

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

March 3, 10:30 am

Andre Mol

The Space Between

Names and categories create distinctions which we use to navigate our world. But what happens when society's standard labels don't fit our identity - black, white, gay, straight, male, female? We are more than just a label. Yet, it takes courage to live outside categorical norms. Rev. Andre Mol, Developmental Assistant Minister at the First UU Society of Burlington, explores stories of trans and gender non-confirming individuals who risk living into their full humanity, and ways we can collectively affirm those lives with our love.

Bio:

Rev. Andre Mol (pronouns: they/them/theirs) serves as the Developmental Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care and Membership at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, VT. Andre is an active member of TRUUsT (an organization of UU trans religious professionals), which views the work for liberation as intimately tied to all efforts to dismantle oppression within Unitarian Universalism and our wider world. Through Andre's varied experiences in filmmaking, leadership development, and ministry, Andre is committed to collectively exploring the role of transformative stories and dialogue in our spiritual lives. They are also the proud parent of two young children and two cats.

Coordinator: Bridget Laureira

March 10, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

The Ones We Have Been Waiting For

Over 60 years ago a small band of determined Unitarians founded a new congregation in Rockland County. They

dreamed of a place where their children could learn to nurture their self-worth and benefit from the wisdom of all religious traditions, a place where the members could explore, discuss, and debate about what gives life meaning and purpose. A few years later, they built a home for their fledgling society with their own hands. Let us consider what it will take to carry their legacy forward.

Coordinator: Rob Young

March 17, 10:30 am

RE/Terri Pahucki

Turnaround Sunday 2019

This year's Turnaround Sunday will include a short worship service, followed by both adult and intergenerational religious education classes. Our service will celebrate the changing season and the interdependent web of life, as we move from winter into spring.

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

March 24, 10:30 am

Rev. Dawn Sangrey

UU Theology: How Do I Know What I Know?

What provides the authority in human knowing? Does knowing derive from within or outside of humans? How do you know what you know? How do you know that what you know is truth? What are the sources of wisdom? How does your world view limit what you can know?

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio

March 31, 10:30 am

Tricia Larkin

Science and Religion

I Talk To The Trees - Do They Listen To Me?

Coordinator: Bridget Laureira

TRANSITIONS

Outside my window this morning: a strip of wet green grass, mounds of snow around the bushes, bright sunshine. The house sparrow who is building his nest behind the shutter flies by every now and then, surprisingly close. I can see the dark patch under his chin and his bright eyes. He is busy and noisy.

What's with this weather? One day sunny and bright, above freezing, almost warm. Then cloudy and blustery and cold. It's too early for spring. We get a little tease, and then winter reasserts itself. But every evening the sun stays up a few minutes longer. We know how this story ends. We've been here before.

Transition in congregations is like March weather: changeable, unpredictable, teasing us with promise of good things to come. Nobody can say for sure what will happen from day to day, and it's hard to know which coat to wear.

Here at the UU Congregation of Rockland, you and I are looking at major changes: over the summer Terri Pahucki, your director of religious education, will be leaving to finish her ministerial education; at the end of August, I'll be retiring.

The Board of Trustees is assembling search committees and updating the congregation's paperwork with the UUA, which acts as a clearinghouse for congregations looking for ministers and ministers looking for new positions. Religious educators have their own networks, and your RE Committee is updating the job description for your new DRE. Neither Terri nor I will be involved in the search process, which is the congregation's responsibility.

In between now and then, in between late winter and next summer, lies a world of opportunity and challenge. One of the things each member can do immediately to support the best outcome in this transition year is to come to the service on March 10 and give as generously as you can to the pledge drive and **Face Forward** Fundraiser. The professional ministers and religious educators who are in search this season will be influenced by many aspects of the congregations they consider. One important factor is their financial health and the salary offers they make; another is the physical appearance of the congregation's home. You can help UUCR make the best impression.

I look forward to a spring and summer of service here at UUCR. Please be in touch with me if you have questions about our transition time.

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

RE NEWS

This month our Coming of Age youth will be spending a weekend at Murray Grove Retreat Center. On this retreat led by experienced religious educators, they will be reflecting on their beliefs and values, and writing their personal credos. As Rev. Sarah Gibb Millsbaugh writes, "A credo is a snapshot of your values, faith, identity, and belief at one point in time. As Unitarian Universalists, we understand that your religious ideas will evolve throughout your life...your credo is simply an expression of where you are now." At UUCR we affirm this idea by supporting lifelong learning and offering religious education for all ages- from young children to teens to adults.

Turnaround Sunday is one chance for all ages to participate in Religious Education on a Sunday morning. This year we are doing things a little differently. In addition to the classes for adults in the RE rooms, I will be leading a workshop for all ages called *Sacred Waters*. The session will include a spiritual practice, a discussion, and a hands-on creative activity focused on honoring and protecting water, in recognition of World Water Day. We will spend some time outside, depending on the weather. Adults, teens, and children are all invited to join together for this workshop.

Thank you to everyone who has supported RE this year. A special shout out this month goes to Jane Cowan and Laurie Young who have served as advisors to our youth conferences and events. Jane has also served as RE chair, and Laurie has organized our food sales. Thanks to everyone who has supported those sales and helped us raise money for the Murray Grove trip!

March 3	RE classes
10	RE classes, CWS (children's worship service)
17	Turnaround Sunday
24	RE classes
31	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

MARCH MONEY MADNESS!

Begins March 10, 2019

The annual stewardship campaign comes early this year. This is the time when we ask you to consider your role as stewards to our religious home. We will begin the drive on **March 10** at a lunch after the service. **A free lunch!** We will serve sandwiches, drinks, and cookies. Come, eat, drink, mingle, and make your annual financial pledge to UUCR.

As you know, Rev. Dawn is retiring at the end of the summer, much to our regret. Terri Pahucki is stepping down as DRE, too. In order to replace these irreplaceable stalwarts, we must maintain our financial health and make the UUCR truly welcoming in spirit, activities, and (just as importantly) in appearance. So, a call for donations for a specific project will be held simultaneously – this explains the title “**March Money Madness**”. See below for details of project **Face Forward**.

Your financial support is a moral statement. Our religion and our congregation represent ideals larger than have existed at any given time. There is an ideal Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland that we strive for. We may never reach the ideal, but we will never even come near unless we try. The effort is worth it, for us, our children, and our grandchildren. The UUCR existed before most of us joined, but its continued existence is not guaranteed. For it to exist after we are gone, much less to approach the ideals we have in mind, we must serve as good stewards to its liberal religious mission.

For those who cannot attend the lunch, we will reach out to you at committee meetings, at the services, and individually.
Harry Shair



FACE FORWARD

At the congregational retreat last September, there was a visioning exercise where people brainstormed about where they want the congregation to go and what that “looks like”. We will convene a Strategic Planning Task Force next year to address many issues. In the meantime, we got feedback that our physical, outward appearance gives the impression that our faith community is not visible or vital.

Perhaps we are a little club in the woods? Our grounds are very overgrown and untidy with weeds. Our signage could use improvements.

We are therefore embarking on a project we call **Face Forward**. This involves getting professional help to come up with a landscaping plan that make us look more vibrant and inviting, as well as easy to maintain ourselves. We envision better, more visible signage by our driveway entrance.

Details about the project will be available at the March 10th kickoff. To do this, we will be asking people to donate additional funds for this big project, planned to take place over the course of this spring. We have a generous donation from an anonymous donor of **Matching Funds** up to \$5,000. Every dollar you donate has the ability to go **twice as far!** If you donate to this facelift for our congregation, please make sure to put “**Face Forward**” in the memo line on your check or be sure to let the Treasurer know that your extra donation is intended for that purpose.

During March Money Madness we are asking people to be generous in the short term, and for next year as well. We appreciate all that people are able to do!

Hillary Torres

Thank You

*Deadline for April Newsletter
March 17, 6 pm*

NORTHEAST RAMAPO PLANNING

The Town of Ramapo is continuing to solidify plans and visions for the land in the northeast portion of the town. An early March meeting had been scheduled but appears to have been rescheduled to a date not set by newsletter deadline. Emily Kratzer will give a talk on Turnaround Sunday about the status and options for this "Envisioning Ramapo" process, which includes plans for the neighboring Striker property.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On March 10 we'll have a catered meal - salads & sandwiches (possibly hot food). At that time we'll ask folks to bring desserts.

All are welcome!



March Greeters

March 3: Nel Hubbard and Emily Kratzer
March 10: Sally Andriette and Denise Waithe
March 17: Alex Finger and Trudy Pojman
March 24: Sarah Gordon and Seamus Gallager
March 31: Susan Brunelli and Emily Kratzer



March Barista: Emily Kratzer

MARCH CALENDAR

Al-Anon meets Mondays at 9:30 am
Yoga meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am
March 9, Family Circle Supper: 5 – 7 pm
March 10, Spring Equinox: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
March 15, Fun Night: 6 – 10 pm
March 17, BOT Meeting: 12:15 pm
March 24, 5 Questions: 12:30 pm

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

When our members and friends have special concerns or situations, we are available to each other for emotional support and helping tasks.

We would like you to join Trudy Pojman and Emily Kratzer to help Rev. Dawn in making visits or calls. We try to meet monthly. We also welcome everyone to contact us if you have a concern for which we can offer some support.

Trudy and Emily attended a Pastoral Care workshop at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood on Feb. 9, to enhance our sensitivity to people's concerns and to enhance the best ways to respond to your needs.

One of our efforts is to have at hand a list of people we can contact if you have a medical emergency while at the UUCR.

Please give in writing to one of us (or leave in an envelope for Mary in the office Administrator's box) the name(s), phone number(s)/ email address of the person we may contact.

We care about YOU!

SPRING EQUINOX FIRE CEREMONY

Let's celebrate the Vernal Equinox-- and the end of winter-- with a fire ceremony! Releasing the stale energies of winter and "seeding" our intentions for the new season, we'll enjoy time together with the transformational element of Fire. All are welcome! Please bring a drum or rattle if you have one, along with a vision for what good things you'd like to grow in your life. If you have trouble standing, please bring a folding chair. We will also say a special blessing in honor of St. Patrick's Day, to honor immigrants, our ancestors, and all those who have left one home to put down roots in another.

