

The Chalice Light

Vol. 46, Issue 11 December, 2017



December, 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.

Every Sunday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Equal Exchange Table.

Dec. 3, Sunday– Soul Matters 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Room 20 with Rev. Chris J. Antal.

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

Dec. 9, Saturday – 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Rock Tavern Coffeehouse with Spook Handy.*

Dec. 10, Sunday – Noon, Pot Luck
-- After Pot Luck: Holiday concert with Hollis Kellogg

Dec. 24, Sunday – Soul Matters in Room 20 at 12:15 p.m. with Rev. Chris J. Antal. Special Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m.

Dec. 31, Sunday – 1 to 4 p.m. *workshop with Jon Mundy, PhD on Eternal Life and a Course in Miracles.*

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.

Dec. 3: Embodiment

Rev. Chris J. Antal

Our community strives to embody and celebrate the world as we hope it will one day become: a place of radical hospitality, courageous love, and prophetic resistance. How are we doing? This service will be followed by a Soul Matters session with Rev. Chris at 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 10: Spook Handy

A Time to Build Up

Pete Seeger said, "You don't have to tear down a house in order to rebuild its foundation." Would you believe that each one of us has a profound impact every day on the world we live in – starting with ourselves and extending out to our communities and the world as a whole? What we say and do promotes our values. So, are we promoting cynicism, division and individualism or are we promoting empowerment, integrity and solidarity? Are we helping to rebuild the foundation or are we only helping to tear down the house? Join us for songs, stories and reflection.

Dec. 17: Bruce Knotts, director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

Dec. 24: Who Have We Become

Rev. Chris J. Antal

A service to reflect on the sacred journey we share. This service will be followed by a Soul Matters session at 12:15.

4 p.m. Hot cider and cookie reception followed by a Christmas Eve service led by our ministers – Rev. Chris J. Antal and Terri Pahucki

Dec. 31: Jon Mundy, PhD

Transcendentalism in America

Celebrating the 200th birthday of Henry David Thoreau and Transcendentalism in America. This service will include the annual Burning Bowl ceremony. The service will be followed by a 1 p.m. workshop on Eternal Life and a Course in Miracles.

From Your Minister

The choice to belong to the UU faith tradition is a choice to embrace a call to the disciplined embodiment of our values and commitments. Our values include fairness, compassion, respect, responsibility, and honesty. Our fundamental commitment is to live a life in service to these values and to live that life in covenantal community with others who have also committed to live such a life.

As simple as this may sound, the work of embodiment is complicated and messy. One reason is because different people understand and embody different values and commitments differently. The respectful dialogue that emerged over the Black Lives Matter flag at the congregational meeting last month illustrates this point well. When we strive to embody our values and commitments and live a life that is morally engaged we inevitably encounter ethical dilemmas where deeply held values and commitments appear to be in conflict.

This can give rise to moral anguish, inner conflict, and even interpersonal strife. Some people may be inclined to avoid conflict and the kind of work embodying values and commitments requires of us. Those people will likely depart from the UU faith tradition. Those who remain are those who find joy and meaning in the call to embody our values and commitments, and all the work that embodiment asks of us.

I hope all of you find that joy and meaning in our community life. I am glad to journey with you who have chosen this faith as we share the work of embodiment together.

See you on Sunday

Chris J. Antal

Reflection from the Lay Commissioned Minister

Dear Friends,

This time of year in my seminary studies is one of final paper and project writing. I am currently working on a research paper focused on Congregation and Local Community Engagement for a Sociology of Religion class. This paper will include an exploration of how we perceive and embody our role in the local neighborhood, town, and county. It is my hope that this report will help us clarify and live into the questions of who we are and what we are called to do in relationship to our neighbors.

Recently these questions have been raised among us in light of the recent theft and vandalizing of roadside banners. I will be conducting interviews with members and friends as part of this project, and I invite you to reach out to me at tlpahucki@gmail.com or 845-344-7336 by December 8th if you'd like to participate (over coffee and conversation or by phone). Through knowledge and understanding of our community, I am hopeful that we can move together to embody more fully our values and commitments in the world.

I have also begun work on recovering historical congregational files, stories, and data, with the hope that we might examine and tell UUCRT history with more honest reflection. 2018 will mark 150 years since this congregation was first established as the Unitarian Church of Our Father in Newburgh. Although most of our records were destroyed in the 2006 Rock Tavern fire, I have recently discovered that the UUA has maintained several files. These are now archived at Meadville-Lombard theological school, and will be made available to us digitally in January. If you'd like to help work on this historical research and writing project, please let me know! This work belongs to all of us, and help is appreciated.

I will be away from Sunday morning services in December, but look forward to being with you for the Christmas Eve service.

In peace and joy,

Terri Pahucki

Lay Commissioned Minister

Letter from Congregation Beth Hillel, The Walden Jewish Community Center

Oct. 8, 2017

Dear Rev. Antal,

With dismay we read about the recent vandalism to your roadside sign, an apparent response to your display of two banners proclaiming Black Lives Matter and Refugees Welcome. We applaud your willingness to make your beliefs public and our hearts ache for the result. In these uncertain times, please know our prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

Sherri Donnell

President, Board of Trustees

From our Ministries

Social Action

Holiday Cards for the Incarcerated

From Cynthia Gilkeson and the Black Lives Matter Task Force:

Hello supporters,

Black Lives Matter is organizing a Holiday card and letter writing campaign for folks incarcerated in New York State. You can mail blank holiday cards to: 3 Poppy Court, Highland Mills, NY 10930. If interested in writing or personally addressing a card, message us here, or email blmrockandorange@gmail.com

Recruiting Volunteer Tutors for Prison-Based Program

Volunteer tutors are being recruited for a prison-based college and pre-college program in Math and English at the Shawangunk Correctional Facility. Contact Verne M. Bell, by email or 845-569-8965, if interested.

Stewardship & Finance

The semi-annual Congregational Meeting was the setting for an important S&F decision. At long last, the probate process for the estate of Anne Beck has reached a conclusion, and a check has been cut for the balance of funds. The congregation voted to use these funds, plus the balance in our Endowment fund that represents earnings, to reduce our UUA Mortgage.

We will remain dependent on the continued generosity of members to bring the balance of our indebtedness to zero, or a number very near that. No small feat for this tiny group of dedicated folks! A huge THANK YOU to all who continue to not only show up, but to contribute in so many ways! Our programs, events and stewardship have been and continue to be amazing, thanks to you!

With gratitude, and best wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season,

The S&F Ministry:

Alan Horne, Rebecca Jones, Jackie Jordan, Mike Landrum, Heather Stuetzle and Linda Mangelsdorf, Chair

NEWS

Eternal Life and a Course in Miracles with Dr. Jon Mundy Dec. 31 at 1 p.m.

After his Dec. 31st service on Transcendentalism in America, Dr. Jon Mundy will offer a workshop – Eternal Life and a Course in Miracles – from 1 to 4 p.m. at the UUCRT.

Registration: \$25 suggested donation but no one turned away who cannot pay.



Trash 2 Treasure Staffers

Amanda Crowell (left) staffs the bakery table at the Nov. 4 Trash 2 Treasure event. Camille, Elisa and Jolie handle duties at the Fair Trade table. We now have youth trained to sell Fair Trade products after services and at special events, like the Hudson Valley Folk Guild Coffeehouse!

Holiday Concert with Hollis on Dec. 10

Hollis Kellogg will present a holiday concert after Pot Luck on Sunday, Dec. 10. It will feature the music of Edvard Grieg.

Harmonic Alchemy to Present Sound Journey Friday, Dec. 15 at UUCRT

ROCK TAVERN -- A Sound Journey with Harmonic Alchemy will take place on Friday, Dec. 15 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, 9 Vance Rd.

Sound has been used for healing and expansion of consciousness for thousands of years. Therapeutic vibrations are known to reduce stress, quiet the mind, and relax the nervous system. The resonance and frequencies of sound healing instruments affect us at the physical (cellular) level, the energetic (chakras and

channels) level, and the mental (brain waves) level, restoring the natural harmony of body, mind and spirit.

Using ancient and modern healing instruments, such as Himalayan bowls, crystal bowls, gong, drums, shakers, flutes and chimes, Celine Daly and Julie Harris will create a field of sacred sound and guide the group into deep meditation. This state of expanded awareness is where we can access insights from our deepest intuition and highest wisdom.

Participants usually lie on the floor, so please bring a yoga mat and blanket. Some people like to have an eye mask. Chairs will be available for those who prefer to sit.

Exchange: \$20 at the door (cash only). For questions, email HASoundbath@gmail.com.

Celine Daly is a musician and sound practitioner with a background in medicine, yoga, and meditation, and has also studied alternative healing modalities, such as sound healing, acupuncture, craniosacral therapy and Reiki. Visit her website at www.celinedaly.com.

Julie Harris is a Holy Fire II Karuna Reiki Master and an award-winning Native American-style flute player who has studied sound healing. She is trained in acupressure and is a minister in the Heart River Center for Intuitive Healing.

Celine and Julie also perform in the organic fusion band, Heartwood (www.heartwoodband.com)



Fair Trade Café Report

Fair Trade Café business manager Eliot Antal (above), with some banter from his father, the Rev. Chris J. Antal, reports on the financial status of the enterprise at the fall Congregational Meeting. Café sales manager, Yuna Antal (below) provides sales statistics to the congregation on the non-profit fundraising enterprise.



THE CHAROCE 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: johnpkinney@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.

FairTrade Café



NEW!!!



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

**Every Sunday
10-1 pm**

**New volunteer orientation
Sundays at 10:00!**



- 12 oz. Coffee \$8
 - 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!

