

# The Chalice Light

Vol. 45, Issue 7 July/August, 2016



While we make every intention to publish an accurate calendar, topics may be subject to change. Please consult [uucrt.org](http://uucrt.org) for the most up-to-date listings. We welcome all seekers regardless of age, creed, race, ability/disability, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

## July 3: Hollis Kellog

### A Morning of Poetry and Music with Hollis Kellogg

Hollis will share poetry and music celebrating the vast spiritual freedom Unitarians enjoy. Feel free to bring your own spiritual poem, prose, song or work of art to share (time permitting).

## July 10: Lisa Quatrocchi and Julian Broughton

Soulful dance expressions by the dynamic duo; reflections of the passionate art of belly dance. Come and feast your eyes on the true passion and love for the art of belly dance.

## July 17: Terri Pahucki

### On Belonging

Let us explore the meanings and challenges of belonging in the Unitarian Universalist religious community. What spiritual riches can we discover through connection to our history and movement?

## July 24: Nancy Murillo

### A Sunday morning talk from a Buddhist perspective

## July 31: Julie Squires

### The Ethics of Eating

A discussion of ethics, environmental impact and health implications of our food choices. While we attempt to feed a growing global population while caring for a fragile ecosystem and living a compassionate lifestyle, we must explore and discuss what is on our dinner plate.

## Aug. 7: Celine Daly

### Labyrinth sound meditation:

A centering labyrinth walk accompanied by the meditative and deep healing sound vibrations of Tibetan and crystal bowls, gongs, flutes and other healing instruments. Bring personal sun protection (hats, sunscreen, umbrella, etc.) and water as we will be outside at the labyrinth.

**Aug. 14:** To Be Announced. Please follow our Eblast for updates.

## Aug. 21: Terri Pahucki Planting Peace

## July/August, 2016 Calendar

*All events are held at the UUCRT unless otherwise noted. Italicized events are not UU sponsored but may be of interest to congregants.*

*UUCRT Qigong will no longer be on the calendar as an ongoing scheduled program. If you intend on coming to morning qigong, please call (845) 562-1911 Saturday evening to verify availability.*

**July 5, Tuesday** – 7 p.m. *Orange County Psychic Experiences Group*

**July 10, Sunday** – Noon: Potluck luncheon

**July 17, Sunday** – 9:30 a.m. Walk the labyrinth with Terri  
– 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters Sharing Circle

**July 24, Sunday** – 12:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

**July 31, Sunday** – 12:15 p.m. Fifth Sunday Forum

**Aug. 2, Tuesday** – 7 p.m. *Orange County Psychic Experiences Group*

**Aug. 14, Sunday** – Noon: Potluck luncheon

**Aug. 21, Sunday** – 9:30 a.m. Walk the labyrinth with Terri  
– 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters Sharing Circle

## Sunday Services

Our Sunday services are held at 9 Vance Rd, Rock Tavern, NY at 10:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

What seeds of peace will we plant in the coming year? What will we grow together? All ages are welcome to share hopes for how we can sow peace in the face of challenging times.

**Aug. 28: Evan Pritchard**

### **Appreciating Bob Dylan**

Bob Dylan turns 75 this year. Bring out your inner Dylan as we celebrate his early protest and folk songs which are still relevant to social justice today. Bring your voice, guitar, tambourines.

## **From Your Minister**

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I'm honored to serve my first full congregational year with you as your called and settled minister.

We have many achievements to celebrate, including the commissioning Terri Pahucki as a Lay Commissioned Minister, recognition of the UUCRT as a Peace Advocate Congregation, the distinction of UUCRT being a Black Level Sponsor of Knights Out, and home to the newly chartered Hudson Valley Chapter 177 of Veteran's for Peace. Moreover, the debut Spiritual Arts Fair was a remarkable success, and our new website is terrific! For the first time, perhaps ever, the UUCRT had two delegates, Mike Landrum and Linda Mangelsdorf, at General Assembly and we made history by bringing an Action of Immediate Witness from creation all the way to the floor for a vote. Finally, with much relief, I received Final Fellowship from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA. And five new members joined so far in 2016.

We have had our share of pains and losses. Anne Beck and Dirk Westervelt died. The political campaigning is painful to behold. Gun violence and acts of terror continue in America and around the world. Our "Peace President" has disappointed many of us and the prospects for anything better seem bleak. Issues like climate justice and income inequality loom as large as ever.

Despite the sadness, our religious movement is strong and our future is bright. I find hope in that reality and look forward to continuing our journey together at the start of our new congregational year in September.

In Service,  
Chris

Note: Rev. Antal will be on Vacation from July 21-August 10 and then on study leave from August 11 to 18. During that time he will not be responding to emails or phone-calls. Members in need of ministerial support

may contact our lay commissioned minister, Terri Pahucki, or the congregation President Mike McGinn, who will refer you to the on-call Unitarian Universalist minister for that week.

## **Summer Message from the President of the Board**

I always think of "Porgy and Bess" this time of year. "It's summertime and the living is easy ..." I wanted to write how we are welcoming Hollis Kellogg to the Board while saying farewell to Nate Binzen. Nate did most of the work on the document that got us our "Peace Advocacy Congregation" designation. He has been a valuable voice on the Board. But this column is not about that.

This is not the column I was hoping to write. I took a good look at the last financial report and the pledge report. I should know better after six years as Treasurer, but I was in an impulsive mood. There is good news in the pledge report; there are a few members who have already passed their pledge amounts. I also did not see any of what I think of as "nonperforming pledges." Unfortunately, that is it for the good news.

The problem is that year after year we approve budgets with deficits. We did it again in our last budget. We did this despite the promise we made as a congregation when we called Rev. Chris. A promise to pay the minister and pay our bills. By the act of approving the budget, by the act of even tolerating a deficit budget we are breaking our promise. Indeed, our actions do not show concern for the very Unitarian Universalist principles we say we hold so dear. We are once again on track to exceed our deficit this year because the fire pump needed repair. This is not the way a well-functioning congregation conducts its affairs. What are our actions saying about ourselves?

In my six years as Treasurer and a year and a half as President I have never been asked; "Where does the money to cover the budget shortfalls come from?" In the recent past it has come from the Nicholas DiGiomo bequest. We blew right through that money. How many of us have given him a thought? I bet he hoped that we would do something more meaningful with that money than just pay bills. Perhaps help those less fortunate, or do some creative outreach. Right now we are diminishing the money that Anne Beck left us. There was hope that once we got it all we could do the things that Anne asked us to do in her will, and perhaps pay off most of the mortgage principal. If we let it become a

race to see how much will be left, what are we saying about ourselves?

I do not own a television, but a wise Irishman told me that there is a saying on “Game of Thrones”. It is; “Winter is coming”. So, I say it now, Winter is coming. The Birch School will eventually leave. Our good fortune with people passing away and leaving us money will not last. Winter is coming. What will you do about it?

As President of the Board of Trustees I am the senior lay leader of this congregation. I cannot and will not be silent on this issue any longer. We are well overdue for some serious self-examination, both individually and as a congregation. We are way too blithe about breaking our promises. We must demand of ourselves that we stop behaving in a way that is contrary to our principles. Let me be clear, this is a moral issue that is manifesting as a financial issue. What will we – and you -- do about it?

My observation on our congregational pledging leads me to believe that most of us feel that giving should not involve any personal sacrifice, that it should be easy.

Let us individually and collectively turn that around and make the act of giving a moral practice that involves sacrifice and spiritual enrichment. That is how we keep our promises. That is how we honor our bequests. That is how we stay true to our principles and each other.

In Service,

Mike McGinn

President of the Board of Trustees

## A Message from the Lay Commissioned Minister

I have recently returned from the UU General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, where I attended two days, along with my daughter, Camille. Also present were Rev. Chris and his sons, and our two dedicated delegates, Mike Landrum and Linda Mangelsdorf. Linda, Camille, and I carried the UUCRT banner in the opening ceremony parade, which included banners from hundreds of congregations across the country. This banner was designed and created two years ago by Alison Fornés, and signed by many of you. As we marched, we carried the spirit of our congregation with us, entering into fellowship with our larger movement.

Throughout GA I experienced a deep connection to a faith tradition that stands for love, freedom, and justice. I experienced a sense of belonging to something much larger than myself. But belonging to any group is not easy; it requires an investment of energy and a

commitment to relationship. There are inevitably conflicts and tensions within all families, communities, and nations. All around us we are bombarded with messages that seek to exclude and prevent belonging--keeping some groups in, and others out. As a denomination committed to building “world community of peace, love, and justice for all”, we seek to draw a circle wide enough to hold us all. Though challenging, it is essential if we are to create peace together.

This summer I invite you to join me in an exploration of belonging and peace. I will be leading services related to these themes at the congregation on July 17th and August 21st, followed by Soul Matters circles from 12:15 to 1:00. You are also welcome to join me in walking the labyrinth before service from 9:30 to 10:00.

Perhaps the center of all belonging lies with the earth itself. May this summer be a time for all of us to slow down, and to experience our place “in the family of things.” In July and August, I invite you to collect water from the places you visit that have meaning to you. I hope that your water will remind you of a moment or experience that connects you to your own sense of purpose and belonging. We will share our water in a whole community ritual on September 11th.

In Peace,

Terri Pahucki

## Reports from the UUA General Assembly

Mike Landrum and Linda Mangelsdorf were UUCRT delegates at the annual UUA General Assembly in Columbus, OH June 23-26. Rev. Chris Antal and Terri Pahucki were there for a day.

We proudly carried our beautiful UUCRT banner in the opening parade on Wednesday evening. All banners were hung around the convention center, and ours was prominently displayed at the bottom of a very busy escalator!



On Thursday, Rev. Chris was at the Peace Ministry booth talking with people about his *Halt Drones Now* initiative, while Linda and Mike circulated among delegates requesting signatures in support of an Action for Immediate Witness (the means by which proposals are brought before the assembly) on that subject. Our petition was submitted at 5 pm on Friday with 200 signatures! (Rules are VERY specific at GA—we needed at least 125!)

There were 11 potential AIWs, and only six were chosen by the Committee for Social Witness for presentation to the Assembly. At 11 pm we learned that we made the cut! At 8:30 Saturday morning, when voting reduced the six to three, despite an impassioned 2 minute speech by Mike, not enough of the +/- 1500 voters supported us, and, sadly, we did not prevail.

A small contingent of Westboro Baptists arrived on Friday to protest our UUA support of the LGBT community. They were met by a dozen of the Orlando Angels and a swarm of UU's singing "I breathe in peace, I breathe out love".

There were many valuable workshops and talks and a whole lot of singing!

For those wanting more detailed info, my program guide will be left at the welcome table in our sanctuary.

Next year's GA will be in New Orleans, LA. Let's begin now to plan for our participation there!

Linda Mangelsdorf  
Delegate, UUA GA 2016



## ***Congregational Peace Award***

This picture was taken at the Peace Ministry Network Booth at General Assembly. Peace Ministry Network Chair, Mac Goekler, (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) presents the Congregational Peace Advocacy Award to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern congregation. Accepting the award are Rev. Chris Antal (left), Lay Commissioned Minister Terri Pahucki, her daughter, Camille, and delegates Mike Landrum and Linda Mangelsdorf.

## **Text of Mike Landrum's Speech at the UUA General Assembly**

Throughout history the American Military NEVER fired the first shot.

That proud tradition vanished when George W Bush invaded Iraq—preemptively and with false assumptions.

Our continuing drone policy, also known as Lethal UAV's is a extension of that mind-set, and one of the biggest disappointments of the Obama Administration.

The moral ambiguity of these secret killings should be a clear call for a statement of conscience from Unitarian Universalists everywhere.

In 2013, Obama created a Task Force at the Stimson Center, asking for proposals and recommendations on the use of drones.

Their report, issued in 2014, outlines eight concrete recommendations, concluding that US drone policy should be transparent, accountable and consistent with long-term US national security goals.

In 2016, Stimson issued a report card showing the administration's failure.

Targeted killings of terrorists is one thing, but the "blow back" from unintended civilian killings in Pakistan and Yemen is "a potent recruiting tool for terrorist organizations."

We are calling for the immediate implementation of the Stimson Task Force recommendations.

We have a real opportunity in just a few weeks.

The White House has agreed to a meeting on July 14 on this topic with major religious leaders from all denominations.

We feel it is vital that we be represented there as well.

We have learned that UUA president Peter Morales will be out of the country on that date;

Therefore, we are calling for the appointment of an Ambassador for Disarmament, Peace and Security to speak truth to power and advocate for our principles and our conscience.

Let's return to our traditional military values of honor, courage and integrity!



### **Final Fellowship for Rev. Chris**

At the Service of the Living Tradition, in Columbus Ohio, where Rev. Antal received Final Fellowship from the UUA. Celebrating with him are his sons, Justin and Eliot, Mike Landrum, and Camille and Terri Pahucki.

## **From our Ministries**

### **Stewardship & Finance**

#### **Change is in the air**

Greetings from the S&F Ministry,

We are the folks who talk with you about money, and our 'job' is to:

- Prepare a budget to present to the Annual Congregational Meeting, and
- Organize the Annual Fund Drive.

**This congregational year ends on Dec. 31, so all pledges for 2016 will be concluded, and, we hope, paid in full by then.** The day-to-day operation of the 'business of doing congregational work' depends on that. Thank you.

Back in Nov. 2015, the congregation voted to change our fiscal year to coincide with the church calendar--- that is July 1-June 30 each year.

So in 2017, we will have a ½ year (Jan.1-June 30) followed by the 'new' year, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2018.

**This is a change---upheaval---complication to our already complicated lives--- Yikes, something else to think about!!!**

**2 pledge drives! First a ½ year, then a full-blown full year drive!**

The members of this ministry are committed to using this as an opportunity for constructive communication--so please know that we'll be in touch. You'll see reminders in the weekly bulletin, as well as this newsletter, and we'll be available personally to answer questions, allay concerns, and help create a smooth transition.

Thank yoUU for the opportunity to be of service.

Heather Broadfoot, Alan Horne, Rebecca Jones, and Linda Mangelsdorf.

*Giving makes everything better---including you!*

## **Arts Ministry**

### **New Art Exhibit 'Dialogs'**

#### **Opened in June at the UUCRT**

"Dialogs" is the new exhibit that opened on Sunday, June 12th in the Sanctuary Art Gallery. This two-person show features the works of Charles Lang and Alice Sipple. Each artist reveals, in their own uniquely different ways, how a powerful interplay of color and form creates a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Their work stirs the viewer by inviting them in to participate in the dialog they have begun. Charles Lang describes: "I let the simple stories I'm telling be told and leave it to others to intellectualize." Formally trained as a musician at the Berklee School of Music, 6 years ago he began to paint, with no formal training in the Visual Arts whatsoever. "Art is a dialog," he states, where "step by step it evolves." And he adds: "There's a hump to get over in each picture." And as he does, the beauty of composition emerges. It makes sense.

Alice Sipple explores the juxtaposition of symbols and shapes which are composed in a way that one can only describe as "loving." They communicate with each other deeply, with a quiet, yet forceful passion. And they draw us into their mystery.

Born and raised on the west coast, Alice has spent time teaching in Switzerland, Ecuador, and Bolivia. The years abroad made a deep impression on her, particularly time spent in South America where many indigenous peoples are still in touch with earth-centered spirituality.

Alice has lived through several volcanic eruptions in her lifetime. She respects the power that lies within the earth, and, in keeping with the ancient traditions of many cultures, considers mountains to be spiritual links

between the earth and sky. Her artwork revolves around concepts of feminine spirituality. Icons such as the egg, the moon, and the mountain symbolize that spirit. Her paintings and drawings capture a delicate balance between the immense power of the earth and Her fragility.

## Membership



**Cynthia Gilkeson (center) during her new member ceremony with Membership Chair Patti Beaumont and Rev. Chris Antal.**

### Introduction to Cynthia Gilkeson

I wasn't raised in a religion but I have always believed there is something more working in my life. My parents were involved in the civil rights movement. When I turned 14 I became an anarchist and have been one ever since. I have read a lot of Noam Chomsky and because of that and my parents I am very politically aware. As a teenager I started to explore religions on my own.

I joined the Air Force in 1983 because I needed to get away from New York City. I picked the furthest place I could go so I went to Germany and served there until 1988, working as a pharmacy technician. In Germany I joined a movement called Eckankar, which believes we are all souls dressed up in human bodies; we are all the same underneath, trying to find, get close to and express God. I left that movement but still hold on to the truths they taught. I am on this planet to learn how to be a better vehicle for God.

I have three children, Alexander, 22, Cypress, age 20, Jeremy, 18, who I raised all by myself. Jeremy is still living with me and is a student at Orange County Community College. I am going to college for a bachelor

of science in criminal justice and human service and graduating soon with honors and very excited about that. I am involved in Community Voices Heard, a grass roots program that helps people who are disenfranchised in the community of Newburgh. I am a leader in that organization and am active in marches and protests.

Twila Smith invited me to the UUCRT more than 15 years ago and I really liked it because it included all religions. I liked the intellect. People are not Bible-thumpers. I was a member for more than a decade and raised my children in the UUCRT. I was going through an illness and messy divorce and was left without a vehicle. Rev. Bridges stuck by me and a lot of others in the church stuck by me and provided pastoral support. Because of my situation it was tough to get to the UUCRT so I withdrew my membership and studied for a time with a local church in Newburgh, but got kind of bored with it.

I'll serve in any position that is available at the UU. I am willing to go on the board or serve in the RE program. I want to work with teens. That is my thing. I also plan to join Veteran's For Peace. I'm really happy the UUCRT is going to be a part of my life again. I was surprised most of the people still remember me! I was given a wonderful hearty welcome, which is great.



**Christina Donaldson (center) with Patti Beaumont and Rev. Chris Antal at her new member ceremony.**

### Introduction to Christina Donaldson

Christina has been attending Sunday Services on and off for a year now, feeling very much at home with the philosophy and mission of the UUCRT. With the help and encouragement of Rev. Chris and various members,

Christina has decided she'd like to commit to being a member. Along with many other interests, Christina has been trained to do reiki, and loves to read and write.

She is excited for the opportunity to become more involved in this great community. She thanks everyone for their welcoming hospitality and looks forward to learning and growing with all of you.

## News

### UUCRT Camping Trip!

Last year a few UU families went on an impromptu camping trip. We had such a fun time playing in nature, swimming, toasting marshmallows, and strengthening friendships. This year we want to do it again, and all ages are invited to join us! We will be camping from August 5th to 7th at Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in Putnam County. If you would like to join, please contact Terri Pahucki at [tpahucki@gmail.com](mailto:tpahucki@gmail.com). RSVP soon, as sites fill up quickly.

### 5th Sunday Forum: July 31, 12:15

Long ago we had an occasional **5th Sunday Forum** open to all, to discuss whatever might be on our minds about the UUCRT. It provided a channel for planning ahead, sharing new ideas, offering feedback, expressing concerns, etc. Let's meet for an hour on July 31, in the sanctuary and see if this still works for us.

--Verne M. Bell

### Sign Up for Coffee Hour Hosting

Our *coffee hour* was discussed at the recent Congregation Meeting. We ask all who attend this hour of fellowship to fully participate in this function that is so treasured by our members, friends, and guests. Serving as a host during coffee hour is a gracious way to minister to one another. *We need more people to sign up as hosts.* Sign up sheets will be available after service for the next few weeks. If you are concerned about what this service entails or are worried about fulfilling a month long obligation, speak to Jane O'Donnell, Twila Smith, or Laura Bair for suggestions on how to make coffee hour service work for you, and as a gift you offer to our community.

**THE CHALICE LIGHT** is the official newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern.

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