

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Dec. 2, 10:30 am

Leslie d'Oronzio

Our Heart Center

Listen to your heart, Follow your heart, My heart is filled with love, I know in my heart it's the right thing to do. We've probably all used these terms at one time or another to express the sincerity and resoluteness of a feeling or a choice. In Yoga we speak of the sacred chakra of the heart, Anahata, as the wellspring of love, warmth, compassion, and joy. Are these just simply expressions? Does science offer any alignment with the heart being at the center of it?

Coordinator: Bridget Laureira

Dec. 9, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Is UUCR a Family?

Speaking about their UU congregation, some people say, "I love it. It's just like a family." They mean the good kind of family, of course: the intimate family where everyone is loving and helpful. James Luther Adams, one of the most preeminent UU theologians of the twentieth century, said that people need "intimacy and ultimacy." We long for a sense of belonging. And we need to reach for whatever seems highest and most important, whatever matters most. Adams also said that in order for goodness to prevail, it has to be institutionalized. He said the kind of institution you create reveals your beliefs. Let's explore the family as a metaphor for UUCR and ask how this idea shapes the congregation today.

Coordinator: Rob Young

Immediately following the service, the congregation will meet in a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposed UUCR Mission Statement.

Dec. 16, 10:30

RE Team

Holiday Happening

This year, our intergenerational service will draw from traditional Jewish and Christian stories to celebrate the Spirit of peace and love this holiday season. After a shortened service featuring some great music, we will adjoin to take pictures, decorate the Christmas tree, and make some magical crafts. Great fun for all ages!

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

Dec. 23, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Make a Joyful Noise!

When the darkness comes, it is time to make music. For this gathering of musicians, music-makers, singers, and those who just hum along, we will listen to each other and join our voices in the songs of the season, making music that nourishes our spirits and celebrates winter, solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, human possibility and joy!

Coordinator: Harry Shair

Dec. 24, 6:00 pm

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Christmas Eve Celebration

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. We will hear once again the story of the angels, the shepherds, the wise men, the birth of the baby in Bethlehem. Most of us are not Christians, yet this narrative can have deep meaning and appeal. What do Unitarian Universalists celebrate at Christmas?

Coordinator: Des Shaw

Dec. 30, 10:30 am

Rabbi 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

MINISTER'S COLUMN

By now you will have received a copy of the UUCR Mission proposal, which can also be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Mission proposal is the result of much hard work this fall by the congregation, first in your all-congregation retreat, where the basic concepts were gathered together in large and small-group discussions over two days. After the retreat, a special Task Force appointed by the Board of Trustees worked with the notes sent by our facilitator to refine and focus the mission.

One member of the Task Force said reading the final product moved him to tears. As you read the Mission for the first time, what emotions did it evoke in you? Which parts resonate with you the most, and what does that tell you about your work in the congregation? Is it nurturing our congregation and our faith? Speaking up for justice? Taking action in solidarity with others in the community? All of these aspects of your mission are essential to what UUCR does now. These ideas can also help shape your plans for the congregation's future.

The Board of Trustees has called a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 9, at noon for a congregational vote to adopt the new Mission. Please join us for this important celebration.

The winter holidays are upon us with all their potential for joy and aggravation, pleasure and pain, delight and disappointment. How was Thanksgiving? Whenever we gather with family and friends, our hopes rise. Being with those we love can nourish us in our deepest places. And then the culture ratchets up our expectations, urging us to want more and more. If we can stay centered in the rituals and pastimes that give our hearts comfort and meaning, the holidays can remain the holy days they were meant to be. Let us also find ways to nurture those who are mourning, suffering from sickness, blighted by poverty and injustice.

Meanwhile the Earth is showing us her wisdom: the harvest has been gathered and stored. Now the land lies fallow. Underneath the frozen earth and snow, plants are at rest. I managed to get some spring bulbs in the ground before the first snow came, and so I anticipate March and snowdrops, April and daffodils, May and tulips. The hardy swallows who live here year round flit and dart, seeking berries and seeds. But the great blue heron who feeds in the pond nearby has moved on, and the groundhog has gone into his burrow. It's time to rest and be quiet.

I hope you can find your balance this holiday season. May your days be filled with peace and joy. May you seek and find the observances that will make your days glad. May the congregation move together into a New Year filled with promise.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister
dawnsangrey@gmail.com
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RE NEWS

December is a time of memory. Holidays and rituals have their roots in old stories and traditions. This year our Holiday Happening service will center on remembering and bringing to life the old, so we may see ancient truths in a new light. You won't want to miss our intergenerational service on December 16th! The service will be followed by merry-making, crafts, and treats.

This is also a time of opening our doors wide and sharing our welcome with those in need. Please take an ornament from our giving tree in the back of the worship room, and bring back a gift for a child and/or parent to place under the tree. Gifts will be collected through December 9th and distributed through the United Way of Rockland County's "Hope for the Holidays" Program.

In addition, we continue our annual collection for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through Guest at Your Table. This year's focus- Justice at the Borders- supports the UUSC efforts to help those who are migrating from Central America in search of asylum in the United States. Boxes may be returned at the Christmas Eve service, or anytime through December 30th.

Wishing everyone a very happy holidays full of blessing and peace, Terri

December RE Calendar:

December 2	Children’s Worship Service RE Classes/ Coming of Age
9	RE Classes
16	Intergenerational Service <i>Holiday Happening</i>
23	All Ages Class
30	All Ages Class

We remind everyone to check with administrator Mary Holdampf before planning to use the building. Check with the trustees as well regarding any planned events or fundraisers.

Come to our meetings sometime! The BOT meetings are open and we welcome anyone who wants to attend.

If you have questions about UUCR issues or want to suggest topics which the Trustees should consider at future meetings, contact Chair Hillary Torres, Vice Chair Emily Kratzer, Denise Waithe, Diane Bennett-Levy, Carlos Barrett, Susan Brunelli or Sarah Wade. We’re here to serve you!

--Emily Kratzer for the Trustees

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

BOT NEWS

At the Nov. 11 meeting of the Board of Trustees, we covered a lot of ground. Among the topics discussed were improving building and congregational security; and also driveway maintenance. New Buildings and Grounds chair Ken d’Oronzio filled us in with information about both.

We approved the proposed UUCR mission statement and hope to initiate a Strategic Plan Task Force soon. We plan to call a congregational meeting on Dec. 9 at noon for the congregation to give an official vote on the proposed mission statement.

The Trustees agreed to DRE Terri Pahucki’s request for the RE program and the UUCR to participate in the United Way’s “Hope for the Holidays” gift needs tree.

We continued our discussion of the UUCR Policies and Procedures manual. Our goal is to have one document that everyone can use for reference. It would be kept in the UUCR office and be available electronically. The State of New York has mandated anti-sexual harassment policies for all organizations and businesses, and we are on our way to implementing the training mandated for UUCR employees.

TREASURER’S NEWS

Just a reminder that December will be the end of our second quarter of the UUCR fiscal year. Anyone wanting to update their pledges for the 2018 tax year will need to have the funds in to me before Dec. 31.

Also, I would like to give a huge 'Thank You' to Mary and Emily for assisting me during my recent 'invalid' status. Deposits were banked and invoices paid. Also, they and Nel were able to personally help me when needed.

Barbara Francis

DECEMBER GREETERS

***We welcome all
to our services!***



- Dec. 2: Nel Hubbard & Seamus Gallagher
- Dec. 9: Trudy Pojman & Denise Waithe
- Dec. 16: Alex Finger & Geraldine Shaw
- Dec. 23: Sarah Gordon & Emily Kratzer
- Dec. 30: Susan Brunellu & Sally Andriette

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT



*Thank you, Sarah
December Barista*

By now you may have already seen the call to meeting, set for December 9th at noon, to vote on the proposed new mission statement:

Our mission is to

**NURTURE a congregation of
diverse people committed to
one another and to our
Unitarian Universalist faith,**

**SPEAK OUT for justice and social
progress in the world,**

**ACT in solidarity with forces of
positive change in the
community.**

Please come and join in the vote!!

As talked about on page 2 of the call to meeting, this mission statement was proposed by a Retreat Task Force that refined the work that was done at our Congregational Retreat “Imagine the Possibilities” back at the end of September. The group that convened during the retreat was about half of the congregation and represented a good cross-section of the congregation. The Task Force then met to further refine draft documents that came out of that weekend. We appreciate the time that was taken and sharing that was done by attendees of the retreat, and the further thoughtful work that was done by the Retreat Task Force.

Respectfully,

Hillary Torres

Board of Trustees Chair

DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 2, 1:30 – 5:30 pm: Al-Anon

Dec. 8, 7:30 – 9:00 pm: Private rental

Dec. 9, Noon: Congregational Meeting

Dec. 21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm: Winter Solstice

Yoga – Thursdays: 9 am

Al-Anon – Mondays: 9:30 am

Various private rentals are also on calendar so
please check first with Mary for calendar dates

EDITOR'S TIDBITS

Unlike other years, I will be at home this January since my husband will be having knee surgery. However, I'm off to Paris during December and am really looking forward to the festivities. A Christmas concert at the cathedral in Rouen is one biggie on my agenda! Hopefully the weather there will not be unusual but as most of you might know, I love rain and snow so...

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HANUKKAH
HAPPY KWANZAA**

To all my readers

May you have festive and peace-filled holidays!



**Deadline for January Newsletter
Sunday, Dec. 16, 6:00 pm**

