

The Chalice Light

Vol. 46, Issue 2

February, 2017



February, 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.

Feb. 5, Sunday – 10:30 a.m. Religious Exploration for children
-- 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Rev. Chris in Room 20.
-- 1 p.m. *Veterans For Peace Meeting*

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

Feb. 11, Saturday – 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Coffee House*

Feb. 12, Sunday – Noon: Potluck Luncheon
12:15 p.m. Social Action Ministry meets

Feb. 17, Friday – 7 p.m. Film night

Feb. 19, Sunday – 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Terri Pahucki in Room 20.

Feb. 26, Sunday – 12:15 p.m. Soul Matters with Rev. Chris in Room 20.
12:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

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.*

Feb. 5: Rev. Chris J. Antal **On Welcoming**

We reconsider the first of two identity statements that define who “we” are and how they may guide us in these times.

Feb. 12: Evan Pritchard **To Be Announced**

Feb. 19: Terri Pahucki **Know Who You Are**

We will explore the meaning of identity. Who are we as individuals and as a community? How does our shared identity call us to live?

Feb. 26: Rev. Chris J. Antal **On Peace Advocacy**

We reconsider the second of two identity statements that define who “we” are and how they may guide us in these times.

From Your Minister

Last month I was invited to speak at a congregation in Florida and discovered a core group of members who, together with their minister, had resolved to register as Muslims if President Trump authorizes a registry of U.S. citizens who are Muslim.

Following their example, I have resolved to do the same. Will you join me? As members and friends of the UUCRT, who are we? We are a welcoming congregation. We are a peace advocacy congregation. These identity statements have emerged through a democratic process of dialogue and consensus and engagement with the rich heritage that is Unitarian Universalism.

Yet who we actually are is not necessarily who we say we are. In many ways we become what we do. We also become what we don't do. At the same time who others say we are may not be who we actually are. I've been called a traitor, a heaping pile of SH*#@, yet I don't consider myself any of those things.

Identities are complex, and the task is upon us to claim who we are boldly in the streets. If we don't define who we are then others will do the defining for us -- and we may find the outcome revolting.

See you Sunday,
Chris J. Antal

A song we sang at the UUCRT on January 15:
By Ysaye M. Barnwell
Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew
a heretic, convict or spy?
Would you harbor a run away woman, or child,
a poet, a prophet, a king?
Would you harbor an exile, or a refugee,
a person living with AIDS?
Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garrett, a Truth
a fugitive or a slave?
Would you harbor a Haitian Korean or Czech,
a lesbian or a gay?
Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
(Words and music by Ysaye M. Barnwell, (C) 1994
Barnwell's Notes Publishing, recorded by Sweet Honey
in the Rock (R). Used with permission. Visit Ysaye M.
Barnwell's website for more information.)

A Message from the Lay Commissioned Minister

This past week I took my two daughters to see the movie *Moana*. *Moana* is a beautiful and moving story about a Polynesian teenage girl who sails out on a daring adventure to save her people. It is also a movie about the search for identity, as she discovers herself and reveals the inherent worth of others she encounters along the way. As I watched the story unfold, I thought of this month's theme- Identity. I thought about how so often we are defined by others, for better or for worse, and how the search to know ourselves as we truly are is life-long. We need community to remind us who we are.

I believe that this is a central reason we come together as Unitarian Universalists in community: to

remember who we are. Our first principle states that we covenant to affirm and promote "the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings." At a time when so many human identities- Black, Muslim, Latinx, LGBTQ, women, and more- are under attack, it is more essential than ever to return to our core values. We may claim diverse identities, but our shared humanity unites us. Our faith teaches us that all people have human dignity. We do not earn our worth, but discover and claim our inherent wholeness.

As we explore what it means to be "A Community of Identity", may we discover and remember who we truly are. And may we seek to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of one another.

In faith,
Terri Pahucki



The UUCRT group at the NYC Women's March. UUCRT members and friends joined marches in NYC, Poughkeepsie, and other locations to stand for human rights on January 21st, 2017.

From the Board of Trustees

On Pledging

At the UUCRT we ask our members to support the Congregation with time, talent and treasure. All three are needed so that we may continue to function and serve the many good causes we support. Both time and talent are needed for the wonderful accomplishments our denomination contributes to society. Treasure is

needed to keep the lights on and the congregation available and functioning. For these reasons, we cannot waive the need for members to make a financial promise to support the work of the Fellowship.

Last year we had 65 members in our contact list. Of these, 42 members made a financial pledge of \$44,700 to our congregation. That's a remarkable sum for 42 people to contribute to our Fellowship. We on the Board of Trustees want to express our enthusiastic gratitude to those who gave so generously.

To those of you who have not yet pledged, or have not pledged in the past, I want you to know, I understand how difficult it can be to take on yet another financial commitment. My own situation makes me woefully aware. I'm newly retired. My business has gone dry and I find myself on a "fixed senior citizen income" dependent on Social Security, pension and savings. So I empathize with those of you who are reluctant to make a pledge. I have to budget my resources closely. Believe me, I completely understand and respect whatever you determine is the right amount for you to pledge. But we must maintain that in order to be a full member of the congregation, you do need to pledge.

We cannot have two categories of membership – those who pledge and those who do not. We can no longer waive the need for members to make a financial commitment to support the work of the UUCRT. Think about it. A pledge need not be a large sum of money. Perhaps you might think about contributing whatever you spend on a movie or some other small luxury in your life and use that money to make your contribution. Keep in mind that pledging is spiritual in nature. It means trusting that you are contributing to something greater than yourself. It also signals trust in the benevolence of life, that what we give comes back to us. Whatever your decision, your contribution will be kept confidential.

Of this I am sure, when you invest in your spiritual experience, it will grow. Pledging also binds our members together. Just as we would do for our families, a small sacrifice in our personal lives for the UUCRT's greater good reaps rewards.

If you still feel money is too tight and you simply cannot make a financial commitment to the UUCRT, we warmly welcome you to be a friend of the congregation. Our principles require that we come together as equals in membership – contributing our time, talent and treasure.

Yours in Service,
Mike Landrum
President, Board of Trustees

From our Ministries **Stewardship & Finance**

Thank you to everyone for your pledge commitments in 2016. For 2017, have you set up auto pay using the Donate button on the UUCRT Website? Check it out—it simplifies pledge payments for both you and our [volunteer] Treasurer! Questions? Contact any S&F member (see below).

And speaking of pledges, it is time to begin to think about our New Fiscal Year. March will be our month to recognize that **Giving Makes Everything Better!** Watch for a letter early in March with details about our 2017-18 Pledge Drive and please note that the Second Sunday Pot Luck Lunch (March 12) will be our Kickoff Day---**You will be entertained! Lunch will be provided!** We'll celebrate together-and have some fun!

The generous bequest from Anne Beck remains in limbo. We are actively pursuing completion of the details, and will let everyone know as soon as information is available. In the meantime, UUA has renewed our building loan, and **all** of the personal loans made by members have been retired! Congratulations to a small congregation with a big mission!

Mark your calendars---- the Board has approved a plan for a March 25 wine and cheese party. It'll be a Saturday afternoon event to share about who we are, what we are up to as a Congregation and how each of us can make a difference. We'll invite friends and neighbors old and new to mingle, and to get questions answered about Unitarian Universalism as practiced in Rock Tavern; meet the minister, and hear about the work of all the exciting Ministries.

This will be a busy, fulfilling spring season. Looking forward to good times!

S&F Ministry: Alan Horne, Jackie Jordan, Linda Mangelsdorf (Chair) and Heather (Broadfoot) Stuetzle.

Social Action Ministry

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.

Religious Exploration Ministry

Here are the dates for the upcoming Religious education classes for children;
Sundays, Feb 5, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4

News



Rev. Chris Left Holding the Bag

Two days before the presidential inauguration Rev. Chris Antal was on the way to attend a meeting in Washington D.C. when he encountered a distressed fellow train passenger trying to get off with more bags than she could carry. Rev. Antal offered to help and to his surprise soon found himself transporting a Trump tote. This led to a spirited nonviolent dialogue with the tote owner, the Honorable Sandra A. Chase, Ph.D. of the Brownstone Republican Club in Brooklyn and an

enthusiastic supporter of President Trump. They exchanged cards and promised to stay in touch.

Public Radio WAMC Features Refugee Resettlement Efforts

(Editor's Note: the following story aired on Jan. 16 on radio station WAMC. To hear the live interview go to: <http://wamc.org/post/poughkeepsie-refugee-resettlement-program-schedule>. It remains to be seen how adversely the Trump Administration will impact local and national refugee resettlement efforts.)

A refugee resettlement program in the Hudson Valley is on schedule to welcome its first families this month. Church World Service has found office space in Poughkeepsie and volunteers in the region are ready to lend a hand.

Church World Service has signed a lease for office space in the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie and the welcome mat is out, with staff and volunteers at the ready. Church World Service is one of nine resettlement agencies that contracts with the federal government to resettle refugees across the country. Church World Service, as announced in November, expects 80 individuals to relocate within a 50-mile radius of Poughkeepsie through September. Reverend Chris Antal is president of the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council, which represents about a dozen faith communities in Orange County. The Council is a partner of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance and has established a welcome team. And Antal says the Council recently received an anonymous donation.

"I was delighted to have someone I'd never met before show up on a Sunday morning and hand me a check for \$10,000 to support the ministry of outreach to the refugees," Rev. Antal says. "Presently, my congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, has been acting as the fiscal agent for our welcome team. And we are holding onto those funds until we are able to welcome a family into our community. And those funds will be disbursed as checks to pay for rent or utilities to assist the families in their transition to their new life."

At a Church World Service meeting in Poughkeepsie in November, senior director for the organization's Immigration and Refugee Program Sarah Krause said a priority is being placed on Congolese and Syrian refugees as well as Iraqis with special immigrant visas for the Poughkeepsie region. Antal spent time in

Afghanistan with the U.S. Army as a chaplain. In fact, in February last year, his congregation helped resettle an Afghan interpreter for the U.S. Army who had served alongside Antal. The interpreter was granted refugee status together with his wife and their four children and the family settled in western New York. Antal



reports that the husband is employed full-time and his wife has learned to drive. Plus the children are excelling in school. Meanwhile, Democratic Assemblyman Frank Skartados says he hopes to work with the community to help refugees.

“I’m hoping to create some sort of a working relationship, get Nubian Directions, for example, or get Habitat for Humanity working with them in cooperation so that we can perhaps take some of these buildings and refurbish them and bring them back to life and allow these people to have a true American life,” says Skartados.

His district includes both the cities of Poughkeepsie and Newburgh. Some area residents at the November meeting expressed concern about the resettlement effort. And some say resources should be spent on Hudson Valley residents. Others are concerned the initial number of refugees could skyrocket, plus took issue with being informed of the program late in the process without many answers to their questions. Antal says he has found nothing but support in the greater Newburgh area, with offers of job assistance and otherwise.

“And we want to send a clear message that extending hospitality and providing sanctuary is core to who we are as religious communities,” Rev. Antal says. “And we want these people as our neighbors in Orange County.” City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison says any talk of formal opposition seems to have waned.

“I haven’t heard anything in quite some time,” Rolison says. “There was this discussion about some large petition of 2,000 names going to be dropped off at City Hall, or dropped off someplace. We never heard

anything further on it so we haven’t heard much other than the occasional question, what have you heard, what’s happening, but that’s been about it.” It remains to be seen what President-elect Donald Trump, who supports a ban on admitting refugees from countries linked to terrorism, will do.

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

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