

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Sept. 1, 10:30 am

Labor Day Cleanup

All Ages. Please join us for a short service and participate in sprucing up and readying our UU home for the start of the fall and upcoming year.

into our personal philosophy and life as a congregational community.

Coordinator: Jane Cowan

**Sept. 8, 10:30 am Board of Worship
Welcome Back**

We gather once again as a community of faith to sing and share our stories, teach and learn, nourish our spirits, and affirm our heart's deep longing for a better world. If this is your first time with us, come and be welcomed. No matter how many years you have been a part of UUCR, this year will be new. Come and help create the community you love.

Coordinator: Sarah Gordon

**Sept. 22, 10:30 am Amy Fuchs
Caring for Our Seniors
In Their Golden Years**

With approximately 47 million seniors in America alone, Amy, an elder care consultant and a member of the Aging Life Care Association, will speak about the prevailing concerns about aging in our society and the cares and concerns as phase into our senior years.

Coordinator: Leslie d'Oronzio

**Sept. 15, 10:30 Andrew Faust
Permaculture**

Andrew Faust, is one of the premier permaculture designers in North America and a visionary permaculture and bioregional educator who taps into the rich synergy between permaculture and biodynamic agriculture. Join us for a discussion of what permaculture is and how we might bring it

**Sept. 29, 10:30 am Rev. Allen Wells
Guard Your Aspirations**

How may we keep heart amidst today's world of dis-satisfactions? One thing we can do which is within the power of each of us, is to reaffirm our aspirations but free ourselves from dependence on their outcomes.

Coordinator: Des Shaw

AS THE SEASONS CHANGE

It's August, still summer, many more warm days to come. But you can feel the promise of autumn, too. Every so often a red leaf on the forest floor. The apples are fully formed in the orchard, just flushed with rose. The corn is ripe. Sunsets are coming earlier, the nights a little longer now. Late summer feels like a turning time to me. A perfect summer day seems more precious because you know it will come to an end.

And so it is with my time as your minister. Only a few precious days are left now. By the time you read this, the last day of August will be very near, almost here.

I am packing up and sorting books for the new library and having lunch with some of the people who have worked alongside me for the past three years. It's a time for gratitude and a time for farewell.

Meanwhile, the congregation's life goes on. The Board of Worship is planning the fall calendar of services. The Board of Trustees is setting goals and priorities. The Religious Education Committee is preparing curriculum and teachers. I am confident in the ability of your dedicated leaders to continue the rich and nourishing programs that sustain the members and friends of UUCR. They will need your help.

UU ministers are required to distance ourselves from the congregation in order to create a space for a new minister. I will not be guest preaching at UUCR or responding to UUCR email or phone calls after August 31. These restrictions may seem arbitrary and unfair, especially when a new minister is not yet in place. But in my experience it is better for both you and me if we follow the UU Minister's Association guidelines.

If there is something we need to talk about before I go, please reach out to me soon. My last days are coming right up.

Thank you for our time together. I will miss my work with you. I wish each of you and the congregation all good things.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey
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TREASURER'S NEWS

September will begin our official start of the new UU year. The Bd of Trustees has voted to continue collecting the offering one week of every month for the MLK Center in Spring Valley. We have shown great commitment for this project. The collection will usually be taken on the middle Sunday of each month. September will also be the final month of our first fiscal quarter.

REST IN PEACE

Theodora Sonntag who was one of our oldest (95) and most long-time members recently died. For many years her music graced the Worship Room during services and was most appreciated by the congregation. May she rest in peace.

<p>Deadline for October Issue Sept. 15, 6 pm</p>
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees' goals

The Board of Trustees have set these goals for the coming worship year:

- 1 - Staffing (minister, DRE, nursery care-giver)
- 2 - Form a Strategic Task Force
- 3 - Outreach via publicity and events, be more transparent with the congregation
- 4 - Our ranking system produced a tie for goal #4: The first is Safety (the building) and Safe Congregations (the people) and the second is the Northeast Ramapo Plan.
- 5 - A financial review
- 6 - Renew our Welcoming Congregation status

The trustees' minutes are available on the back bulletin board for your review, please take advantage of this - or speak with trustees.

We are Emily Kratzer, chair; Sarah Wade, vice-chair; Carlos Barrett, Denise Waithe, Carl Camenisch and Jim Recktenwalt. Sarah is serving as our liaison to the Board of Worship, Denise is our liaison to the Religious Education Committee, and Jim is our liaison to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Because we don't have a minister yet, we ask that you bring your concerns to the trustees so that we may meet all of your needs.

During the past worship year we met these goals set by the trustees in 2018:

- 1 - The All-Congregation retreat which produced a new mission statement and produced a list of goals we would like the Strategic Task Force to address.
- 2 - The Buildings and Grounds Committee made tremendous strides in improving our property.
- 3 - Personnel practices - we met State of New York requirements for sexual harrasment education of staff.
- 4 - Raised areas of concern for congregational security and safety.

5 - Made progress on a baseline Policies and Procedures manual.

We will continue working on finding a minister, the director of religious education and a nursery care-giver. We thank the search committee members for their continuing time and effort. We also thank you, our supportive community, for helping each other and the congregation.

Emily Kratzer, chair of the Trustees

FALL EQUINOX CEREMONY

Please join us for our annual fall equinox ceremony on Friday, Sept. 27 at 6:30 pm. Presiding will be Mikki Baloy.

SEPT. CALENDAR

Al-Anon meets Mondays at 9:30 am

Yoga meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am

Sept. 6 – Permaculture: 5 – 7 pm

Sept. 8 – BOT Meeting: 12:15 pm

Sept. 27 – Fall Equinox Ceremony: 6:30 pm

Many private rentals take place during the month

Please check office calendar with Mary

RECYCLING

Please let me know if you are recycling ink cartridges under our Staples number 0008894537. To be eligible for ink rewards, my ink & toner purchase amount needs to be \$30.00 during the previous 180 days. However, I cannot recycle until I know that someone has purchased \$30 worth. Please email me or call to let me know. I no longer purchase ink because my copier does it automatically. Many thanks. Mary

NEW UUCR LENDING LIBRARY

There's something new in the Worthington Room—that's the room to the right as you're going toward the worship room that has the big, comfortable gray couches in it. The bookcases in the Worthington Room are crammed with books. They are all for you to take down and browse, select and sign out, read and return. UUCR has a new congregational lending library.

These books were donated by Rev. Dawn from her personal and professional library. Since she is retiring, she doesn't need them anymore, and she wanted to share them with the leaders and members of the congregation.

The new UUCR lending library covers a wide range of topics. Some books are about congregational life like how to improve fundraising, running a small group ministry group, leadership as a spiritual practice, how to conduct an effective meeting.

Unitarian Universalism is widely represented with titles on the Seven Principles and on UU history, for example. Also there are books about social justice, anti-racism, climate change. There are books for people who are leading worship and books for people who are teaching religious education.

Guides to personal spirituality include how to meditate, everyday spiritual practices, coping with suffering, creating your own theology. There are several books about happiness and more than a few about prayer. And then there are just some works of general interest to UU's.

Come and take a look!

The Board of Trustees has appointed Sarah Wade and Sarah Gordon to be the curators of the library. They have set up a simple sign-out procedure, which is

explained in the library. The curators are not accepting any new books right now, but stay tuned to learn about their plans for the library in the future.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focusing on what really matters – love, justice, integrity, and hope.

Unitarian Universalists have different beliefs but shared values. We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may also be agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, humanist, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in a Unitarian Universalist community is one of our strengths – we're always learning how to see the world from a different perspective.

What unites us are our core principles that uphold seven real-world values:

- Believing in the worthiness of every person.
- Showing compassion and fairness.
- Accepting others for who they are.
- Growing through a personal search for truth.
- Leading with democratic spirit.
- Working for justice.
- And understanding that *everything* is interconnected.

