

# The Chalice Light

Vol. 47, Issue 2 February, 2018



## February, 2018 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.

**Feb. 4, Sunday** – Noon. New to the UU luncheon in Room 20.

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

**Feb. 10, Saturday** – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Racial Justice Workshop  
– 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Rock Tavern Coffeehouse.*

**Feb. 11, Sunday** – Noon, Pot Luck  
--12:30 p.m. Frances Cott's Memorial celebration in the Sanctuary.

**Feb. 18, Sunday** – Noon to 1 p.m. Soul Matters with Terri Pahucki in Room 20

**Feb. 25, Sunday** – Noon to 1 p.m. Veterans For Peace meeting in the Sanctuary

## 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.*

**Feb. 4: On Charity**  
**Rev. Chris J. Antal**

Faced with escalating inequality, how ought we think about charity and how might that thinking guide our actions in pursuit of justice?

**Feb. 11: 'How Can I Keep from Singing'**  
**Hollis Kellogg and Lydia Adams**

**Feb. 18: The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith**  
**Led by Terri Pahucki and the UUCRT Racial Justice Task Force**

We join with our Association of Congregations in this special service to uphold and center the history, the perspectives, the voices, and the leadership of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists.

**Feb. 25: On Patriotism**  
**Rev. Chris J. Antal**

How might we distinguish patriotism from nationalism and reclaim a genuine love for country?

## From Your Minister

This month we explore the theme, love, and I will be preaching on love as charity and love as patriotism. Congregational life provides an abundance of opportunities to think about, practice, and embody love. I have committed my life to growing my capacity to love.

This capacity includes giving and receiving love. This commitment imbues my life with meaning and purpose and helps me thrive in the face of adversity and challenge. Even though I have made this commitment, in my daily life, with my family and at work, I often discover limitations and find myself struggling to give and receive love. When I encounter these limitations, I try to accept them and embrace them as an opportunity to love myself, with all my shortcomings.

Lately, I have found encouragement in the wisdom of psychologist Carl Rogers, who wrote, "The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change."

See you on Sunday,  
Chris J. Antal

## **A Reflection from the Lay Commissioned Minister**

I like to think of love as the fire that moves us, the energy that empowers action. Love invites us to full engagement. Love takes many forms-- kindness, patience, generosity, justice, compassion. It is the spiritual force that brings us together and carries us beyond what we ever imagined. Love is larger and more powerful than ourselves.

I invite you to consider how you can share love within and beyond this congregation this month. Maybe it is by calling a congregant you have not seen in awhile, or listening to someone who is going through a hard time. Or by offering hospitality to visitors and guests, or attention and guidance to children and youth. Maybe it is by sharing your musical and spiritual gifts in worship. We are all called to be the hearts and hands of loving-kindness for one another together.

You are also invited to share love by joining our small group ministry Soul Matters Conversation on Sunday, February 18th from 12-1PM, where we will look deeply at how love shows up in our lives, and support one another through a spiritual practice that takes our monthly theme forward into our daily lives. The Soul Matters Conversation is open to everyone, including newcomers. It is a great way to go deeper with our monthly theme and get to know other people in the congregation on a more personal level. "Soul" for us means inner truth, and the conversation provides a space for quiet listening, sharing, and growing together.

Finally, I invite us all to practice love this month by moving beyond our circles of comfort, and seeking the embodiment of beloved community and justice in the world. Join us for a day of reflection, vision, and planning at February 10th's "Racial Justice Workshop" (more information below). Then, on February 18th, we will join with other congregations throughout the UUA in committing ourselves to dismantle white supremacy through "The Promise and the Practice of our Faith". This service lifts up the voices of Black Unitarian Universalist leaders, and calls us to listen, to reflect, and to support their work with a special collection. I hope to see you there.

With Love,  
Terri

## **Racial Justice Workshop Sat., Feb. 10**

On Saturday, February 10th, Rev. Chris and I will be leading a racial justice workshop from 10AM- 3PM, open to everyone at UUCRT. The first part of this day will focus on the book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*.

This book is one of two UUA Common Read selections this year, and centers the stories, analyses, and insights of a number of Unitarian Universalist religious professionals of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in UU communities.

The second part will focus on visioning an inclusive, racially just future for this congregation, with attention to our historic and systemic roots. We will be using social analysis research that I conducted this past fall for a seminary class to help us dismantle white supremacy together and build a new way.

*Please RSVP to Terri Pahucki for this important workshop – [tlpahucki@gmail.com](mailto:tlpahucki@gmail.com)*

## **Message from the Board**

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The UUCRT Board of Trustees met Jan. 28 and the main order of business was asking Alan Horne to share Treasurer's responsibilities with Heather Steutzel who is struggling with health issues, as well as her job and school studies. We appreciate Heather's heroic efforts for the past year and wish her a speedy recovery. And we applaud Alan for stepping up to serve again at a crucial moment in the life of our congregation.

Ann Beck's bequest has been ruled on by the courts and after nearly two years of delay the funds are in our bank account. The Board and the Stewardship & Finance folks are working out how to best apply this windfall to the needs of our fellowship. A full report will be forthcoming. Our next Congregational meeting will be in May.

## **From our Ministries**

### **Religious Exploration**

Children are welcome and celebrated at the UUCRT! Religious Exploration classes for children 7 and up are available on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of the month. Babysitting is available every Sunday for children up to age 6. Opportunities for older youth

include participation in: Services, Fair Trade Table, Social Action Causes, varied UUCRT events

## Congregational Life

UUCRT information sessions will be held on February 4th and on March 4th at approximately 11:45 p.m. directly following services.

The informal sessions are an opportunity to learn about our community and meet our pastor, the Rev. Chris Antal. Visitors will be able to get questions answered about the Unitarian Universalist denomination. Those who attended previous sessions are also welcome.

Come to enjoy a light fare while learning about our UUCRT community!

## NEWS

### Dates to Save!

- April 7, 7 to 9 pm: Sip and Paint
- April 14: Trash to Treasure event
- May 20: Congregational Meeting



Willie D. Jones and Vanessa Green leading the community forum on Black Lives Matter in the sanctuary. Photo by John Kinney

### Lesson from Forum: 'Wrestle with Race and Act with Courage'

Willie D. Jones and Vanessa Green visited the UUCRT on Sunday January 14. Members and friends of the UUCRT showed up in strength to learn about the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement and how white people can become better allies.

Mr. Jones gave a passionate and challenging presentation during the morning service. He read a selection from his recent book, *Today's Lesson: Black*

*Lives Matter*, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and then spoke on the topic, "In Case You Forgot," reminding us all, "I am a part of this household; I belong; I matter," and challenging entrenched myths like "the Horatio Alger bootstrap myth" and the myth of "white industriousness" that he says justify disparity in power.

He critiqued those who purport to be "colorblind" and those who hide behind their racial privilege and stay "cloistered on the sidelines." Mr. Jones called upon white people to wrestle with race and act with courage and integrity in calling out racial injustice in their every day relationships and "overturn the apple carts." Mr. Jones sold every copy of his book he had on hand to the community eager to learn more and do more.

Ms. Green shared about her activism and the personal threats she experienced while standing up for racial justice after Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri. She also spoke about the local issues and opportunities for action. She stressed the importance of "allyship" and encouraged people with white privilege to be shields for those targeted by racial discrimination. Ms. Green rejected the word "reform" as insufficient and called upon the community to "transform and dismantle" racist systems by being alert and being vocal. As a next step, Ms. Green recommended white people attend the Undoing Racism® Community Organizing Workshop.

Rev. Antal and others from the UUCRT committed to participating in the next workshop, April 10, 11, and 12, at Stony Point Conference Center. Registration is reduced to \$300 when three or more come from the UUCRT. Please contact Rev. Antal if you would like to attend and register here. Funds to help with the registration fee are available to those in need. Contact Rev. Antal for details.

Members and friends interested in continuing the work as part of the Racial Justice Task Force should contact our lay commissioned minister, Terri Pahucki. Members and friends interested in attending an upcoming BLM Hudson Valley meeting should contact Cynthia Gilkeson, who is a member of both the UUCRT and BLM Hudson Valley.

The Undoing Racism® Community Organizing Workshop is offered the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

The next dates in our area are:  
April 10-12, 2018, Stony Point Conference Center  
April 13-15, SUNY Rockland Community College

For financial assistance to attend this workshop, contact our minister.

### About Undoing Racism®

The fabric of racism is inextricably woven and constructed into the founding principles of the United States. Racism was done and it can be undone through effective anti-racist organizing with, and in accountability to the communities most impacted by racism. The People's Institute believes that effective community and institutional change happens when those who serve as agents of transformation understand the foundations of race and racism and how they continually function as a barrier to community self-determination and self-sufficiency.

This nation has always reflected rich diversity from the innumerable multitude of indigenous cultures that inhabited and sustained this land prior to arrival of European explorers to our present composition. Yet, unequivocally, whites continue to fare significantly better than all people of color. In our workshops, we analyze power and how it is used to maintain this racial divide, in hopes of achieving equity and equality across all cultures and races.

Undoing Racism is the signature workshop of the People's Institute. Through dialogue, reflection, role-playing, strategic planning and presentations, this intensive process challenges participants to analyze the structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and prepares them to be effective organizers for justice. The multiracial team of organizers/trainers includes more than 40 men and women whose anti-racist organizing expertise includes years with civil, labor and welfare rights struggles, educational, foster care, social service and health reform movements, as well as youth and grassroots community organizing. An average of 10-15 groups per month participate in The People's Institute Undoing Racism®/Community Organizing process.

Workshop participants will:

Develop a common definition of racism and an understanding of its different forms: individual, institutional, linguistic, and cultural;

Develop a common language and analysis for examining racism in the United States;

Understand one's own connection to institutional racism and its impact on his/her work;

Understand why people are poor and the role of institutions in exacerbating institutional racism, particularly for people and communities of color;

Understand the historical context for how racial classifications in the United States came to be and how and why they are maintained;

Understand the historical context for how U.S. institutions came to be and who they have been designed to serve;

Understand how all of us, including white people, are adversely impacted by racism every day, everywhere;

Address surface assumptions about how your work is (or is not) affected by racism;

Develop awareness and understanding about ways to begin Undoing Racism;

Gain knowledge about how to be more effective in the work you do with your constituencies, your organizations, your communities, your families;

Understand the role of community organizing and building effective multiracial coalitions as a means for Undoing Racism.

## Rev. Antal Profiled on Humankind Podcast

(Editor's Note: Rev. Chris J. Antal was interviewed by David Freudberg of Humankind which is distributed worldwide by NPR and PRX in September 2017 and was featured in the second episode, "Safe Space in a War Zone." The UUCRT is also mentioned! )

### From the Humankind website:

Rev. Chris Antal, a Unitarian Universalist minister in the town of Rock Tavern, New York, was drawn to service in response to the attacks of 9/11. He entered military chaplaincy partially as a way to help soldiers who are prone to harming themselves in the wake of war. He also wanted to bring a "liberal voice into a very conservative chaplaincy," consistent with the commitment of his tradition of acceptance for people representing different faiths and sexual orientation backgrounds.

In this profile, Rev. Antal explores how he was drawn to faith-based engagement with indigenous religious leaders, where he was stationed at Kandahar Air Base.

"I was uniquely equipped to engage in interfaith dialogue" with Muslims. But what's it like to be a spiritual presence in a war zone? What's the duty to honor the lives of human beings who die in war, whether from your side or the "enemy"? Rev. Antal grew disenchanted with the U.S. military policy of deploying unmanned aircraft (drones), which are often associated with civilian casualties. In 2016, he resigned in protest from his commission as a chaplain in the Army Reserve and, after a Congressional inquiry, received an honorable discharge. We end this episode with an excerpt of Rev. Antal's moving sermon about modern war.

I was challenged with the question, 'Why, and for what?' And that question came to me from the people I was serving as the chaplain, in most cases. It's a question that I'd asked myself... I wasn't the chaplain who was going to give the Army answer, or the religious answer even, per se. I never saw spiritual care as about helping anyone feel good. Spiritual care is, for me, about living well. And living well means at times holding appropriate pain, including moral pain like guilt, and regret."

Listen to the program here:

<https://www.humanmedia.org/product/spiritual-care/>



Participants at Last year's Knights Out dinner at West point.

## UUCRT seeking sponsors and representatives to attend 2018 Knights Out Dinner

2018 marks the 7th year Knights Out and Spectrum have hosted an annual Gala at West Point. Join cadets, faculty, alumni and friends of the Academy for a social evening overlooking the Hudson, where we will hear from special guests who have made a difference in every corner of the Armed Forces and beyond.

Details: Saturday, April 7 at 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT  
West Point Club, 603 Cullum Rd, West Point, New York 10996

Knights Out is proud to announce the selection of Major General Randy S. Taylor as the recipient of the 2018 Courage Award. You can read his bio at this link: <http://cecom.army.mil/pdfs/Major%20General%20Randy%20S%20Taylor.pdf>

Help the UUCRT continue our proud tradition of welcoming and supporting the LGBTQ community at West Point.

You can help in one of three ways. You sponsor someone to attend, you can attend the dinner, you can both sponsor and attend the dinner. Our goal is to once again to be a Black Level Sponsor and contribute \$1,000. As a Black Level Sponsor, the UUCRT will be recognized in the program and from the podium, will receive four tickets to the dinner, and will be invited to the sponsor only reception with award recipients and special guests.

Help us make the goal by March 1 and make your check payable to UUCRT with "Knights Out" the memo line.

## Garretts Honored for Grand Montgomery Music Series

Long-time congregants Howard and Judy Garrett have literally and figuratively spent a lifetime sharing, caring about, promoting and performing music. Their accomplishments are too numerous to detail here but one of their noteworthy achievements has been the creation and continuation of the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music series.

This is the series 31<sup>st</sup> year and the final year that this wonderful couple will be hosting and organizing it.

Montgomery Village Mayor Steve Brescia paid tribute to the Garretts in the recent winter village newsletter.

"I would like to personally thank Howard and Judith Garrett for all they have done to make the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music and Theater Series the magnificent program that it has become," the mayor said.

"Unfortunately, Howard and Judith will be retiring at the end of this season, the mayor continued. "Their presence and dedication will be missed immensely."

An editorial in the local Walkkill Valley Times also heaped praise upon the Garretts and closed with this sentiment:

“Montgomery owes a debt of gratitude to the Garretts for their dedication to the community and their infusion of culture to the landscape.”

## It Is Now 2 Minutes to Midnight!

(Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted in a condensed format from the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – January 25, 2018 – Citing growing nuclear risks and unchecked climate dangers, the iconic Doomsday Clock is now 30 seconds closer to midnight, the closest to the symbolic point of annihilation that the Clock has been since 1953 at the height of the Cold War. The decision announced today to move the Doomsday Clock to two minutes before midnight was made by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ Science and Security Board in consultation with the Board of Sponsors, which includes 15 Nobel Laureates. The full text of the Doomsday Clock statement is available at <http://www.thebulletin.org> and includes key recommendations about how to #RewindtheDoomsdayClock.

Video from the Doomsday Clock announcement at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., is available at <http://clock.thebulletin.org/> and on the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BulletinOfTheAtomicScientists/>.

The statement explaining the resetting of the time of the Doomsday Clock notes: “In 2017, world leaders failed to respond effectively to the looming threats of nuclear war and climate change, making the world security situation more dangerous than it was a year ago—and as dangerous as it has been since World War II. The greatest risks last year arose in the nuclear realm. North Korea’s nuclear weapons program appeared to make remarkable progress in 2017, increasing risks for itself, other countries in the region, and the United States. Hyperbolic rhetoric and provocative actions on both sides have increased the possibility of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation .... On the climate change front, the danger may seem less immediate, but avoiding catastrophic temperature increases in the long run requires urgent attention now .... The nations of the world will have to significantly decrease their greenhouse gas emissions to keep climate risks manageable, and so far, the global response has fallen far short of meeting this challenge.”

Fueling concerns about the potential of a nuclear holocaust are a range of U.S.-Russian military

entanglements, South China Sea tensions, escalating rhetoric between Pakistan and India, and uncertainty about continued U.S. support for the Iran nuclear deal. Contributing to the risks of nuclear and non-nuclear clashes around the globe are the rise of nation-state information technology and internet-based campaigns attacking infrastructure and free elections, according to the statement.

Also highlighted as an overarching global concern: The decline of U.S. leadership and a related demise of diplomacy under the Trump Administration. “... [T]here has also been a breakdown in the international order that has been dangerously exacerbated by recent U.S. actions. In 2017, the United States backed away from its longstanding leadership role in the world, reducing its commitment to seek common ground and undermining the overall effort toward solving pressing global governance challenges. Neither allies nor adversaries have been able to reliably predict U.S. actions or understand when U.S. pronouncements are real, and when they are mere rhetoric. International diplomacy has been reduced to name-calling, giving it a surrealistic sense of unreality that makes the world security situation ever more threatening.”

In January 2017, the Doomsday Clock’s minute hand edged forward by 30 seconds, to two and half minutes before midnight. For the first time, the Doomsday Clock was influenced by statements from an incoming U.S. President, Donald Trump, regarding the proliferation and the prospect of actually using nuclear weapons, as well as statements made in opposition to U.S. commitments regarding climate change.

Rachel Bronson, president and CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: “Because of the extraordinary danger of the current moment, the Science and Security Board today moves the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock 30 seconds closer to catastrophe. It is now two minutes to midnight----the closest the Clock has ever been to Doomsday, and as close as it was in 1953, at the height of the Cold War.”

## Dialogue Webinar Schedule

### February Dialogue: Theology and U/U Identity

The first of five formal gatherings of U/U theologians from around the world will take place in Kathmandu, Nepal during the Conference and Council meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) on Wednesday, February 14. Join us live at 10 a.m. (US-Eastern) or watch an archived version later.

This dialogue will focus on how Theology informs U/U Identity.

Join the webinar from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/6179486412>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16465588656,,6179486412# or

+16699006833,,6179486412#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 617 948 6412

International numbers available:

<https://zoom.us/join?j=6179486412>

**March Reflection: Theology and U/U Identity**

After watching the dialogue, engage in individual or small group reflection using a small group ministry module available on March 1.

**Harmonic Alchemy to Present Valentine’s Sound Journey Feb. 16 at the UUCRT**

ROCK TAVERN -- On Friday, Feb. 16 from 7 to-8:30 p.m. Celine Daly and Julie Harris of Harmonic Alchemy will present a Valentine’s Sound Journey: Open To Love at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 9 Vance Rd, Rock Tavern, NY 12575.

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 and Julie 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](mailto: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](http://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.

**THE CHALICE LIGHT** is the official newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern. Mailing address: PO Box 502, Washingtonville, NY 10992-0502. Phone: (845) 496-9696. 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](mailto:antal@uuma.org). Editor and email distribution: John Kinney. Copy proofing: Athena Drewes and Keith Jordan; print distribution: Athena Drewes. Webmaster: Jay Beaumont, [jaybeaumont49@gmail.com](mailto:jaybeaumont49@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.uucrt.org> Please send news to: [johnpkinney@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpkinney@hotmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.



# Fairtrade Café & Store

## B.Y.O.M.

Bring your own mug for  
a free cup of Fairtrade



coffee!



## February Special!!!

**Sale** on *Love  
Buzz* coffee!

**3 bags for  
\$20!**

Happy Valentine's  
Day!



## Fairtrade Store



**Every Sunday  
10 am—1 pm**



Coffee • Chocolate • Tea

Olive Oil • Snacks

And more to come!

- Staffed by volunteers
- All proceeds go to the UUCRT
- **New Volunteers Welcome!** 😊



## ***It's hot chocolate season!***

Check out our supply of  
Fairtrade cocoa!

