

The Chalice Light

Vol. 46, Issue 8 September, 2017



September, 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.

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

Sept. 9, Saturday – 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Rock Tavern Coffeehouse (Phil Teumim featured)*

Sept. 10, Sunday – 10 a.m. Fair Trade Café volunteer orientation
-- Noon. Potluck Luncheon

Sept. 17, Sunday – 12:30 p.m. Racial Identity Journey led by Jamie Capach

Sept. 24 Sunday –8:30 a.m. New to the UU Breakfast
--12:30 p.m. Board of Trustees
-- 3 p.m. *Veterans For Peace chapter meeting*

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.*

Sept. 3: Labor Day Potluck and Celebration

Amanda Crowell and Alex Jakubowski

This service is a potluck/picnic. People are encouraged to bring dishes to share. We will share our ideas and memories of what labor day means to us, bring along information on local farms and growers where locally sourced food and products can be found, and any outdoor games to share and play. The day will be a celebration of work, food, and life.

Sept 10: Forgiveness

Rev. Chris J. Antal

Relationships damaged by breaches of trust and wrongdoing can often be restored if we are willing to do the work.

Please bring water to share in our annual in-gathering water communion.

Sept. 17: Jamie Capach

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this highly taboo and stigmatized topic. While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, this month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength. The truth is, we can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide, because just one conversation can change a life.

Sept. 24: Forgiveness and Peacemaking

Terri Pahucki and Rev. Chris J. Antal

What is the role of forgiveness on the path to peace? Join us as we honor the UN International Day of Peace and renew our commitments as a peacemaking congregation.

From Your Minister

On Forgiveness

On a recent visit to Japan I met Mr. Hirokami Yamada, who was 14 and in Nagasaki in 1945 when the US dropped the atomic bomb. He told me that action was “unforgivable.”

In the presence of Mr. Yamada, I felt an uncomfortable mix of sadness, regret and what I can only describe as guilt. I do not believe I am personally culpable for the action that caused him so much suffering, but I do believe I share moral responsibility for the US failure to acknowledge a historical mistake in the years since the US used the atomic bombs. I felt sad

because I witnessed Mr. Yamada's unshakable resentment. Until we met, I had believed most of my life that all actions ought to be forgivable. My encounter with him has left me wondering whether there are some actions that not only might we not have the capacity to forgive, but that we ought not forgive.

Few people in the world have experienced an attack that even comes close to resembling what happened to Mr. Yamada. Even so, we all at times have been harmed, either directly or indirectly, by other people's actions. Most of us have been the victim of wrongdoing. Most of us have had our trust betrayed. Most of us have experienced resentment towards an offender. We have also caused harm, either intentionally or unintentionally, directly, or indirectly. Others resent us, if not because of actions or inactions in our personal life, then because of actions taken by the society to which we belong; by the US government, for example.

This month we explore the theme of forgiveness. What do the scriptures of the world religious traditions say about forgiveness? What insight can we glean from psychology and life experience? Perhaps forgiveness is out of reach for most human beings. If so, then what? And if we can forgive, should we? Is there such a thing as premature forgiveness? And what about those who resent us? What might we do to repair broken relationships? These are some of the questions I invite you to explore as we journey together in the month of September.

See you on Sunday,
Chris



Vigil in Support of Marine Families

Mourners hold candles and respond to a prayer July 15 in the UUCRT Sanctuary when local faith leaders convened a public vigil in support of the families who lost loved ones earlier in July when a Marine Corps KC-130 transport plane based out of Stewart International Airport crashed in Mississippi killing all 16 aboard. The

community responded to the tragedy with an outpouring of grief and compassion. Rev. Antal, together with UUCRT lay commissioned minister Terri Pahucki, Rev. Baumgartner, pastor of King of Kings Lutheran, and Rabbi Larry Freedman of Temple Beth Jacob, led the vigil. A collection through the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council (GNIC) designated for local families of the crash victims yielded \$1,072.

Reflection from the Lay Commissioned Minister

On Forgiveness:

September is a time of new beginnings. Children head back to school; the air gets a little lighter and cooler as we move into Fall. Many Unitarian Universalist congregations hold water communion ceremonies to welcome families back from summer adventures and kick off a new church year. For people of the Jewish faith, the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are celebrated to mark the beginning of a new year and offer a period of reflection and atonement.

In our own congregation, we also have a tradition of celebrating the International Day of Peace on the Sunday closest to September 21st-- the day the United Nations has set aside as a holiday to envision global peace and renew our commitments to moving toward it. All of these rituals remind us that this is a time to begin anew.

This month, our UUCRT community will explore the theme of Forgiveness together. I believe that forgiveness is the spiritual heart of beginning anew for individuals and communities. Yet often forgiveness is misunderstood, as the words "forgive and forget" come to mind. The paths of atonement and restoration are not about forgetting; rather, they require a deep recollection, remembering and accounting for our actions. To remember the whole of who we are, including our deepest values and commitments, as well as our human tendency to stray from those values, is essential in the work of forgiving.

Forgiveness is religious work, with community playing an essential role in restoration and renewal. We hold each other accountable and support one another in beginning anew. To hold the whole - and know that we are held - in the beauty and grace of love: this is the essence of forgiveness, I believe.

As we celebrate the freshness of September and the turning of the season, may we remember and forgive,

renewing our commitment to begin anew in love together.
In peace,
Terri Pahucki

From our Ministries

Social Action Ministry

Examining Whiteness: Racial Identity Journey, Sept. 17 at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary



One of racism’s powers is to shape identity. We are socialized to be a racist (white person) or a victim (person of color). As white people we internalize this socialization process. We learn to be white.

We will watch the video “Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes” as a way for understanding how the internalization process happens. We will also explore the handout “Different Ways of Being White.” Here participants learn to talk about their racial identity journey.

You can read the material ahead of the workshop at:
http://www.uua.org/documents/gardinerwilliam/whiteness/racial_identity_journey.pdf
http://www.uua.org/documents/gardinerwilliam/whiteness/different_ways.pdf
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onKVeZaDzWg>

UU-UNO Envoy Update: Sept. 2017

On Tuesday, July 18, I joined in on one of the monthly UU-UNO Envoy Conference Calls to get an update on what's happening at the UN and the UUA's UN Office.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted on July 7th, 2017. It will be signed during the 2017 UN General Assembly September 20th. This is the first legally binding international agreement to actually ban nuclear weapons, eventually leading towards their total elimination. There's a long way to go still before they're all gone, but this is a huge deal.

You can read reports of the daily negotiations here: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/nuclear-weapon-ban/reports>

You can also read about the treaty through a racial justice angle at the UUA International Blog here: <http://www.uua.org/international/blog/inclusivity-united-nations-nuclear-weapons-treaty-diversity-disarmament>

In July the Women’s Rights Initiative interns at the UU-UNO put together a Gender Equality and Violent Extremism event at the UN Church Center. The speakers examined different angles of how gender equality and women’s empowerment intersects with violent extremism around the world. The event is available for viewing on the UUA International Office YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JDgKvAx6GI>

Our congregation will be participating in UN Sunday on December 17th this year. Bruce Knotts will be joining us for the service. This year's theme is Disarmament.

During the time to share what each of our congregations is doing, I introduced everyone on the call to the Examining Whiteness curriculum offered by the UUA. As a result of us following the curriculum and sharing it on this conference call, other congregations that didn't know it existed are now aware of it and interested in possibly offering it at their congregation.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jamie Capach
UU-UNO Envoy for UUCRT

NEWS



Habitat Blessing in Newburgh

UUCRT members Jay Beaumont and Terry Hughes have been active in building homes with Habitat for Humanity. Here Rev. Antal offers the blessing on four

new homes on Ann Street in the City of Newburgh. The dedication was held on Saturday, August 19. New homeowners received keys as part of the ceremony.

September Retreat: A Time for Spiritual Renewal and Fellowship

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie has invited the UUCRT to join them on their annual retreat, which will be held this year from Friday evening, Sept. 22 to Sunday morning, Sept. 24 at Camp Mariah on the Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill. About 45 adults and children from the UUFP will be attending. The UUCRT Board of Trustees has endorsed this event and Keith Jordan is serving as the point person for the UUCRT.

The retreat is for fellowship and spiritual renewal. There are recreational activities available, such as hiking, swimming and singing, and food and lodging are provided. The UUFP has arranged a schedule of activities that includes evening campfires; boating on the lake; physical outdoor activities such as badminton, Frisbee, and the UUFP's perennial favorite, pickle-ball; and time for bonding and discussion.

The retreat is very affordable, with a variety of packages available depending on how many in your family will be attending and for what length of time, ranging from \$50 for one adult for Saturday only to \$300 for an unlimited size family for the entire weekend, including lodging on Friday and Saturday nights and four meals for an unlimited number of family members. If paying for the retreat would be a hardship for you, there is a scholarship available for one adult's fee for the weekend. Contact Keith if you want to take advantage of this scholarship.

For more details call Keith at 845-978-5620.

This Year's UUA Common Read

(Please contact Rev. Chris J. Antal if you'd like to participate in a group order for a 10% discounted price for the 2017-2018 UUA Common Read:

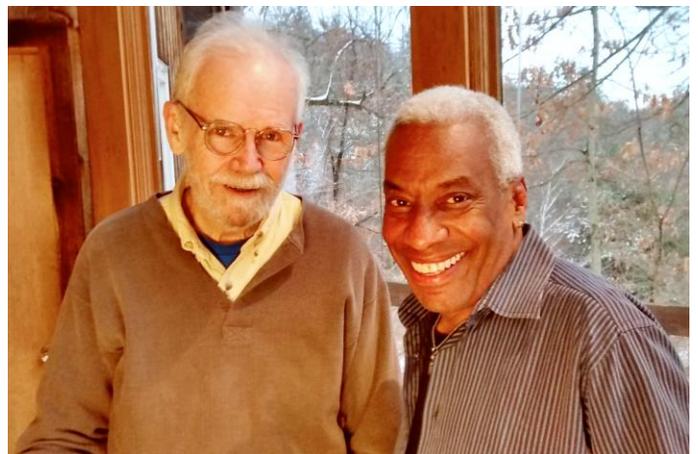
<http://www.uua.org/books/read>)

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.

The challenges, the call, and the opportunity of this moment in Unitarian Universalism and in the broader

US American society are compelling. Unitarian Universalists must be prepared and willing to look inward, examining, exploring, and acting to dismantle white supremacy culture in our association, in our congregations and groups, and in ourselves. At the same time, we must be prepared and willing to look outward and act to lift up Unitarian Universalist values in the political and civic challenges of our time. After much deliberation, the Common Read Selection Committee has chosen *two* books for this year's Common Read:

1. *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema (Skinner House, 2017), centers the stories, analysis, and insights of a number of Unitarian Universalist religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in Unitarian Universalist communities.
2. *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*, by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen, (Beacon Press, September 2017) lifts up the importance of democracy itself. It examines the anti-democracy movement that led to the Trump presidency, then offers a vision and call to action to save the democracy we thought we had and to take our civic life to a place it has never been.



Reggie Harris, right, and Charlie King

Charlie King and Reggie Harris Concert in Rock Tavern on Sat., Oct. 7

A concert by Charlie King and Reggie Harris will be

held on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 8 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern.

Charlie King has been at the heart of American folk music for half a century and has been writing songs for the past 40 years. He is a musical storyteller and political satirist and he sings and writes passionately about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. Charlie has recorded a dozen solo albums since 1976, as well as three albums with the touring ensemble Bright Morning Star, and numerous compilation albums with other artists. In addition to a full time career of concert touring, King has sung in support of numerous groups working for peace, human rights, environmental sanity and alternatives to violence. His central vision as an entertainer is to leave audiences with a sense of optimism and possibility about the future. "I try to cover a broad emotional landscape in my concerts. The stories I collect and the songs I write take the listener on a journey of humor, heartache and hope. What I most value in a song is the way it helps us see an old reality in a totally new light."

Reggie Harris has earned wide acclaim and respect from peers and audiences alike throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and around the world. He is known for songs of joy, hope and freedom as he combines spirituals and roots music, historic inspiration, and moving original songs, often in the themes of unity and social justice. A songwriter of great depth and passion, Reggie writes from a personal sense of mission that merges a world view full of wisdom with a singularly hopeful stance that life, though often challenging, is filled with possibility and hope. His songs reveal thoughts about life and love and some of the deep aspects of the human experience, and cover topics ranging from his own personal journey to world issues and history. His performances showcase a fluid vocalist, arranger, and guitarist whose open spirit and wide smile create an atmosphere that rewards the ears, opens the heart, and consistently earns trust and joyful admiration from audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Tickets for the October 7 concert are \$10 through Sept. 30 and \$15 at the door. For advance tickets or more information call Keith Jordan at 845-978-5620.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern is located in the Town of New Windsor at 9 Vance Road, Rock Tavern, NY, off Route 207, 3.4 miles west of Rte 300; or take I-84 to Exit 5A, Rte 747 south to Rte 207, make a right and take the second left.

Former Members Send Greetings:

Former congregant Betty Munford sends her greetings. She moved to Southwest Florida in March and joined the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Charlotte County. She sends her "Best Wishes to All."

Sandy Fulton: I'm glad to see our churches are working together for Black Lives Matter. I'm a former very active member (newsletter, Board, speaker, music) who moved to Philadelphia in 1996 and I do love Philly. Now 81, I'm attending the UU Church of the Restoration (UUCR), where I'm a Board member, a worship associate (lay speaker), the button maker and sign/banner maker for most activities, occasional musician, active in committees--especially social justice and worship services. Another committee has just completed our first complete Security & Safety Manual, with the help of the fire department and others, but our most important project is our weekly Black Lives Matter vigil.

THE CHOICE LIGHT is the official newsletter of

the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern.

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Our minister, the Rev. Dr. Chris J. Antal, serves us half-time and is available to the congregation two Sundays a month and most Thursdays. To contact him, leave a confidential voicemail at (845) 297-2792, or send an email to antal@uuma.org.

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Please send news to: johnpkkinney@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.

FairTrade Café



Opening September 10th!

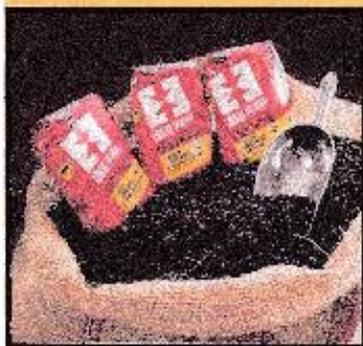
NEW!!!



- ~Chocolate chips
- ~New flavors of coffee
- ~More coming soon!

**Every Sunday
10-1 pm**

**New volunteer orientation
September 10th at 10:00!**



- 12 oz. Coffee \$7
- Tea Box \$4 or 3/\$10
- Chocolate Bar \$4 or 3/\$10
- Dried Mangos \$6

Come check out more at our table!



Don't forget!

BYOM (Bring your own mug) for a free cup of coffee!

