

The Chalice Light

Vol. 46, Issue 1 January, 2017



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 for the most up-to-date listings. We welcome all seekers regardless of age, creed, race, ability/disability, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity.*

Jan. 1: Sandra Kissam Care for Our Planet

Start the New Year with a renewed promise to care for our still beautiful planet and "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." UUCRT member and environmentalist, Sandra Kissam, will speak on the proposed Pilgrim Oil Pipelines in our own area, similar to the one in Standing Rock, ND, which would threaten our communities and our waters.

Jan. 8: Rev. Chris J. Antal To Bigotry No Sanction

In 1790 Moses Seixas, the warden of the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, wrote these prophetic words to the newly inaugurated President Washington, who then repeated them in his response, memorializing them in the nation's history. With this as our starting point we consider the centrality of "sanctuary" to Unitarian Universalist identity, explore the history of sanctuary movements, and heed the prophetic call of the New Sanctuary Movement in the United States today.

Jan. 15: Rev. Chris J. Antal Bring It On

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was among a core group of civil rights leaders who adopted and adapted the strategy of non-violent resistance in confronting the likes of Alabama politicians George Wallace and Bull Connor. The movement organized and overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles with remarkable success. How is this movement alive today and what does it ask of us?

Jan. 22: Hollis Kellogg The Preschool—My Experience

Jan. 29: Terri Pahucki Sound the Trumpets!

Who are today's prophets and what do they tell us? Come discover "the message of the march".

January, 2017 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.

Jan. 1, Sunday -- join Terri and Rev. Antal for free ice skating, rentals, and lessons at Bear Mountain Rink 8:15-9:45 a.m. Sunday Jan. 1. Please RSVP with the number in your party by Dec. 31. antal@uuma.org.
– 10 a.m. Interfaith Prayer for World Peace, 10am, Chaun Yen Monastery, Carmel, NY

Jan. 3, Tuesday – 7 p.m. *Orange County Psychic Experiences Group*

Jan. 8, Sunday – Noon: Potluck Luncheon
12:15 p.m. Social Action Ministry meets
12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Rev. Chris in Room 20.

Jan. 14, Saturday – 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Coffee House*

Jan. 15, Sunday – 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Rev. Chris in Room 20.

Jan. 20, Friday – 7 p.m. 3rd Friday film "Inside Peace"

Jan. 22, Sunday – 12:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

Jan. 29, Sunday – 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Terri Pahucki in Room 20.

From Your Minister

After my Christmas Eve sermon, I was approached by a white U.S. citizen who was quite "disturbed" both by my message (about sanctuary for refugees and immigrants) and by the collection we took (to assist refugees resettling in the area). The conversation went something like this:

Citizen: I'm afraid of these people.

Minister: What is your biggest fear?

Citizen: Well, that they will do damage to us.

Minister: And what kind of damage do you fear most?

Citizen: They might kill us. Look at what they did on September 11. How do you feel about *that*?

Minister: That was a tragedy. I feel sad about that. But I'm not afraid. If I were then I would be perpetuating the damage. I choose love. Better to die in love than live in fear.

Citizen: You are going to love the enemy?

Minister: Somewhere I read we should do that. Where was it... oh yes--the gospel! Jesus said that.

Citizen: We see things very differently.

Minister: Perhaps. Still, we welcome a diversity of perspectives here. I hope you will come again.

And so we parted.

Unitarian Universalists claim to be grateful for "the pluralism that enriches and ennobles our faith." Harvard educator Diana Eck provides four points to clarify what I believe we should mean by "pluralism:"

1. Pluralism is not diversity alone, but the *energetic engagement with diversity*;
2. pluralism is not just tolerance, but the *active seeking of understanding across lines of difference*;
3. pluralism is not relativism, but the *encounter of commitments*;
4. pluralism is *based on dialogue*.

Creating space for dialogues like the one above is not only at the heart of "sanctuary" it is core to who we are as Unitarian Universalists and vital to address the fears and divisions in our nation.

We can encourage growth in our congregation by recommitting ourselves to the spiritual discipline of pluralism and engaging in respectful dialogue.

This new year promises to bring many opportunities for challenge and growth--opportunities to reclaim our prophetic witness. I say, "bring it on!"

See you on Sunday.

CJA

A Message from the Lay Commissioned Minister

A Community of Prophecy

Each new year I begin by making a Vision Collage. This is a mosaic of cut-out images from old magazines that when pasted together somehow convey new meaning. This process has become a ritual, a way of looking ahead and engaging the poetic imagination in the possibilities of what may be.

This month I ponder the way that vision is essential to creating hope in the face of despair. I am reminded of Martin Luther King, Jr. who we celebrate in January. King looked racism, poverty, and militarism head-on and proclaimed, "I Have A Dream". His truth-telling, prophetic words still inspire and guide us.

In this month we are called to consider our work as a community of prophecy. Prophets call out present day injustice, offer a public voice to lament shared sorrow, and lead the way forward with a collective vision of

hope. Prophecy is essential spiritual work.

We have an opportunity this month to raise our prophetic voices. On



Saturday, January 21st, the day after the Presidential Inauguration, the Women's March on Washington will take place in DC and in sister marches throughout the country. The march is a demonstration of solidarity and unity with the marginalized in society.

In the words of the organizers- “The Women’s March on Washington will send a bold message to our new government on their first day in office and to the world that women’s rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us. We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all.”

I will be marching along with my daughters and our multi-faith Sisterhood for Peace and Justice in the Women’s March on New York City (sister march to the one in DC). We will join with UU’s and other people of faith from nearby congregations. I invite ALL UUCRT defenders of human rights to join us in marching from the United Nations to Trump Tower. We will be taking the 8:08 train from Beacon, so let me know if you will be there! If you will be marching in NYC or DC, please come and share your story with us at the UUCRT service on January 29th.

May we lift our voices in the spirit of truth and justice, and pave the way for a new vision in the year ahead!

Terri Pahucki tlpahucki@gmail.com

A Message of Thanks from the Former President

Serving our congregation has been an honor, a privilege and a great source of joy in my life. Serving is its own reward, and makes any award given for it a bit redundant. Having said that, this was not a path that I could have walked alone.

It seems like a lifetime ago when I was a new Treasurer. I knew it was going to be a hard job, but I was surprised by it being a bit tougher than I thought. Athena Drewes and Rebecca Jones provided a great deal of help to me by helping out and keeping me from going insane. Without them, I would not have lasted the first year.

Any account of my time as Treasurer would not be complete without mentioning the people who volunteered to audit and review my work. These people

deserve special honors because they had to read my handwriting – something that often gives me trouble. Special thanks to Nan Dempster, Rebeca Jones, Linda Mangelsdorf and Alan Horne.

I was fortunate, indeed, to find Heather Broadfoot to replace me as Treasurer. Heather approached the job with enthusiasm, compassion and professionalism. She was followed by Alan Horne who followed her as Treasurer with gentle kindness. Both took the job with the full understanding that it is the most difficult job in the congregation.

I knew when I stood for President that there was ample potential for some truly gigantic mistakes on my part. I knew that the right person in the Vice President slot could pull me back if it were needed. I was fortunate to have the wisdom of Diane Diachishin and Jane O'Donnell to guide me.

John Kinney was there through it all to listen and give advice, through all the years as Treasurer and my time as President. His advice was always well thought out. His many years in the newspaper business gave him a financial background that few can equal. I could (and can) say almost anything to him and it was alright.

It seems to me that our seventh principle comes up most as a recurring theme in my life. “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” All the people who made my service possible speak loudly of this interdependent web.

It had been my intention to serve through the end of June 2017. As I adjust to my new role as “just plain member” I look back on my time of service to our congregation as a time of great happiness.

In Service,
Mike McGinn
Member ...
just Member

A Letter from the Egyptians

December 20, 2016

Our dear friends at Rock Tavern,

We are writing you from Malaga, Spain, where we are spending our Christmas holiday with Alice’s family. One of the rewards of our present existence in Egypt is that it is central to African, Asian, and European destinations in all directions. Having said that, our life this fall has mostly been constrained to one small suburban neighborhood of the very large city of Cairo, in which we live just across from our school, which also serves as

the playground for our kids after school and on weekends.

We have greatly enjoyed our change of scene - not to detract from our lovely former life in the Hudson Valley. Teaching in Cairo and expanding our horizons thus far has proved to have been a rewarding choice for us all. For Nate, who has often found his past jobs frustrating and unsatisfying, this work, despite its challenges, is very gratifying. Alice has thoroughly enjoyed delving into developing a challenging and fun art curriculum and teaching full time at the high school level. Xenia and Sage have new close friends and have been very happy at school. We all walk to school together each morning, drop off Xenia on the playground where her closest friends are always waiting, and Sage insists on getting taken to his classroom early in order to get right to work on the various Reggio-Emilio style Kindergarten activities.

Life here is occasionally disorienting - particularly when trying to obtain services like internet, phone, drinking water delivery and such - but it always works out in the end, and we have discovered the congenial nature that Egyptians are known for. In fact, we wish the many folks back home who expressed worries about us could see first-hand how little the reality corresponds to the amplified fears. Without denying the need for awareness and appropriate vigilance, the day-to-day life is safe and routine - supermarkets and shopping malls much like our own, very little concern about crime. Then something like this recent bombing of a Coptic church happens which was unnerving news for sure - but in a city of 20 million, if we hadn't heard about it on the news, we'd never have known anything had happened.

We have not been regularly attending any religious services, but haven't felt any great loss so far, because our getting established while working really hard has made the little bit of weekend unobligated down-time very precious. That will change in time... but it's also interesting to learn that it wouldn't seem there's much room for UU-ism to grow here, as, so we've been told, there are only two officially accepted religions, Islam and Christianity. And while a person can claim credit for converting a Christian to Islam, one will be prosecuted for doing the opposite. We know some teachers with Christian missionary tendencies, and they have to operate very quietly indeed. Any organized UU activities would have to be as much or more so, it would seem.

Meanwhile, we do try to get out and see things - the Giza pyramids, Alexandria, the Red Sea coast,

interesting/bewildering neighborhoods of Cairo... We do all our getting about by Uber, which works fantastically - very cheap and there's always a car just minutes away. Via your phone/GPS, they already know where you want to go, so there's no problem with communicating, despite the great incomprehensibility of Arabic to native English speakers. There's just nothing familiar in the language to get a handle on. Still, Uber drivers with some English have been one of our major ways of learning about the lives of Egyptians, which seem to be pretty unsatisfactory in terms of income and opportunity. That's the biggest cause for concern about stability here in the future. The value of the Egyptian pound has dropped by half since our arrival in August.

Anyway, we are thriving, happy, and have zero second thoughts about this choice. Both of us have good professional opportunities coming, with the chance to advance into teaching in the International Baccalaureate program next year. For Nate, that will involve a welcome switch from teaching computers to teaching psychology and history. We're doing great, and already looking forward to being back home for a good stretch next summer and seeing you all then! In the meantime, we hope that 2017 gets off to a good start. Thinking of you all as the winter solstice approaches... and wishing you peace and love in the spirit of Christmas,
Nate, Alice, Xenia and Sage

From our Ministries

Social Action Ministry

Save the Date: January Film

"Inside Peace- Starting Over Begins Within; Rethinking Freedom Inside and Out of a Texas Jail." This award winning documentary has come to us from the Peace Education Program of the Pram Rawat Foundation. <http://tprf.org/about-tprf/>

Inside Peace is a transformative story about the positive effects of peace education inside a correctional facility on three criminal offenders marked by generations of violence, addiction and bad choices, who attend the Peace Class in a Texas prison. Fri. Jan. 20, 7:00 pm; (snow date Fri. Jan. 27, 7:00 pm)

Old laptops in good working condition needed so that we can sign online petitions during coffee hour at the UU. Contact Jamie Capach mandycapach@gmail.com If you have one to give us or loan us.

Save the Date: UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar Apr. 6 – 8. See page 6 for details.

Religious Exploration Ministry

The Youth Group will be meeting at Ice Time, the skating rink at 27 Lakeside Road in the Town of Newburgh from 7 PM to 9 PM on Friday, January 27th. Regular entrance fees and skating rental fees apply. Please rsvp to Laura Bair at lagbair@aol.com by Wednesday, January 25th.

NEWS



L-R: Congregation President Mike Landrum, refugee Welcome Team Coordinator Alisa Swire, Rev. Chris J. Antal and Marcia Westra gratefully display the \$10,000 check an anonymous local donor contributed to to the cause.

\$10K Donation to Refugee Fund; Welcome Coordinator Named

NEWBURGH – The Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council has appointed Cornwall attorney Alisa Swire as Welcome Team Coordinator for local efforts to resettle refugees in this part of the Hudson Valley.

Swire had a pleasant welcome into her new, unpaid position on Dec. 18 when interfaith council President the Rev. Chris J. Antal presented her with a donation of \$10,000 to the resettlement effort from an anonymous

Orange County donor. Rev. Antal, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern (UUCRT), made the presentation at Sunday services.

The interfaith council and Rev. Antal are members of the Hudson Valley Refugee Solidarity Network which is working to support refugees coming into the area through the new resettlement office run by Church World Services out of Poughkeepsie. The UUCRT is receiving tax deductible cash donations for refugee resettlement on behalf of the council.

Alisa Swire is a graduate of Vassar College and Boston University College of Law. She has over 25 years experience in the legal field, serving most recently as Vice President and General Counsel of Johnson Outdoors Inc., a NASDAQ-traded company headquartered in Wisconsin. Swire has long been interested in international human rights and refugee policy.

"Having just relocated to this area, the timing was perfect to become involved in local efforts to assist with refugee resettlement by local faith communities, Church World Service and Vassar College," Swire said.

"The current refugee crisis is the most urgent seen for decades and I am thrilled to be working with the talented and generous people of the Mid-Hudson Valley to address this critical need," she added.

"Efforts are just beginning in Orange County to build a strong foundation for future refugee families to be resettled here. At the moment, I am focused on building and organizing a network of local volunteers and supporters." Swire can be reached at adswire@gmail.com.

Church World Services (CWS) was born in 1946 when 17 denominations came together to provide aid to worn-torn Europe. 70 Years later, working through the U.S. State Department, it continues to embrace the challenge to assist refugees. Refugees are identified, referred, processed, oriented and thoroughly vetted before arriving in the U.S.

CWS is one of nine resettlement agencies in the U.S. and has opened a new refugee resettlement office in Poughkeepsie. Already, CWS resettles refugees in three New York State locations: Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. The first refugees are expected to arrive in the Poughkeepsie area early in 2017.

Local welcome teams, like the one Swire will coordinate, work collaboratively with CWS staff and provide financial help and education, identify job leads, orient the refugees to local transportation networks, help register children for school and adults for English

as a Second Language classes. They also provide initial food and clothing, housing and furniture and other essential services. The ultimate goal is self-sufficiency for the new arrivals and, according to Brienne Casey of CWS, 85% of the more than 80,000 refugees resettled in the U.S. by organizations like CWS and their community partners last year achieved self-sufficiency in less than 180 days.

Rev. Antal and the Rock Tavern congregation are not strangers to refugee resettlement. In February of this year the UUCRT helped resettle an Afghan interpreter for the U.S. Army who had served alongside their minister while he was deployed as an Army chaplain. The interpreter was granted refugee status together with his wife and their four children and the family settled in western New York. The husband is now employed full-time and on-track to enter college next year. The wife has learned to drive and the children are excelling in school, receiving "student of the month" awards and accolades from their teachers.



Standing in Solidarity

Rev. Chris J. Antal stands with a prayer flag created by members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern and the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council, at Standing Rock, North Dakota. Rev. Antal responded to a call from Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Spiritual Leader of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations, to join in a day of prayer. Hundreds of clergy and thousands of veterans have converged to stand in solidarity with the "water protectors."

Rev. Antal is Featured Speaker at 2017 UU-UNO Seminar; Terri is Chaplain

UUCRT Minister Rev. Chris J. Antal is the featured speaker at the 2017 seminar, *Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet*, on **April 6-8, 2017** in New York City. Lay commissioned minister Terri Pahucki is the seminar chaplain. Scholarship applications are accepted through January 16. Early registration with reduced fee ends January 23. The link to scholarship, registration and program details is here: <http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar>

The seminar will consider interfaith engagement with issues such as:

- Reducing gun violence and the proliferation of small arms;
- Nuclear disarmament and the abolition of other weapons of mass destruction;
- Use of unmanned drones;
- Strengthening global peace and security;
- Racial implications and consequences of armed violence.



Programming will be interactive, encouraging participants to reflect on how the topics addressed affect them in their lives, their spirituality, and how they are called to respond. Moving from ideas to concrete action, participants will learn tools and skills to help them with future collaboration and activism. Each person will participate in an intergenerational Collaboration Group, touching base periodically throughout the seminar to reflect on and process the issues discussed. Included in this year's seminar will be programming designed specifically for ministers who are interested in incorporating a global perspective into their congregational ministry.

This project is funded in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism.

A Link to Bruce Knotts Recent Talk

Marcia Westra reports that many folks were very impressed and inspired by Bruce Knotts' talk to us, given a few months ago. Marcia asked him to provide

it to us for rereading and to share with others. Knotts is director of the UU United Nations office. You can find it on our website – www.uucrt.org – under Recent News.

UUA Common Read Available at Reduced Price; Act Now!

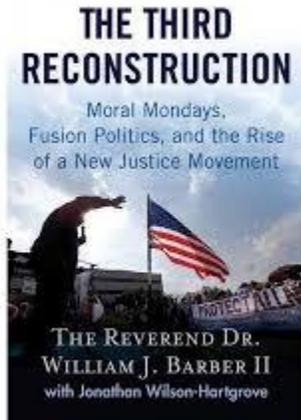
Rev. Antal has a limited number of copies of the UUA *Common Read* available at 20% reduced price of \$12.80 at the UUCRT on January 8 and 15. RSVP your copy now antal@uuma.org

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association

(UUA). Anyone may nominate a book.

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016), has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people.



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

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