials often donate in ways that don't fit with our traditional methods. For example, each congregation should be reading to accept contributions by text. She also warned against holding repeated 'one off' campaigns for specific projects because nothing creates donor fatigue faster.

LAST CALL for Equal Exchange orders!

Just in time for holiday gift giving, UUCR is selling organic coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa and more. Pick up a catalog at UUCR, or look online at <http://equalexchange.coop/sites/default/files/communitysales/fundraising/catalog.pdf>.

Place your order by Nov. 4 and pick up your items on Nov. 18. Order forms and checks can be given to Diane Bennett at UUCR, or email your order to her. Checks should be made payable to UUCR. All profits benefit our congregation. Thank you for your support!

HELPING HANDS

There have been major changes to the Helping Hands program this coming season. The County Legislature has voted to give Catholic Charities operation of the Warming Center this season.

Helping Hands is continuing with the breakfast program, social service assistance, housing assistance, etc. Please remember that the coffee hour money is collected as a donation to Helping Hands. Anyone interested in assisting with the Warming Center can contact Catholic Charities directly. Barbara Francis & Bill Capowski

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Nov. 4, Fundraiser Deadline
 - Nov. 11, BOT Meeting: Noon
 - Nov. 24, Community Fun Night: 6 – 10 pm
 - Yoga: Thursdays at 9:00 am
 - Al-anon: Mondays at 9:00 am
- Please check calendar for private events

TREASURER'S NEWS

September ended our first quarter of the fiscal year. We are doing well thanks to our pledges coming regularly and our new renters. This month we donated \$1000 to the MLK Center in Spring Valley, from our mid-month collections. This is a well-deserved program and needs community support. The BoT has voted to continue this program at least through this fiscal year. As an aside, surgery I had at the end of October will keep me from driving for at least one month. With that in mind, I can be reached by e-mail (bebressor@gmail.com), for any questions, concerns during that time.

Barbara Francis

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!

NOVEMBER GREETERS

We welcome all to our services!

- Nov. 4: Emily Kratzer & Seamus Gallagher
- Nov. 11: Trudy Pojman & Susan Brunelli
- Nov. 18: Alex Finger & Sarah Gordon
- Nov. 25: Geraldine Shaw & Elaine A. Idrich

Barista for November: Geraldine Shaw

DEADLINE FOR December ISSUE

Nov. 18, 2018, 6 pm

