

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

April 7, 10:30 am Rev. Dawn Sangrey
UU Theology:

Who or What Is In Charge?

This may be the ultimate theological question. We will unpack the word *God*, consider what god's properties and powers might be, and share our views with each other. Some questions to warm up: Who or what is greater than all else in creation? What is the ultimate universal value? What stands beyond or behind or within human existence? What is the dynamic operating principle, force, essence, or power which creates or infuses existence with reality or meaning? What holds the universe together?

Coordinator: Rob Young

April 14, 10:30 am Jamie Boyce
Healing Our Intentions,
Owning Our Impact

The journey of healing invites us to clarify our intentions about the life we crave and the world we wish to create. On that path we may run into our tenderness and pain and discover our reactivity towards change. How do we work with our intentions to facilitate healing, hope and impactful action that "does no harm"?

Coordinator: Harry Shair

April 21, 10:30 am Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Easter

Follow the bunny. She has the chocolate. (No, seriously...) Come and celebrate the resurgence of spring and human possibility with Biblical references and great music. Some say things have never been better for the human species. What can the ancient story of Jesus' resurrection teach us about the persistence of hope?

Coordinator: Trish Larkin

April 28, 10:30 am Larry Winter

Please check website for up-to-date details on this service. www.uurocklandny.org

Coordinator: Des Shaw



We gather in worship to find meaning and live more deeply. Worship creates connections within, among, and beyond us, calling us to our better selves, calling us to live with wisdom and compassion

WHO'S IN YOUR TRIBE?

Last week a pair of Canadian geese showed up at the little pond in our New Paltz woods, checking out the neighborhood for a potential nest site. The pond was still frozen over then, but today it was open water, and the geese were back. They easily discouraged a flock of ducks who were also swimming about in this prime real estate. I'll be looking for the goslings lined up behind their mother in another couple of months.

Meanwhile, the tulips in my garden are up about 5 inches, the daffodils, too, and I saw a single snowdrop in full bloom along the walk to UUCR's front door. Before you read this, the spring equinox will have come at last. We long for it every year, the return of the warm days, the blush of green on the hillsides, the longer days and the promise of hope it all brings.

We need more hope especially in these times. Last week alone marked the New Zealand massacre, the first Presidential veto, and the college application scandal. It's a challenge to hang on to your moral bearings in the face of such hatred, stupidity, and greed.

I've been reading the biologist and naturalist Edward O. Wilson, his 2014 volume titled *The Meaning of Human Existence*. (Wilson is famous for his Pulitzer-prize-winning brilliance if not for his modesty.) He says our species has idiosyncratic traits that have evolved over millennia, among them an "overpowering instinctual urge" to belong to a group. "A person's membership in his [sic] group—his [sic] tribe—is a large part of his [sic] identity...All things being equal...people prefer to be with others who look like them, speak the same dialect, and hold the same beliefs."

In the beginning, one's tribe was the people in the extended family, then those in the immediate neighborhood. Gradually our tribal identities have expanded to the point where many of us have a national identity, as citizens of the United States of America, one among millions. We no longer have to look the same or speak the same dialect or hold the same beliefs to be in the same tribe. There are many exceptions, witness the desire to build the Wall, but

it looks to me as if we are moving as a species in the right direction.

I believe what's needed is for all people to identify as citizens of the World, one among billions of humans. So long as we can consider some humans "other," we will be vulnerable to the fear from which white nationalism and its violent hatred, for example, are spawned. To develop a worldwide tribal identity, people will have to become uncomfortable. We have to leave the sheltering familiarity of our families and neighborhoods and churches and get to know some people who are different from us.

You can do your part to move the human species toward this evolutionary advance by intentionally widening your circle to include someone who is not now a part of your tribe. Who's missing from your experience because of their race, religion, sexual preference, gender identity, political party, employment, you name it? How can you find a way to encounter this stranger and include him/her in your tribe?

Happy spring. Enjoy the warmth, the green, the hope.

Blessings.
Dawn

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TREASURER'S REPORT

April begins the final quarter of the fiscal year. Anyone who would like an update on their outstanding pledge balance, please contact me. We have until the Annual meeting (May 19) to complete our campaign for **FACE FORWARD**, to spruce up our grounds and become more visible to the general public. If you wish to contribute to the campaign, just note **Face Forward** on the memo portion of your check.

Barbara Francis

RE NEWS

Crocuses and tulips, warmer weather, new buds on trees... April is a time for joy, as we move out of winter and into spring. This month we are in the full swing of activity, moving toward hope and the renewal of life.

New committees have formed to search for our next minister and DRE. At the same time, planning for next year goes on as the RE committee has begun choosing curriculum and sharing hopes about the programs we would like to offer for next year, and increasing outreach to new families. If you have thoughts to share, let us know. We welcome the ideas of the whole community.

The Timeless Themes class has been learning about stories of Jesus from the Bible. As we enter into the Easter season in the Christian church, we will learn about the Christian meaning of these holidays through the stories of Jesus' death and resurrection. As always, our classes are a way for children and youth to learn about other religions - including religious ideas which may be challenging - to ask questions and sort through their own ideas, while learning from the ideas of others. Teachers and assistants are needed in April, so if you would like to join the children on this religious journey, let me know.

This month our Coming of Age class will be working on social justice. Stay tuned for more details about their projects! Youth will attend the last cons of the year, as well as this year's UU United Nations Intergenerational Seminar, which focuses on Gender Equity.

April Schedule

April 7	CWS (children's worship service)
	RE classes
14	RE classes
21	Easter Sunday Intergenerational Service
28	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Our annual stewardship campaign got off to a wonderful start at the lunch March 10th. At the lunch itself, you generously pledged \$37,000 to support the UUCR during the upcoming fiscal year (7/1/19-6/30/20). By the time of this report, the total has risen to \$40,303. Thank you!

Thanks also to Rev. Dawn for her moving sermon on the aspirations of this congregation's founding members; to Emily and the membership committee for arranging the lunch and cleaning up afterwards; to Carlos and George for the stirring rendition of "To Give"; and to the many others who helped.

If you have not yet made your commitment, please return your pledge cards as soon as possible. If you did not get a card in the mail, they are available from Harry Shair or Barbara Francis.

Harry Shair



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

April Greeters

April 7: Nel Hubbard and Alex Finger
April 14: Trudy Pojman and Denise Waithe
April 21: Susan Brunelli and Sally Andriette
April 28: Sarah Gordon and Emily Kratzer

thank you

Susan Brunelli,
for being our coffee hostess
for the month of April!

APRIL CALENDAR

Al-Anon meets Mondays at 9:30 am
Yoga meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am

5 Questions SGM

Sunday, April 7, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

BOT

Sunday, April 14, 12:15 pm

Fun Night

Friday, April 19, 6 – 10 pm

UU SERVICE

If you are wondering...

Service takes place every Sunday at 10:30 am. All are welcome! After the service you are invited to stay for coffee and friendship. A greeter at the door will make sure you are comfortably seated. Here is what you can expect during the service.

- Words of welcome
- Lighting a flaming chalice, the symbol of our faith
- A multigenerational segment, such as a “story for all ages” or “chalice conversation”
- Music, both instrumental and vocal and in a variety of styles
- A time for lifting up the joys and concerns of the congregation
- A meditation or prayer
- Readings—ancient or contemporary
- An offering, collecting financial donations for the congregation or for justice work in the community.
- A sermon given by the minister, a guest speaker, or a member of the congregation
- Closing Words



SUMMER CAMP

If you have youth between the ages of 8 and 17 who are looking to connect with other UU Youth, enjoy limitless fun in the Adirondack Mountains, eat s'mores, create art and music, and play games and sports while learning about the importance of community all shaped by Unitarian Universalist values, welcome to Unirondack.

For more information, visit www.unirondack.org, or ask your DRE or minister for a brochure. We can also be reached at Director@unirondack.org.



April Fools' Day or April Fool's Day is an annual Western celebration commemorated on April 1 by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. The jokes and their victims are called April fools. People playing April Fool jokes often expose their prank by shouting "April fool" at the unfortunate victim

Deadline for May Issue
April 21, 6 pm