

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

130 Concklin Road, Pomona, NY 10970

Office (845) 354-1789,

www.uurocklandny.org

e-mail: administrator@uurocklandny.org

HAPPY & HEALTHY 2019

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Jan. 6, 10:30 am

Des Shaw

Scientists – The Good Guys

Like I suspect many on the left, I'm a pessimist as far as science (and technology) is concerned: we do tend to focus on the harms that science has brought upon us. But maybe it's time to give science some credit for making our lives immeasurably better than were predicted even a century ago and recognize that some dire predictions have just never panned out: we have no Malthusian famines; resources have not run out; plagues are not circling the globe; pollution is being tamed; and neither war, crime, nor disease are halting humanity's ever-increasing life expectancy. This is not to minimize the challenges that undoubtedly lie ahead. But there's a good probability that science will solve those too.

Coordinator: Harry Shair

Jan. 13, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

What Is Unitarian Universalist Theology?

This service introduces a sermon series called Five Questions: Theological Reflection from a UU Perspective. The questions are

1. Who am I?
2. How Do I Know?
3. Who or What Is in Charge?
4. What Is My Purpose in Life?
5. What Does My Death Mean?

Once a month from February through June, Rev. Dawn will offer a sermon on one of the five questions for the congregation's theological reflection.

Coordinator: Rob Young

Jan. 20, 10:30

Marc Levy

Why is it so Fashionable to Bash Science, and what are the Implications for Responding to Climate Change and other Modern Challenges?

A striking aspect of our age is the dramatic spread of brazenly anti-science attitudes in public life. Large fractions of the American public, and virtually the entire Republican Party, proudly reject as untrue basic facts uncontested by science. If such voluntary ignorance were confined to ghosts and UFOs this trend would be just a curiosity. But today it threatens the survival of our civilization. Much of the opposition to responsible action toward climate change, for example, is couched in a rejection of science. This talk will explain how we got stuck in this bizarre condition, describe the role that religion plays, and spell out a remedy that we as a progressive faith community can help bring about.

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio



Jan. 27, 10:30 am **Rev. Dawn Sangrey**
Creating Covenant by Consensus

Using a consensus process, the congregation will review and refine the draft covenant created at their retreat last fall. Congregational covenants answer the question: What do we want to promise each other about how we will behave in our community? How will we be with each other? (Potluck follows)
Coordinator: Bridget Laureira

MINISTER'S COLUMN

Looking Forward, Looking Back

The month of January is named for the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces, one that looks forward and the other that looks back. We are at that early winter balancing point where the old year is passing away and the new year is poised to begin. New Year's Day marks the breathing space before we plunge.

The holidays are just about over: their curious mixture of busyness, happiness, sadness, disappointment, satisfaction, mystification, exhilaration, exhaustion—all passing away. Soon the decorations will go back in the boxes. A new year full of change and transition is upon us. The Rev. Robert Latham notes we have a choice to approach this change with “fear and loathing” or “excitement and anticipation.”

Looking back at recent accomplishments here at UUCR, I think at once of the all-congregation retreat in late September. The two-day retreat offered members an opportunity to come together around three questions: Why does the congregation exist? How will we covenant to be with each other in community? And what are our dreams and visions for the congregation's future?

Out of this process has come a new mission statement, the first in many years. **Our mission is to nurture a congregation of diverse people committed to one another and to our Unitarian Universalist faith, to speak out for justice and social progress in the world, and to act in solidarity with forces of positive change in the**

community. Your mission is to nurture each other and our faith, to speak out, and to act.

Looking ahead to 2019, the congregation will refine their covenant, using a consensus process, during a worship service in January. And the Board of Trustees will appoint a Strategic Planning Task Force to review and prioritize the vision statements developed during the retreat.

Meanwhile, opportunities for the congregation to speak out and act in 2019 have arisen very close to home, right in your own backyard. The potential sale of the Striker property, 70 plus acres of undeveloped land immediately adjacent to UUCR's building and memorial garden, invites the congregation to practice the second and third part of your mission statement.

The Unitarian Universalist Association encourages congregational study followed by congregational action. It is not clear at this writing what the fate of the Striker property will be. The Board of Trustees is following the situation closely as the Town of Ramapo determines its plans. And the Board is in close contact with the Skyview Acres community, which also shares a boundary with the property. I encourage members and friends of the congregation to pay close attention to this situation as it unfolds.

May your New Year be full of promise and hope. May the congregation continue its journey toward a new covenant and a new vision. And may each of you live into your new mission so that these are not just words on paper but new practices alive in your hearts and in your actions.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting

Minister

dawnsangrey@gmail.com

845-419-5323

Deadline for February Newsletter
Sunday, Jan. 20, 6:00 pm

RE NEWS

Thank you to everyone who donated to our United Way “Hope for the Holidays” collection. We were able to provide a mom and her teenage son with new clothing, movie passes, gift cards, and other essential items this holiday. Also thank you to all who have continued to support the Coming of Age class in their fundraising efforts. We have raised over \$500 to help with trip costs! Also thanks to everyone- adults, children, and youth- who helped bring joy and love to the world during our Holiday Happening Service. Your cards of support and solidarity for people seeking asylum at the U.S. border have been sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and will be shared with migrant children and families who have recently arrived to remind them that they have a home and are welcome here.

Congratulations to Luke Corpina and Liam Rigney who completed the CER Chaplain Training in November! They are now approved to serve as youth chaplains at UUA events. Also kudos to Maggie Young who was selected to join the UU-UNO Intergenerational Seminar worship team. Maggie will help plan and lead worship at the event which takes place on April 11-13, 2019. We are also excited to include our youth voices in future planning for this congregation, so that they may share skills, wisdom, and vision with everyone here.

This month our learning in the RE classrooms continues... The Timeless Themes class will learn about the kings and prophets of the Hebrew Bible. The Simpsons class will explore faith through the Simpsons... And the Coming of Age class will dive into UU Theology!

Wishing everyone a very happy new year,
Terri

January RE Calendar

January 6	Children’s Worship Service RE Classes/Coming of Age
January 13	RE Classes
January 20	RE Classes
January 27	RE Classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

RAMAPO PLANNING UPDATE

On Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, Ramapo will have a Town Asset Review Committee meeting. The goal of this and future committee meetings is to “ review the financial status and current use of each site, including the services, if any, each site provides to Town residents, along with all legal and environmental restrictions in order to ultimately recommend proposed actions to the Town Board. Recommendations may include upgrading facilities, changing fee structures, repurposing sites for additional uses, entering into leases or licensing agreements for selected sites, and whether particular properties should be sold or retained.”

On Jan. 23 at 7 p.m., the Envision Ramapo presentation for the Northeast Ramapo Charrette Work-in-Progress will be held. Check Ramapo.org for more details.

Our letter to the editor of The Journal News/LoHud was published on Dec. 19. The letter was submitted after being reviewed by our Board of Trustees.

We will continue to monitor and participate in Ramapo’s planning process. This is a good time for us to begin thinking about our own long-term goals and plans as a congregation.

--Emily Kratzer, vice-chair, Board of Trustees

JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 13, BOW Meeting: 9:30 am
BOT Meeting: 12:00 pm
- Jan. 18, Community Game Night: 6-10 pm
Youth Overnight
Yoga: Thursdays at 9:00 am
Al-anon: Mondays at 9:00 am
Please check calendar for private events

HELPING HANDS NEWS

As stated in our September newsletter, Helping Hands’ “Warming Center” is run under the auspices of Catholic Charities. Our fundraising for Helping Hands continues, but anyone wishing to be involved with the Warming Center should contact Catholic Charities directly.

Five Questions: Theological Reflection from a UU Perspective

1. Who am I?
2. How Do I Know?
3. Who or What Is in Charge?
4. What Is My Purpose in Life?
5. What Does My Death Mean?

These five questions, which all religions address, will be the focus of Rev. Dawn's 2019 sermon series, beginning with What Is Unitarian Universalist Theology? on January 13. She will offer a sermon on each of the five questions for the congregation's theological reflection once a month from February through June.

Rev. Dawn is also considering the Five Questions as a possible small-group ministry (SGM) experience, open to UUCR adults and youth, with sharing by the group members. The group would meet after the service on the Sunday when the five questions is the sermon topic.

Exploring the Five Questions within the context of a small-group ministry engages participants in head work and heart work. They deepen their ability to appreciate and articulate their understandings of themselves, their theological perspectives, and the purpose and meaning of their lives.

The Five Questions group would not be a drop-in experience. Like a class in theology, it requires some preparation. Group members would be given homework, about an hour of reading and journaling, to be completed before the sermon. All materials would be provided electronically. Because the group will become a learning community and each session builds on the information in the last, participants would be asked to make a commitment to attend all of the sessions.

Five Questions was originally developed by the Rev. Charles Ortman when he was senior minister at the Unitarian Church of

Montclair in New Jersey. More information will be available on Sunday, January 13, when everyone who is interested will be asked to sign up. If there is enough interest, the group will begin on February 3 at 12:30.

Please call or email Rev. Dawn if you have questions.

SEE ALASKA!

See Alaska while supporting UU congregations! See this web site, <http://whalecoast.ak.org> + the ad in the back of your UU Magazine. Home stays make the trip particularly fun and meaningful. Trudy took the All-Alaska tour in July 2017 and highly recommends it. No "single supplement"; when a roommate assignment is required, the tour leader matches different single participants so that you aren't with the same person each time. [Trudy was in a home 8 out of 12 nights]. Very well organized! Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Trudy Pojman

JANUARY GREETERS

We welcome all to our services!

Jan. 6: Nel Hubbard and Seamus Gallagher
Jan. 13: Trudy Pojman and Denise Waithe
Jan. 20: Alex Finger and Geraldine Shaw
Jan 27: Sarah Gordon and Emily Kratzer

*Thanks Sally Andriette
for hosting our January coffee hour!*

Potluck Jan. 27

Warm up the wintertime with good food and good fellowship! We'll have our next potluck on Jan. 27. Bring hot food to the kitchen hosts at about 10:15 so that we all get a chance to get to the worship room at 10:30 - thank you!!

