

# The Chalice Light

Vol. 45, Issue 11

December, 2016



## December, 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.*

**Dec. 2, Friday** – 6:30 p.m. Evening Out For Youth

**Dec. 4, Sunday** –1 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting  
1 p.m. *Veterans For Peace meeting*

**Dec. 6, Tuesday** – 7 p.m. *Orange County Psychic Experiences Group*

**Dec. 10, Saturday** – 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Coffee House*

**Dec. 11, Sunday**

-- Noon: Potluck luncheon  
-- 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters Sharing Circle with Rev. Chris  
-- 12:15 p.m. Social Action Ministry meeting

**Dec. 18, Sunday** – 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Rev. Chris. Room 20.

**Jan. 1, Sunday** – 10 a.m. Interfaith Prayer for World Peace, 10am, Chaun Yen Monastery, Carmel, NY

## Sunday Services

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

**Dec 4: The uuUkes**

**'Atheists Don't Have No Songs'**

Or at least that is what Steve Martin says. A service of song led by the uuUkes of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

**Dec. 11: Rev. Chris J. Antal**

**An Annoying Presence**

"We have to show up to get up" writes a member of the Ojibwe tribe about their witness at Standing Rock. We will consider the places Unitarian Universalists showed up, often in ways that annoy the privileged and powerful, in order to help those on the margins get up.

**Dec. 18: Rev. Chris J. Antal**

**Winter Solstice**

An invitation to be present to the changing rhythms of nature.

**Dec. 24, Saturday Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m. with Rev. Chris J. Antal**

Join us for songs, fellowship and hot cider. The offering will go in support of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance.

**Dec. 25: No Service**

## From the Board of Trustees

Dear Members,

The program theme for the month of December is "Presence" and the question that we ask is: "What does it mean to be a community of presence?" Hmm. It would seem to me that presence is a requirement for most communities. What would a "community of absence" be? A cemetery? A ghost town?

We may feel we have common interests with others and that we, by some definition or another, are a community, but unless we stand with them, especially in an hour of need, we are just kidding ourselves. That's why our Reverend Chris left his pulpit today and is out on the Dakota prairie with the Standing Rock tribe of

Sioux – to demonstrate by his presence that he is part of their community. And so are we.

Did you understand that about Chris Antal when we called him to be our minister? He considers himself to be “In Community” with all sorts of people besides us. He sees some people who deserve to win and aren’t – so he needs to go support them. Maybe it’s the Afghan man who was his wartime interpreter whose family the Taliban marked for death. So, Rev Chris found a way to support their effort to come to America. He showed up at the airport and drove a pickup truck loaded with household goods to Buffalo for them.

Or, he sees the people killed by drones our military sends to Pakistan and other places – not the terrorists that are the target, but the old woman in her yard next door that our military doesn’t care about. They think if she gets killed because bombs are sloppy, inefficient killers, well, that’s too bad – but it’s the price of fighting terror.

So, Rev. Chris sees a way he can support innocent people in harm’s way, or that band of native Americans on the banks of their pure and sacred river. In his time as an Army chaplain, Chris expressed his feelings courageously and made powerful people hear the truth. There’s a power that comes to men with integrity. Chris Antal has a sense of honor and he uses his power to benefit people who need and deserve support.

We can be proud of Rev. Chris – and many others in our Community. Jay Beaumont takes his presence down to a building site in Newburgh and with Habitat For Humanity he helps a family get a home. Laura Bair shows up on Friday night and helps the youth of our community grow and learn to make a difference. Verne Bell and Barbara Hultgren and Linda Mangelsdorf and Frances Cott and dozens of others over the years have made a huge contribution to the world. I thank them all and our minister. They have brought such honor to our community by their good works and their presence among us.

Mike Landrum – Acting President, Board of Trustees

## From Your Minister

Your presence is annoying!" With that declaration to his sister, my teenage son ended all negotiations about who among his four younger siblings would sit where during our family's annual five hour drive to grandma's house for Thanksgiving dinner.

The "annoying presence" argument was new, and difficult to refute. It was no longer particular behavior

that made one an unacceptable neighbor, but presence, one's very identity and being! And the Annoy-o-Meter, as best I can figure, is subjective. Annoyance, it seems, is in the eye of the beholder.

Seeking a quick-fix to get on the road, I offered to take a seat in the back so my son could ride co-pilot, a privileged place and the closest thing to first class in the family van- far removed from all the annoying presences in the back.

I tell this story as a way to introduce our theme for the month: *presence*.

Join me, our service leaders, and the Leadership Ministry in December as we explore presence, including the times when Unitarian Universalists have felt called to be an annoying presence.

See you on Sunday.

Rev. Chris

## Rev. Chris Answers Call to Stand and Pray with Standing Rock

(Editor’s Note: Rev. Antal has answered “the call to Standing Rock” and will be joining other faith leaders this Sunday, Dec. 4, for an Interfaith Day of Prayer at the Oceti Sakowin Camp.)

**From Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of White Buffalo Calf Pipe Bundle, Spiritual Leader of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations**

***Pray with Us, Oceti Sakowin Camp  
Sunday, December 4, 2016***



“The hearts of all people’s faiths must now unite in believing we can change the path we are now on. We, from heart of Turtle Island, have a great message for the world to unite for our children’s future. Already we have witnessed many nations of life are now dying because of contamination: those that swim, those that crawl, those that fly, the plant nation, the four legged, and now the two legged.

We are asking the religious people to come and support our youth, to stand side by side with them, because they are standing in prayer. If you can find it in your heart, pray with them and stand beside them. The police department and National Guard would listen to each and every one of you.

This is a very serious time we are in. I know in my heart there are millions of people that feel this is long overdue. It is time that all of us become leaders to help protect the sacred upon Mother Earth. She is the source of life and not a resource.

In a Sacred Hoop of Life, where there is no ending and no beginning.”

In response to Chief Arvol Looking Horse's invitation, local faith leaders have been working closely with organizers of the [Oceti Sakowin Camp](#) to welcome all people of faith and conviction to join in this important day of prayer and solidarity.

## A Message from the Lay Commissioned Minister

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On the day after Thanksgiving, I walked through cemeteries. For many years, this has been my Black Friday tradition, as I like to begin the holiday season with quiet contemplation.

This year, my walk took me to the gravesites of spiritual ancestors in my hometown of Rochester, NY. As I stood before the graves of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass in Mount Hope Cemetery, I reflected on their legacy, offered gratitude, and renewed my commitment to the hard work of justice. Our own work might seem futile in the present, but takes on greater meaning in the long view of history. We are part of something much larger than ourselves; each precious life has its place.

This month of December we reflect upon what it means to be a community of presence. The great mystics of the world describe presence as a walk into the sacred dark. It is there in the place of unknowing that we discover the Holy, the Mystery of Being. As we move into December, a season so prone to holiday frenzy, let us remember the rhythms of nature that call us into the shortened days and longer nights. There is beauty to behold as we open our eyes and learn to walk in the dark.

This month, I will be away from the pulpit. Quieting my voice is essential as I turn inward to listen more deeply, to replenish the soul, to enter the sacred dark. Clearing space is also important for me on a practical

level as I write final papers of the seminary semester, and celebrate the holidays with my family. We will be part of the service on Christmas Eve, and I look forward to being with you then.

In the meantime, I invite you to find rituals that speak to you this season and offer you moments of quiet reflection. Light candles, watching the glow of flickering flames. Listen to choirs sing Alleluia. Sing. Pay attention to the words of a companion. Sip slowly a cup of tea. Turn to wonder and awe at a black sky filled with stars.

Peace and blessings be with you ~

Terri

## From our Ministries

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### Religious Exploration

#### Looking for Youthful Singers on Christmas Eve

Christmas is a joyous time for the young folks, so let's help them celebrate it with song! Jeanette Lamb is looking for a few more children or young adults who



want to participate in song at a Christmas Eve service at the UUCRT. She'd also like to see if there are any adults who would like to play an instrument or

sing. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 4th, after service/RE to solidify songs and then at least one more practice before Christmas Eve. Please contact Jeanette at [picesfire@verizon.net](mailto:picesfire@verizon.net)

#### Character Strengths and Virtues Link

In November, during time for all ages, Jeanette Lamb talked about the research of Martin Seligman and Christopher Peterson on character strengths and virtues. A few people have asked her about this so here is a link to The VIA institute on character. They offer a free online survey for adults and/or kids if anyone wants to take the inquiry a little further.

Institute; [www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org)

Surveys: [www.viacharacter.org/www/The-Survey](http://www.viacharacter.org/www/The-Survey)

## Social Action Ministry

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### How to be a Transgender Ally

On November 20th for Transgender Day of Remembrance, Jamie Capach read the congregation a list of first steps to being an ally for transgender people in the spirit of empowerment and taking action.

According to source Transwhat, "Allyship to trans people involves a number of different actions: some are necessary and relatively easy, while some require more commitment and activism." These are first steps to get started and to guide you in speaking up when needed. Here is a link to Transwhat:

<http://transwhat.org/allyship/> The bare minimum first steps follow:

#### **Bare minimums**

- Call people by their preferred name, pronouns, and label. Always. Even if you're angry with them, even if they're total jerks, even if they're using gender-neutral pronouns that "sound weird" or "are hard to remember." Yes, even when they're not around to hear. It's a respect thing.
- If you've met the person after transition: don't ask to see pictures from "before," or ask about their previous name, or otherwise quiz them on topics that are likely offensive/painful.
- Don't try to compliment people by telling them that they look like a "real [gender]," or that you "never would have known."
- Don't make comments about the person's gender presentation that you wouldn't make to someone who was assigned that same gender at birth. Critiquing a trans woman's makeup in detail, or offering a trans man suggestions on how to walk "like a guy," is as rude as it would be if you were talking to a cis person.
- Do not inform any third party that your sibling/parent/partner/whomever is trans without *the trans person's* express permission, gotten in advance.
- Don't describe past situations by saying "When [person] was a [gender]. . ."
- Don't ever describe someone as a member of the wrong gender, even in a way that's superficially nice. "But you're so handsome as a man!" is unacceptable, as is "You were a lovely little girl."
- Words that you shouldn't ever use: "tranny," "shemale," "he-she," "shim." Seriously. Even if your other trans friend told you it was okay. Just don't say it.
- Don't make comments that fetishize trans people. "I love trans guys — they're so hot!" is pretty belittling; so is "People like you are so exotic." These kinds of statements reduce trans

people to sex objects, as though we exist just to be that "exotic" kink or turn-on.

- Don't ever ever inquire about the state of someone's genitals, about whether they're having surgery, or about how they have sex. Ruuuuude.
- Don't make assumptions about someone's sexual orientation. Some trans men are gay or bi, or asexual; likewise with some trans women. Genderqueer folks have sexual attractions that come in all stripes.
- If someone's gender is ambiguous, resist asking "What are you?" flat-out; though some people don't mind or even relish it, for many it's simply intrusive. Instead, try to pick up on the person's identification through context. If you really don't know, and really need to talk about the person in a gendered way, ask "What pronouns do you prefer?" or "How should I refer to you, gender-wise?" (Do this *very politely*, and in private if you can.) You don't need to know every detail about the person's identity — you only need the information that will allow you to speak to and about them respectfully.

#### **Laptops Needed for Petition Table**

The Social Action Ministry can use a few working laptops for our Letter writing/petition signing table. If you have one, please contact Jamie Capach at [mandycapach@gmail.com](mailto:mandycapach@gmail.com)

## **Stewardship & Finance**

**Report to the November 20, 2016**

### **Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern Congregational Meeting:**

Switching from Committees to Ministries made this major change to the management of Stewardship and Finance. While all members of the UUCRT are Ministers, and therefore a part of our group, only a very few of us have met regularly. Please know that your input is welcome to us and your presence with our get-togethers is more than welcome!

Our primary focus is managing the budget---that includes seeking input about its construction, as well as providing support for keeping a positive balance between income and expenses.

One major change that was instituted this year, with the support of the Board of Trustees, was contracting with Vanco to add a 'donate' button to our website. Our intention with this is to make it as easy to stay

current with pledges to the UUCRT as it is to shop at Amazon. This regular financial commitment can operate on 'auto-pay', saving you time as well as checks. If you have not yet become familiar with this 21<sup>st</sup> century device, please consider doing so, as its use makes the management of income a WHOLE lot easier for our [volunteer] Treasurer, as well as for people who are inviting the public to support our fundraisers. Some people visit our website with the intention of making a gift to a specific program. The DONATE button works for that, as well! Check it out, Please! If you'd like to be walked through the process, please ask!

Another major ---and thankfully, one time---change, is to the fiscal year of the Congregation. We appreciate your support of the ½ year pledge and look forward to having fun in the spring as we plan for our financial future!

In 2016 we lost our dear friend, Anne Beck, and through her immense generosity, we have been the recipients of a financial gift of great proportion. Anne's gift, along with several others we have been privileged to receive, has made us acutely aware of the power of bequests, and the enormity of responsibility in accepting them.

To that end, we are working with the UUA to create a gift acceptance policy that will be useful in the future, and we are also working toward a Legacy program that will encourage other members and friends to remember our Congregation in wills and annuities. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your support. While this Ministry focuses on financial contributions, we are acutely aware of your sharing of your time and your talents in service to our Congregation. We look forward to continuing the good work of the UUCRT in the future as we go forward in community!

In service, YoUUr S&F Ministry,

Heather Broadfoot, Alan Horne, Jackie Jordan and Linda Mangelsdorf, Chair

## News

### Mike McGinn Receives Delano Hitch Award at Congregational Meeting



Mike McGinn, who served two terms of treasurer and two as president, was awarded the Annie Delano Hitch award for his service and dedication to the

congregation at the Nov. 20 Fall Congregational Meeting. Mike, known for his compassion and his wit, was unable to be present for the award because he was at Albany Medical Center. He had recently resigned as president due to health issues.

New President Mike Landrum, appointed by the board to fill Mike's unexpired term, drove up to Albany to present the award to Mike McGinn in person and found him in good spirits.

The Pepe DeNave award went to Rebecca Jones for her workhorse approach to helping the congregation. She is a former board member and chair of both the Membership and Stewardship and Finance committees.

Diane Diachishin and Laura Bair both received special recognition certificates for their work with youth.

Also, at the meeting a six month budget showing a deficit of \$7,758 was approved. We will begin a full year budget starting in July, 2017. It was reported that funds from the bequest of our late congregant, Anne Beck, should all be available by the end of the year. The board of trustees is considering how to best utilize those funds and may call a special congregational meeting at the beginning of 2017.

## Local Clergy Meet to Support Refugee Resettlement Efforts.



Rev. Antal leads local religious leaders in a 'Chobani communion' toast. Chobani was founded by a Turkish immigrant who makes a practice of hiring immigrants for his factories. (John Kinney photo)

(Reprinted from the Times Herald-Record)

By Leonard Sparks

Times Herald-Record

CITY OF NEWBURGH – Chris Antal knows both sides of the refugee story.

Four years ago, as an Army chaplain in Afghanistan, the Unitarian Universalist minister befriended an Afghan man working as an interpreter for the U.S. military – an occupation that endangered the man and his family.

After returning to the United States, Antal and his Rock Tavern congregation became active in advocating

for the man's resettlement in the United States. In February, Antal drove to Buffalo to meet the man, his wife and their four children at the airport.

"I'm still tormented because I know that for every one that gets through the doors here, there's a dozen or more that don't," Antal said.

The door is about to open a little wider as New York City-based Church World Service prepares to launch a Poughkeepsie office that will serve as a hub for the resettlement of dozens of refugees in the Hudson Valley next year.

On Thursday, Antal and local clergy representing the spectrum of denominations gathered at St. George's Episcopal Church in the City of Newburgh to learn how they can help the refugees who will resettle in the area.

Organized by the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council, the gathering drew representatives from Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian and UUC congregations; synagogues; the Newburgh's mosque.

"All of our traditions – and we include Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian – value compassion and hospitality for those on the margins," Antal said.

Conflicts in Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria and other countries have forced more than 65 million people from their homes, according to the United Nations. The total, which includes 21 million children, is the highest on record, the UN said.

The Poughkeepsie office will begin resettling families in January and help about 80 refugees next year, said Brianne Casey, community and ecumenical engagement coordinator for CWS.

While Syrian refugees have drawn a lot of attention, families resettled through Poughkeepsie could come from Congo, Iraq or other countries, Casey said.

"We think that refugee resettlement benefits our brothers and sisters fleeing persecution and the communities to which they arrive and become contributing members," she said.

Church World Service's resettlement program relies on local "welcome teams" that help by collecting furniture and household items, and assisting with needs such as food and rent. Volunteer interpreters are also needed, as are people who help refugees learn English.

Lynne Cione, president of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, said some of the chamber's nonprofits are interested in helping. "It's a huge issue right now," she said.

It is also an issue that has inspired fears that refugees resettling in the United States are terror risks, even

though the resettlement process takes 18 months to two years and involves multiple federal agencies.

Hamin Rashada, the Imam for Masjid al-Ikhlâs mosque in the City of Newburgh, said he wants to help dispel some of those fears and misconceptions about Islam.

"ISIS kills anybody; it has nothing to do with religion," he said. "What's being done in the name of religion is wrong."

## Long-time, Long-Distance Congregant Peg Keeve Passes Away

From Linda Mangelsdorf

Recently we learned of the death of our dear friend, Peg Keeve. Although Peg moved to Washington State in 1996 to be nearer her children, she continued to be a pledging member of our congregation and kept up correspondence with several friends here at Rock Tavern. Peg read, enjoyed and frequently commented on our monthly newsletter. Her delightful handwritten notes and occasional phone conversations will be greatly missed.

Peg had a vested interest in what was happening here. In 1969, when her daughter, Victoria, was killed in a car accident, Peg made a very generous donation to the UU building fund. In 2002, when her daughter Madeleine passed away, Peg's memorial contribution purchased a sound system for our building. Her generosity and caring will be long remembered, and it is with great sadness that we say farewell.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Peg's son, Jonathon P. Keeve, MD at 525 So. Shoreline Drive, Liberty Lakes, WA 99019.

**KEEVE, Margaret L.**

**December 1, 1927 - July 8, 2016**

Peg Keeve passed away peacefully on July 8th, 2016 following a brief illness. Peg will be long remembered as a very active civic volunteer whose activities touched the lives of many people. She was born Margaret Louise Anchorstar in Reading, Pennsylvania December 1st, 1927 and attended William Smith College. She married Jack Keeve after graduating and raised three children, Victoria, Jonathan and Madeleine. After 17 years, her marriage ended and after her children were off to school, she returned to school herself. Peg attended nursing school and then graduate school to become a women's health care nurse practitioner. She moved to Liberty Lake in 1996 to be closer to family.

Peg was no stranger to hardship. She lost her eldest

brother in WWII and her daughters pre-deceased her in 1969 and 2002. Despite the tragedies in her life, she had a very positive outlook and always found the good in people and situations. She was one tough woman. Peg worked tirelessly with many organizations to protect and preserve our environment, endangered species and historical buildings. More importantly, she helped others maintain their safety and dignity through volunteer work.

Peg volunteered in numerous educational venues for refugees and others without resources to attend school. She volunteered in the public schools and helped develop many civic projects to improve our community for everyone. Peg was a strong supporter of programs to protect women from domestic violence. Peg touched the lives of many people, directly and indirectly in a kind, thoughtful and gentle way. Her life was, ultimately, about service to others and the voice of reason. She was never afraid to speak her mind or do the right thing even if it was unpopular or not fashionable.

She is survived by her grandsons, Philip and Drew Keeve, her daughter-in-law, Tonya Keeve and her son, Jonathan.

Donations in her remembrance should be made to Friends of the Liberty Lake Library. She would also be honored if you would go plant something beautiful in the ground.

***THE CHALICE LIGHT*** is the official  
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month

New Year's Interfaith Prayer  
for  
World Peace

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 Sunday

10am at Kuan Yin Hall

12pm lunch at Dining Hall

祈禱世界和平大會

二零一七年一月一號星期日

早上十點觀音殿

會後備有素齋

Contact (聯繫): Sue-Sue Yang 973.401.1633

Chuang Yen Monastery 莊嚴寺

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