

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

2016

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m.

Art Aldrich

**Defining Religion – Establishing Who
and Where We Are in the Theological Spectrum**

There are more than nine recognized definitions of "religion" and a virtually unlimited range of religious experiences. Where do UUs fit into this universe of belief? Determining the answer may help us chart our personal and congregational journey of exploration and growth.

Coordinator: Luis Torres

Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m.

Dave Chapman

Paris: The Impact and Planning Ahead

Sadly, the tragic deaths of the people in Paris preoccupy us now. The war of terror against freedom of thought, freedom of expression and against a civilization founded and preserved in tolerance has grasped our attention yet again. As Unitarian Universalists, how do we comport ourselves in a world of mistrust, anger, and violence? How can we help, what can we do, to help the world become a place of brotherhood and sisterhood for all the citizens of the world?

Coordinator: Barrie Peterson

Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m. Reverend Joy C. Przeworski

Called To Become More Loved and Be Love

Perceptions can cloud our vision of what is real and what is not. Privilege can provide that same distortion in recognizing what is right in front of us. As we come to acknowledge each year the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. and his

enduring challenge to become the beloved community, what must we see within our own vision? What causes us to awaken a deeper awareness of who we must challenge ourselves to become? Can we merely discuss our uncomfortable feelings or do we need to be willing to go much deeper?

Coordinator: Tricia Larkin

Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m.

Des Shaw

Birmingham: Before and After

Birmingham, Alabama, is a city that has never known slavery, having been founded six years after the Civil War ended. So why was it that Dr. Martin Luther King chose to make a stand against racism there? And what did he achieve: what has happened to Birmingham in the 50 years since his stand was made? Finally, what have we learned about racism in our own time since Rev. Bailey

raised our consciousness on the subject? Maybe Des will be able to answer these questions!

Coordinator: Laurie Young

Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Karen Brammer

Small Boats in Rough Seas

Rev. Karen will share some of what she has learned about smaller congregations. What might thriving as a smaller congregation look like? What are some of the questions we need to address in order to thrive? Come be part of the conversation. (This is a joint service with UU Church of the Palisades followed by a potluck)

Coordinator: Mike Steger

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy New Year everyone! This is a time for clearing the slate and beginning anew. I look forward to visioning new possibilities for religious education with all of you in the coming year.

Thank you to all who supported all our fun-filled holiday activities. We hope you enjoyed the Holiday Happenings service, including the children's performance of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. We also raised \$60 from the raffling of gingerbread houses, made by our children and youth at a family fun night. This money will be added to our congregation's collection for Guest at Your Table, which supports the UU Service Committee's outreach to refugees and displaced persons this year. Also thank you to everyone who gave mittens, hats, socks, and scarves to decorate our mitten tree. These donations have been given to People to People and Helping Hands, to help those in need stay warm this winter.

Our youth have been participating in UU activities both within and beyond our congregation the past few months. They led a lovely Saturday sundown service with our UU community in late November. Some of our youth have also been involved with the Metro NY District, training in racial justice, the fundamentals of youth ministry, and peer chaplaincy. We are planning a special overnight event for all high school youth at UUCR this winter.

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education



JANUARY CALENDAR

January	3	RE classes, Children's Worship Service
	10	RE classes
	17	RE classes
	24	RE classes
	31	RE classes, Children's Worship Service

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BOARD OF WORSHIP

The Board of Worship is excited to bring you five interesting services in January. Art Aldrich kicks off the New Year with a discussion of where Unitarian Universalism fits in on the theological spectrum. Our own Des Shaw follows up on January 24th with lessons that he learned from a recent trip to civil rights historical sites in Birmingham, Alabama.

On January 10th, Dave Chapman will discuss recent terror attacks in Paris, and what they mean for our future and the future of religious diversity. Dave speaks regularly to UU congregations in the Metro District. The following Sunday, Rev. Joy Christi Przeworski joins us to discuss the evolution of the beloved community the day before we celebrate Dr. King's birth. To close out January we will have a special joint service with the UU Church of the Palisades. Rev. Karen Brammer will preside over the service, speaking about challenges facing smaller congregations, and we will continue the conversation over a potluck lunch.

We hope you can join us for all of these services.

BOW

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
JANUARY 24. 6 PM
Feb. issue will be a few days late

DENOMINATIONAL UPDATE

General Assembly (GA), which is our yearly national convention, is going to be in Columbus OH in 2016, from June 22-26th. From the UUA website: "The theme for GA 2016 will be "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect". The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels— Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives."

This theme is particularly poignant given the increasingly ramped up exclusionary rhetoric in recent weeks and months. Registration begins in March. Be thinking about whether you are interested in attending, either in person or online. While I would love to go to Ohio (the last time GA will be this close for a while), the timing is prohibitive for me. I am hoping to set up several events to be able to view some of the major content at UUCR and invite people to join me. As more information is available about the programs, I will reach out to gauge interest.

Metro NY District to Central East Region?

Over the last couple years, there has been a move toward having a Central East Region, which includes the Metro NY district along with Ohio Meadville (parts of Ohio, WV and western PA), St. Lawrence (upstate NY), and Joseph Priestley (southern NJ, western PA, Maryland, Delaware and DC). There is a blog that has regular updates related to this transition. You may view these updates by going to <http://www.cerguua.org/cergingforward>

Other Denominational Notes

In UUWorld, there was an article entitled, "The Chalice and the Force: Why have so many 'geeks' found their spiritual home in Unitarian Universalism?" <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/chalice-and-force>

Worship Arts Festival, Cherry Hill, NJ, February 19-20th

<http://www.cerguua.org/cegevents-1875/772-orshiparts15.html>

NEW MEMBER CLASS

We will hold a New Member Education Class on Saturday, January 24th at 2 pm at the Congregation. The class will discuss the Congregation's history, the structure of the UUA and the Congregation, our principles and the opportunities that UUCR provides. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Congregation, please contact Harry Shair or Mike Steger

TREASURER'S UPDATE

December ended the first half of our fiscal year. Please up-date your pledges. Reports will go out in January, listing payments for tax purposes and will give you the status of your current year pledge. For any questions, you can speak with me directly.

Barbara Francis

WOOF WOOF MEOW MEOW



Our neighbor dogs and cats at the Hi-Tor Animal Shelter will thank you for providing them with dry or canned food, treats, dog

biscuits and also for providing warmth during these wintry days. Bring in your old blankets, sheets, towels or comforters. (Can be used, but clean.)

Drop contributions in the box in the entrance hall or talk with Marion Francis.

EDITOR'S TIDBITS

Your editor welcomed a new grandson, Liam Joseph, 8 lbs, 13 oz. on December 8th. He joins siblings, Madison, David, Mila and Delilah. Congratulations to his parents, David & Linda.

I wish all my readers peace-filled holidays and a happy and healthy new year.

GIVING THANKS



AGAPE



JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 3: BOW meeting, noon
- Jan. 10: *The Roaring Girl*, 4 pm
- Jan. 17: BOT Meeting
- Jan. 23: New Member Class, 2 pm
- Jan. 24: Membership Meeting
Newsletter Deadline
- Jan. 31: Potluck

Al-Anon: Mon. at 9:30 am/ Thurs. at 7:30 pm:

JANUARY GREETERS

- January 3 – Geraldine Shaw & Denise Waithe
- January 10 – Seamus Gallagher & Sally Andriette,
- January 17 – Alex Finger & Roberta Chang
- January 24 – Susan Brunelli & Emily Kratzer
- January 31 – Elaine Aldrich & Adrienne Teich

Geraldine Shaw

Thank you,



Geraldine

THE ROARING GIRL

In Elizabethan London, lives Moll Cutpurse, The Roaring Girl- dressed in men's clothes and carrying a sword. Woe betide the man that mistreats her...

On January 10th at the UUCR, come see a special preview performance of the Children's Shakespeare Theatre's Knave Players, as they present 'The Roaring Girl' written by Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker, contemporaries of William Shakespeare.

- 4:00 at UUCR, doors open at 3:30. This is a split fundraiser for UUCR and CST.
- \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 children under 18.

CST is in its 17th season serving the youth of Rockland County, and this coming June, will be the sole representative for the United States at the World Festival of Children's Theatre in Stratford Ontario. Proceeds from this performance will help send them on their way! (The Roaring Girl features Liam and Sam Rigney of the UUCR, and is directed by Dan Hanchrow, of the Board of Worship) Come out for a rollicking good time, and support two great causes!

**Next membership meeting will be
Jan. 24th at noon**

