

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND**

**130 Concklin Road, Pomona, NY 10970**

**Office (845) 354-1789,**

**www.uurocklandny.org**

**e-mail: administrator@uurocklandny.org**

It is courage the world needs, not infallibility.

~Wilfred Grenfell

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## **THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN**

**September, 2016**

**Vol. 60, #1**

**Editor: Mary Holdampf**

### **All are welcome.**

**Sunday services at 10:30 am  
Hospitality Hour after service**

**Sept 4, 10:30 am**

**Members**

#### **Annual Work Party**

Join us for our annual end-of-summer work party to get the building and grounds in shape for the coming year.

**Coordinator: Jane Cowan**

**Sept. 11, 10:30 am Rev. Dawn Sangrey  
Homecoming/Ingathering/Opening Day**

Come and celebrate the beginning of a new congregational year with your new minister. We will meet and greet, enjoy worship together as a whole congregation, and then eat and schmooze. Rev. Dawn will unpack her suitcase and offer a brief reflection on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11. It's time for us to gather together again.

**Coordinators: Mike Steger & Trish Larkin**

**Sept. 18, 10:30 am                    Dave Chapman  
Do Unitarian Universalists Go To Heaven?**

What happens if there really is a Heaven and, as according to the theory of Universal Salvation, we all go there? By what guidelines might we expect to be admitted or by which might we be denied admission? What would be expected of us there? What would be the potential for asking those we had harmed for forgiveness? How would we respond if someone came to us and asked us to forgive them? How would you spend eternity?

**Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow**

**Sept. 25, 10:30 am Rev. Dawn Sangrey  
What Are We Doing Here?**

This congregation is more than a social club where like-minded people come together to drink coffee and talk about their ideas. It is more than a collection of boards and committees who organize our institutional life. It is more than the physical buildings and grounds and the tireless workers who tend them. It is even more than a worshipping community where we gather on Sunday morning to share what we believe to be spiritually worthwhile. This congregation has a role to play in moving the arc of the universe toward justice.

**Coordinator: Jane Cowan**

# **WHERE TO BEGIN...**

## **AUGUST 17, 2016**

The sun is shining now after another night of rain. The full moon was still breaking through the gathering clouds when I went to bed last night, but the clouds prevailed. This morning late summer is in full display: steamy, blowsy, fickle—pouring down hot sun, then a sudden shower. And that sun sets a little earlier each day.

“Don’t let summer slip away...” the UUA bookstore urges this morning in my email. And exactly how would I prevent that? The slipping away of summer is what always happens at the end of August. After everything starts up again in September, we’ll have warm days and call them Indian summer, but the jig is up. The Earth is turning. We are on the move.

I remember this summer: the peonies and lilacs, the ripening of roadside raspberries, the rise of the sunflowers and the corn. Now goldenrod is blooming, and the geese are beginning to gather. Everything is in transition again. This is the way of the world: always changing, always going somewhere else.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland is in transition too. Once more a new minister has come to serve you. Once more the work of learning each other, the questions, the wariness that accompanies change.

The early days of a new ministry are sometimes called “the honeymoon period.” People are relieved to have the waiting over with and excited about getting to know their new minister. Perhaps they have high hopes for the congregation’s future with this new spiritual leader. Maybe they think she will save the day, whatever that means.

The thing is: saving the day is something we do together.

Once when I was in search, looking for a new congregation to serve, I visited a UU colleague for the first time at his church. He showed me around, and I was inspired. The building was beautiful and immaculate. The place was jumping: programs to serve both the members and the outside community. They had a big choir and wonderful instrumental music. A delegation of adults and youth was preparing to go to South America for a service project. The congregation had just

successfully completed a major capital campaign to raise money for another Religious Educator on the staff. “This is great!” I said. “Tell me how to find a congregation like this one.”

My colleague smiled, and then he said gently, “But, Dawn, this wasn’t here when I got here. The congregation and I have spent the last ten years making this happen together. You don’t just walk into a congregation like this one. You and the congregation have to create it.” Oh.

Well, let the creation begin.

I can’t wait to get to know you and to learn where you want to take the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland. My contact information is listed below. Let’s get together soon.

Blessings.

Dawn

the Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Consulting Minister

## **How To Get in Touch with Rev. Dawn**

For routine congregation business, email is probably your best bet. I read email regularly and respond as needed. If it’s urgent, please tell me in the subject line. Usually I can respond on the same or the next day, except on Thursday, which is my day off. Email: [dawnsangrey@gmail.com](mailto:dawnsangrey@gmail.com).

When you want to talk, please use the phone. Home phone number: 914-666-6398. I pick up my home voicemail at least once a day. On Thursday, my day off, I only respond to emergencies, pastoral or congregational. If it can wait, please call on Friday. I do have a cell phone, and I prefer not to use it for work, so call me on my home phone. Don’t hesitate. If we’re eating dinner, I won’t pick up.

In case of emergency, don’t hesitate to call any day or time of day.

I’m not sure what office hour times will work for us, so I’m going to start by having office hours in the minister’s study at the church on Wednesday from 4 to 6 and at other times by appointment. Never on Thursday, which is my day off.

Did I mention that Thursday is my day off?

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Welcome to the start of a new year! We have many new changes to look forward to. First, our RE rooms have had a makeover this summer, with new roof and carpet! Thank you to the many hands that have been hard at work cleaning and overseeing these improvements. I've also remodeled my office. This is now a more comfortable space for administrative work, quiet spiritual practice and conversation (open to all), and youth meetings.

Many of you have already met our new nursery assistant, Lulu, who joined us in early July. We are glad that she will be helping Ana out in the year ahead. We also welcome our new minister, Rev. Dawn Sangrey, who will lead our first All Ages service of the year on September 11th.

Religious Education classes begin September 18th. Parents will be receiving a letter from me with registration information. We welcome new families, so spread the word! You can also stop by the classrooms on September 4th to register your child. We have many new people who have signed up to assist in the classroom this year, but we can always use more teachers and assistants. I am looking forward to the year ahead!

## **Curricula for 2016-17**

- K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade - Spirit of Adventure - This class will explore what it means to be Unitarian Universalist by looking at famous UU's in sports, medicine, food, winter holidays, science, building, the web of life and more.
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade - Neighboring Faiths - This class includes exploration of the world's religions, and various forms of Christianity and includes visits to nearby faith communities. We will supplement with Tapestry of Faith's Building Bridges curriculum, which focuses on building understanding and relationships with people from other religions.

- 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade - Youth Ministry –Meeting with advisors is planned for early September. We will be visioning our year ahead, which may include small group ministry, worship, social justice, cons, and lots of fun!

September 11	All Ages Opening Worship Service
18	RE (Religious Education) classes begin
25	RE classes

Terri Pahucki  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uurocklandny.org](mailto:dre@uurocklandny.org)

## **BOARD OF WORSHIP**

The Board of Worship is excited for the new worship year, and we hope that everyone can join us for our Welcome Service on September 11th. In addition to welcoming Rev. Dawn Sangrey for her first sermon as our new minister, the Board of Worship will host a welcome brunch for the congregation immediately after the service. Our friend Dave Chapman will return on September 18th to explore whether Unitarian Universalists go to Heaven

Throughout the year we will be providing services chocked full of content, and we ask all members and guests to arrive early to allow time to get settled so that we can start promptly at 10:30 each Sunday.

## **EDITOR'S TIDBITS**

Member directories for 2016-17 are now available. You will find them on the rear table in the Worshop until Sept. 25 after which you will have to request one from Mary. I have also sent PDF copies to all members on email.

Thank you so much for continuing to bring me used ink cartridges as they cut down tremendously on our office expenses.

## BOT NEWS

Welcome back! The whole of the Board of Trustees is very happy to begin a new year with a new minister. Rev. Dawn is excited to begin with us. She has participated with both BOW and BOT retreats over the summer. It is an exciting time. At our BOT retreat we have chosen a theme of Generosity. Let us all try to help the UUCR, our members, and our community at large. There will, of course, be challenges (such is the way of the world), but together we can do great things. We are always happy to hear suggestions from the community at how we can grow together. If you look, you will see that we have new carpet in the two large RE rooms. There was a leak at the beginning of the summer, and we decided to take that opportunity to get the rooms in better shape. So many people have been working cleaning. That is generosity of time. There are all sorts of ways to be generous. It is not all about money (although that is something we certainly need to keep the lights on). Helping out with RE, cleaning up, greeting, serving on boards and committees - all ways of being generous to our community. The BOT wishes to keep the first plate of the month to be given to the MLK center for the first half of the year and then perhaps allow the rest of the congregation to have some input on what organization in our larger community we can help support for the next half of the worship year. Let's all jump in!

Melissa A Schroeter, Chair BOT



the workers and taking care of the roofer, and carpet installers.

**Newsletter Deadline for October:  
SEPTEMBER 18, 6:00 PM**



## TREASURER'S NEWS

Difficult to believe that Sept. and our first quarter of the fiscal year have arrived! This has been a very eventful summer.

- We begin this month with our new minister, Rev. Dawn Sangrey.
- The serious leak in the back RE rooms necessitated expenditure for a new roof for that entire wing (including the office). The cost was over \$9000, but it had to be done.
- We took this opportunity to do some needed work in those two RE rooms, as well as putting in new carpeting.

Needless to say, this affects the coffers. Please update your pledges for this first quarter.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- Sept. 10      Shamanic Ceremony  
(Jane Cowan): 6 – 9 pm
- Sept. 11      BOW Meeting: Noon
- Sept. 24      Silent Retreat & Youth Service  
(Jane Cown): 11:30 am – 8 pm
- Sept. 25      BOT Meeting: Noon

Al-Anon meets Mondays at 9:30 am  
and Thursdays at 7:30 pm

## MEMBERSHIP *Sept. Greeters*

- |      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 9/4  | Sally Andriette<br>Ed Donnelly  |
| 9/11 | Susan Brunelli<br>Alex Finger   |
| 9/18 | Denise Waithe<br>Hillary Torres |
| 9/25 | Roberta Chang<br>Emily Kratzer  |

## *Coffee Hostess*

**THANK YOU SO MUCH,  
SUSAN BRUNELLI!**