

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCKLAND

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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THE ROCKLAND UNITARIAN

March, 2017

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Editor: Mary Holdampf

Mar. 5, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
The Generous Heart

Generosity has its roots in gratitude, in courage, and in commitment. The generous heart is awake and aware, living out the values it has embraced. When what you say and what you do match, you have integrity. As the congregation embarks on our annual pledge drive, we will consider how to cultivate generosity.

Coordinator: Luis Torres

Mar. 12, 10:30 a.m. Tricia Larkin
Spirit in Practice Service No. 4:

When I read the first 2 paragraphs introducing this topic at UUA.org, it was clear it was mine - it speaks about soul friends, spiritual directors, and sharing journeys. As most of you know, I have been in the Spiritual Guidance Program at Rowe since September 2015, this service will give you a taste of what I have been experiencing - I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Coordinator: Mike Steger

Earbuds or over-the-ear headsets are available for better audio quality. Please ask greeter.

Mar. 19, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Turnaround Sunday

Once a year at UUCR, everybody gets turned around. The children get to stay in the worship room with Rev. Dawn, and the adults go to Religious Education. Adults will choose from among these class offerings: discussing William Barber's *The Third Reconstruction: How A Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, or playing UUCR Jeopardy, or joining a Singalong with George. **Coordinator: Laurie Young**

Mar. 26, 10:30 am Evan Pritchard
Gonna Trouble the Water:
Escaping Slavery Then and Now
Through Native American Wisdom

In this timely sermon, Mi'kmaq descendant longtime UUCR friend Evan Pritchard will connect Black Lives Matter with the standoff at Standing Rock and the current rise of corporate power in America through the sharing of a seemingly simple song, "Wade in the Water." As this award-winning historian unveils the song's many layers of hidden meaning, we will begin to see its references to Moses, Jesus, indigenous healing practices and survival strategies, condolence songs, a belief in miracles, and the universal struggle for freedom and sovereignty shared by all sentient beings. (Potluck Sunday) **Coordinator: Dan Hanchrow**

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
March 19, 2017, 6 pm

WHEN YOU GIVE IT AWAY

Spring sometimes comes in the month of March. My calendar says March 20 is the first day. All I know for sure is that spring will come. It always has. This year let the coming of spring inspire you to keep your perspective and count your blessings. We are called as Unitarian Universalists to stay awake to the injustice in the world. We are also called to joy, to generosity, to deep appreciation.

We humans seem to be made to believe that what's happening right now is what's real. So when you have a head cold, you can't remember what it was like to be able to breathe. When it's winter, we can't remember spring. When the snow is blowing in our faces, we can't quite hold onto the idea that it won't always be snowing this way.

The current political situation in our country might be like that. Everywhere you turn, voices are crying out: the world as we know it is coming to an end! People are suffering because of the new administration's policies, no question, especially the poor and those who have recently immigrated. Everybody's feeling less safe. The uncertainty of the future is more apparent than usual. Nobody knows where this will end.

It is essential to pay attention. And it is essential to resist. So much is changing so fast. It's hard to know where to put your attention, which of the many injustices to fight. Our Social Justice Committee is grappling with these challenges and will be offering us guidance and leadership in the days ahead. Consider joining them for the book discussion of *The Third Reconstruction* on Turnaround Sunday.

This month we will be looking at where the congregation is going and what resources we need to carry out our plans. The annual pledge drive is an opportunity to support this community of faith at a time when our values and our focus on social justice are more needed than ever. You may remember Malvina Reynold's song:

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.
It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.

May you find your generous heart during this pledge drive and give abundantly. May you find joy. May you find the spring.

Blessings.

Dawn

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey

minister@uurocklandny.org

914-666-6398

TREASURER'S NEWS

The Bd. of Trustees voted at the most recent meeting to continue our mid-month collection for a local charity to continue with the MLK Center for the remainder of this fiscal year, ending June 30. At the Annual Meeting a new local charity will be agreed upon with a vote of the congregation.

PLEASE remember that the collection at the coffee hour is collected for our annual donation to Helping Hands. We all enjoy the treats and the potluck lunches; do not forget to contribute to the basket. Any newer congregants or visitors who would like more information on Helping Hands, see me after the service on any Sunday. Thank you

Barbara Francis Treasurer

THANK YOU

Our daughters and I were very touched by the outpouring of love and help during Chuck's lengthy illness and the wonderful help we received to put a "celebration of life" together. Special thanks go out to Dawn and Mary, whose suggestions were of great value. We love you all! Nel Hubbard

RE NEWS

February was a snowy month and we were sorry to have had to cancel the youth-led “Standing on the Side of Love” service due to weather. We hope to reschedule this for later in the year. The children were still able to make Valentines with Emily Kratzer the following week, which were then delivered to homebound congregation members. Thank you to everyone who has supported us by making, selling, or purchasing soup this month!

In March, we will be introducing a very important unit on Islam to our Neighboring Faiths class, and plan to visit a local mosque. We welcome adults who would like to join us. Developing interreligious understanding and relationships matters now more than ever. The Spirit of Adventure class will be moving into a Unit focused on Building and spend some time with UU architects and engineers. Visitors in the classroom are always welcome!

Our Children’s Worship focus this month will be on spiritual practices. The children will also have a chance to spend some time with Rev. Dawn in the worship room on Turnaround Sunday.

We look forward to several events this month: game night/ potluck, spring equinox, and youth cons. We are also continuing to strengthen collaborations with the Rockland Families for Social Justice Network and will have more to share in the coming weeks.

March RE Calendar

March 5	RE classes, CWS (children’s worship service)
12	RE classes
19	Turnaround Sunday
26	RE classes

Terri Pahucki
Director of Religious Education
dre@uurocklandny.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We have a change on the Board of Trustees. Denise Waite has taken over an open spot on the board. I am not sure how she feels about that after our marathon meeting yesterday afternoon (her first full meeting), but I am very happy that we have a full BOT once more. It is always nice to see new members coming forward to become more involved in our community. Please, everyone let her know how much it is appreciated.

We will continue to give a plate each month to the MLK Center. Our reason for continuing with this charity is because we know it is truly local and does not get a great deal of funding from national sources at all. It feeds a real gap for the children of East Ramapo school district. There is ongoing research into other local charities, and we will give the full congregation a voice in this at the annual meeting in May.

The end of this month we will be kicking off our annual pledge drive. The theme this year is to make UUCR become sustainable. There is a lot to that word. One definition is the ability to be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed. How do we support ourselves? Our current budget is under a strain due to difficulties with our renter being unable to make the rent. If we were truly self-sustaining, then that rental income would be icing on the cake, rather than our need to have it sustain us. The trick and challenge is to be able to sustain ourselves.

The budget we approved at our last annual meeting is under strain due to the renter not meeting their obligation. This issue has taken a lot of time and energy from the BOT. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if our time and energy could be spent more on something else? Just some thoughts. What does sustainable mean to you?

Melissa A. Schroeter
Chair, BOT

CIRCLE SUPPERS

Circle Suppers are gatherings of around 8 people for a meal in a smaller, more personal environment. Typically, the host provides the main dish and guests provide other parts of the meal. We are targeting sometime in the month of April, but specific date/time is determined by the host. If you are interested in hosting a circle supper or attending one, reach out to Hillary Torres at hillary279@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF AT THE POTLUCK MARCH 26

The annual stewardship campaign is almost here. This is the time of year when we ask you to consider your role as stewards to our religious home. The theme for our annual reflection is “Sustainability.”

How can we best sustain each other and help to sustain Rockland County and the wider world in these uncertain times? Although we may not like to think about it, financial uncertainty impacts our actions. When the congregation sustains itself financially, we can turn our attention to more than just getting through another year. The Board of Trustees can concentrate on mission, vision, and long-range planning, rather than rental management. We will all have more time to work with the homeless, deal with environmental challenges, educate our children, and engage in those spiritual practices that help center us in the world. Please consider your financial **Fair Share** in this effort.

Barbara Francis, our treasurer, is leading the planning of the new budget. We will be getting input from the various committees, as well as from our wonderful administrator Mary Holdampf and our inspirational DRE Terri Pahucki.

During the spring campaign, the Board of Trustees wants your input too. Beginning March 26th, we will ask for your ideas and your financial commitment that will allow us to reach our shared vision.

The Stewardship Campaign will be carried out in two ways:

1. Pledge Drive Kickoff/Pot Luck Lunch on March 26th after the service. Membership, led by Hillary Torres, will organize the pot luck lunch as usual. There will be a brief description of the goals of the stewardship campaign, opportunities for your input, and pledge cards to be filled out. There will be entertainment too!
2. Canvassers will schedule individual appointments with all those who cannot attend the Kickoff Lunch.

Harry Shair, Pledge Drive Chair

GAME NIGHT AT THE UU

Have you seen that sweet video going around where everyone in an apartment building gets together in the hallway for a community meal? Food is a great way of bringing people together, so on Saturday, March 4, the RE Committee is hosting an informal potluck/game night from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring food to share and a game to play. This is not just for families—all members are encouraged to attend, and bring friends! Parents, please note: there will be no child care for this event, and all classrooms will be locked. Children will be expected to hang out in the worship room with everyone.

Tracey Hancock for the RE Committee

MARCH SCHEDULE

- March 4, UU Curious? 10 -12 pm
Game Night: 5 – 7 pm
- March 5, Membership: noon
- March 12, BOT: noon
- March 18, Spring Equinox: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- March 26, Pledge Drive, Potluck Lunch:
after service
- Al-Anon, Mondays: 9:30 am; Thursdays: 7:30 pm

MEMBERSHIP NEWS March Greeters

<u>3/5</u>	<u>3/19</u>
Hillary Torres	Seamus Gallagher
Denise Waithe	Geraldine Shaw
<u>3/12</u>	<u>3/26</u>
Roberta Chang	Elaine Aldrich
Emily Kratzer	Alex Chase

Sally Andriette



SPRING EQUINOX

- Saturday March 18th 6:30 - 8:30pm
Spring Equinox fire ceremony and potluck
with Shaman Mikki Baloy.