

# The Chalice Light

Vol. 47, Issue 4 April, 2018



## April, 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.

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

**April 7, Saturday** -- Black Women's March across the Tappan Zee Bridge. <https://www.callblackline.com/> --7 to 9 p.m. Sip N' Paint. Discover the artist within you  
-- 6 to 9 p.m. Knights Out dinner at West Point.

**April 8, Sunday** – Noon, pot luck luncheon  
--Following pot luck: Rehanging of the banners by our sign on Rt. 207

**April 14, Saturday** –Noon to 4 p.m. Trash 2 Treasure  
– 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Rock Tavern Coffeehouse.*

**April 22, Sunday** – Noon to 1 p.m. *Veterans For Peace meeting in the Sanctuary*

**May 6, Sunday** – Noon to 1 p.m. "Daring Democracy" book group discussion

## 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.*

### **April 1: Everything Happens For a Reason** **Interfaith Minister Evan Pritchard**

Spring is a time of renewed hope. What is the difference between faith and hope from the indigenous perspective? Spring gives us renewed hope for a new beginning and new growth. Faith is the conviction that, even if our growth is slow and painful at times, "everything happens for a reason." This Easter let us remember times when things worked out according to a plan larger than our own.

### **April 8: Faith in Human Rights** **Rev. Chris J. Antal**

A reflection on the connections between religions and human rights.

### **April 15: Living Faith** **Terri Pahucki**

A celebration of commitment and sharing of faith for the growing season.

### **April 22: Questions of Faith** **Rev. Chris J. Antal**

Last year David Suchet interviewed me for his Questions of Faith audio series and it went live on Audible Friday March 9th. I'll reflect on the series and my experience with him.

### **April 29: The Link Between Faith and Optimism** **Mike Landrum**

The link between faith and optimism - skills for a good and happy life. I had the luck to be the son of an optimistic mother, so I'll share some of the lessons I

learned from her. You'll arrive a Unitarian but you may leave a "Becky-ist".

## **From Your Minister**

Search google for "Unitarian Universalist faith" and you'll find our principles and purposes at the top of the list. We like to say we have no creed, no dogma, yet we say we believe in seven principles. Is this our faith?

Faith is what gives us the hope that when we covenant to affirm and promote our principles, and work together to achieve them, then we might just actualize them, or at least move closer to actualizing them. This work does take faith. Without it, we may just dry up and burn out.

I have faith in the principles, yet I am careful that my faith is not a blind faith. The way we avoid the trap of blind faith is by examining our faith in a discerning community.

Examining our faith means discerning the way to actualize our principles in the particular context we find ourselves, with our unique capacities and opportunities. I find this work invigorating, and I hope you do, too.

See you on Sunday.  
Rev. Chris

## **Reflection and Update from the Lay Commissioned Minister**

What do you believe? Each one of us might answer this question differently. The answers I gave ten years ago are not the same answers I give today. Faith for Unitarian Universalists is a continual evolving process, not a solid unchanging creed.

As a process, we are called to live faithfully. My personal definition of faith involves a commitment to seek life and nurture the good. Faith is a garden, not a rock. Within each seed lies the possibility of growing and budding into a plant, a tree, a flower. Faith includes doubt and questioning, as well as learning and growing; it is a lived commitment that requires nurturing and tending. I believe we live faithfully when we refuse to give up on life, and when we continue to love fiercely and work for justice even

when our actions do not seem to yield immediate results. Waiting is also a part of living our faith.

What are your core beliefs? To whom or what are you faithful? How do you live your faith? I invite you to join me in planting and growing these questions this month.

In faith,  
Terri

A Personal Update: This month I will be serving as UU-UNO Intergenerational Seminar Chaplain in New York City from April 4-7th. Our conference will focus on the global refugee crisis. We will also be joined by UU theologians from throughout the world to continue a year-long theological reflection on the 450th Anniversary of the Edict of Torda. I will also be completing my fourth and final semester at Hartford Seminary in April. Next fall I will continue working on my Master of Divinity at Drew University, as I move into the second half of the Cooperative MDiv Program. Thank you for your continued support on this ministry journey!

*"Everything we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see. Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. - Martin Luther King, Jr."*

## **From the Board of Trustees**

The potted Angel Wing plant in the southeast corner of our Sanctuary has bloomed for the first time in memory. Wouldn't Anne Beck have loved that? Faith is the theme for this month, and I see it as a sign of our faith in the restorative power of spring as another blessed April comes again!

Anne's spirit hovers over us as we fulfill her wishes for her generous bequest to us. We are reducing our mortgage debt by thousands. We have paid off the last of the personal member loans, given a well-deserved bonus to our Minister, Rev. Chris, and we'll soon mount a beautiful chalice symbol over our entry. Thanks to Anne and the hard work of Stewardship and Finance Chair Linda

Mangelsdorf and newly re-installed Treasurer, Alan Horne, we enter our new fiscal year in much better shape financially.

Our annual pledge drive will kick off on Sunday, April 8 with a lunch provided by the Stewardship & Finance Ministry. Solid figures for the mortgage will be provided including a generous donation from the members of the Board.

We've installed a new computer at the greeter's table to log in newcomers and keep communications flowing smoothly. On April 8 we are dedicating new banners in support of Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ Rainbow Coalition and Refugees.

Again this year we are a Black Level sponsor for the Knights Out appeal at West Point and will send a large group of supporters on April 7 to their annual dinner. Last year the Orange County Human Rights Commission presented our own Rev. Chris Antal with an award for his great work, and we will also be represented at their luncheon this year.

We are happy that our building continues to be used by others in our community including The Birch School, The Hudson Valley Folk Guild for concerts, the Psychic Experiences Group, Sound Baths and private birthday parties. Watch for fund raising events this month: April 7 – Sip 'n Paint, Trash to Treasure on April 14.

Also, the board has decided to hire a part-time administrator to take on office tasks and provide a central point of communication for all our various activities. If you know someone who would be good in this position (UU membership not required) please contact [MikeLandrum@optonline.net](mailto:MikeLandrum@optonline.net).

Remember, our annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 20. Save the date!

In service,  
Mike Landrum, President UUCRT Board of Trustees

*Faith is an oasis in the heart which will never be reached by the caravan of knowledge - Kahlil Gibran 1883 - 1931*

## **From our Ministries**

### **Congregational Life**

UUCRT information sessions will be held on May 6 and June 3 approximately 11:45 p.m. directly following services. This is an opportunity to meet our minister, Rev Chris Antal, and to learn more about our congregation at Rock Tavern. Come to enjoy some light fare, hear about Unitarian Universalism, and get your questions answered.

### **Stewardship and Finance**

Near the end of March, a very exciting event took place. Our treasurer sent a principal payment to the Unitarian Universalist Association that will reduce our building's mortgage to a very manageable amount. Finances need to be an integral part of every organization. For the UUCRT, finances have shown up too often as a burden---a conversation that often pervaded plans and events.

For a tiny congregation to have continued to participate in the world as the members of the UUCRT have, while maintaining and supporting the building that was built with so much optimism, is truly amazing. Some would say miraculous. Some would say unnecessary. To them I can only say that we've done what, to the majority at the time, seemed right and true.

The steadfast generosity of members and friends has made the difference. The pre-fire fiscal soundness of this tiny group, as well as myriad gifts and loans generously offered after our A-frame burned to the ground, made the rebuilding possible, albeit with a mortgage.

Once the doors were opened, members Athena Drewes and Linda Shutts created and managed Longaberger Basket Bingo and Tricky Tray events for the community that provided much needed funds to keep those doors open! Generous pledges and other fundraisers over the years have also contributed and sustained us.

A comprehensive search for a building use partner brought the Birch School to our doors. Their contributions have been invaluable over the years,

and their philosophy of education neatly dovetails with our principles.

In recent years another, and totally unexpected, source of funds has contributed to the UUCRT. Legacy gifts---bequests that come, sadly, with the death of a fond member, have allowed us to continue our programs, provide a space for spiritual growth and a platform for Social Justice.

The mortgage reduction referenced above came primarily from the gift of Anne E. Beck, whose death occurred in January of 2016. Soon a large Chalice will adorn our building's entrance, a visual testimonial to Anne's generosity.

With this large decrease in our monthly outlay, we can return to the simpler focus of balancing our budget and moving forward confidently--knowing that the light at the end of this tunnel is NOT an approaching freight train, but rather rays of sunlight!

**On April 8, please plan to attend the S&F Luncheon---come after services and have your body and spirit fed as we serve lunch and entertain---with a fun emphasis on the kickoff of our annual every member Pledge Campaign.**

Stewardship & Finance Ministry  
Alan Horne, Rebecca Jones, Jackie Jordan, Heather Steutzle  
Linda Mangelsdorf, Chair

## NEWS

### Discover the Artist Within You on April 7 at the UUCRT

The Second Annual UUCRT Sip N' Paint Benefit will be Saturday, April 7th from 7 to 9 pm at the UUCRT with artist Nancy Reed Jones. \$40 per person includes wine, snacks, a guided art lesson, and all the supplies needed to create your very own masterpiece!



Under the guidance of a Wallkill River School artist, you'll experience a tailored lesson and awaken your creativity, while sipping, snacking, and enjoying each other's company. Register at <https://upto.com/e/lcOPO>.

You'll leave with an awesome painting and lots of fond memories! Come and discover the artist within you! If you prefer not to register online, give \$40 to Jane O'Donnell who will reserve a canvas and palette in your name.

*You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty. - Mohandus Gandhi 1868-1948*

### UUCRT to Partner with Veterans Administration on Community Training

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern board of trustees voted in March to partner with the Veterans Administration to host a Community Clergy Training Event July 19 at the UUCRT.

Rural veterans in particular have limited health care options, especially for mental health care. Research indicates that mental health stigma is significant in rural America and often inhibits Veterans from seeking needed care. However, many feel that seeking help in rural faith communities will have less negative impact on their reputation within the community and on their military career. Clerics are recognized community leaders and can have a wide influence on public opinion, however, many clergy members have a limited understanding of the challenges common to returning warriors and lack the knowledge necessary to care for Veterans struggling with post-deployment and mental health related issues.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Chaplain Center and Office of Rural Health established a national Community Clergy Training Program (CCTP) to educate faith communities about how they might better use their resources to support Veterans and family members who may otherwise feel isolated, alienated and helpless. The CCTP aims to increase rural clergy's ability to identify and support rural Veterans with reintegration challenges.

*"The sacred is not in heaven or far away. It is all around us, and small human rituals can connect us to its presence. And of course, the greatest challenge (and gift) is to see the sacred in each other. -Alma Luz Villanueva*

## Common Read Dates for May and June: 'Daring Democracy'

"Daring Democracy" Common Read Dates for May and June are May 6, Part 1 & 2, Chapters 1-4, pp. 3-76. June 3, Part 3, Chapters 5-9, pp 79-163.

A copy is available for sharing at the Welcoming Table; please do not remove from the UUCRT.

## UUCRT to send 9 to Knights Out Dinner at West Point

Nine members and friends of the UUCRT will attend the Knights Out banquet this year, the best representation from the UUCRT since the Banquet began in 2011.

Thanks to the generous contributions of UUCRT members and friends, the UUCRT achieved Black Level Sponsor status once again, contributing more than \$1,000 to Knights Out.



Included in the UUCRT delegation this year, thanks to a generous anonymous donation from a friend of the UUCRT, are Tesni and Shannon Taylor, Unitarian Universalists from Western New York. Tesni, formerly Tony Taylor, served as Rev. Antal's chaplain assistant in Afghanistan. Tesni has since transitioned. She is preparing

for Unitarian Universalist ministry, enrolled in Meadville Lombard School for the Ministry, and continues to serve as a sergeant in the New York Army National Guard.

2018 marks the 7th year Knights Out and Spectrum have hosted an annual Gala at West Point. Cadets, faculty, alumni and friends of the Academy enjoy a

social evening overlooking the Hudson, where they 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



**Black Women's March:  
Continuing the Legacy of  
Harriet Tubman**

**April 7th, 2018**

Tarrytown, Hudson Valley,  
New York

**#100Sistas  
#BLMHudsonValley**

FOR MORE  
INFO  
CLICK HERE



FOR TRAVEL  
OPTIONS  
CLICK HERE

## Black Women's March

**Rev. Antal and several members of the congregation will be attending the Black Women's March April 7 in Tarrytown. Ride shares are available. Please contact Rev. Antal at [antal@uuma.org](mailto:antal@uuma.org)**

## Trash 2 Treasure Event April 14; Don't Shop, Share!

ROCK TAVERN -- Don't shop, share! On Saturday, April 14, from noon to 4 p.m., the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern is hosting its fifth Trash 2 Treasure event.

"Clean out your homes to make room ... and bring anything you'd like to find another home for," says event organizer Amanda Crowell. "When you bring goods to share, you can also take home treasures that you find-- all FREE.

A 50/50 raffle and bake sale will make this sharing event even more fun."

"You never know what you don't need that someone

else can use," according to Crowell, "and there are many treasures waiting to be discovered by you! Furniture, toys, clothing, art supplies, household goods, books, DVDs, and more all welcome."

Remaining items will be donated to charity after the event. For further information, please contact Crowell at [broadleafhouse@gmail.com](mailto:broadleafhouse@gmail.com). The UUCRT is located



at 9 Vance Road in the hamlet of Rock Tavern in New Windsor, right off Rt. 207 between Goshen and Newburgh.

### **County Human Rights Dinner is April 18**

The Rev. Chris J. Antal and UUCRT President Michael Landrum will be attending the Orange County Human Rights Commission 23rd annual Human Rights Awards Banquet April 18 and have invited others in the UUCRT community to join them. Rev. Antal was a 2017 award recipient.

This year's recipients are: Patty Baughman, Aaron Baughman, Horace Belton, Azariah McLymore, Lisa Silverstone, and Rachel Simons, Esq.

The banquet is Wednesday, April 18 at the Graham Skea Lodge at Thomas Bull Memorial Park, 211 Rt. 416, Campbell Hall, NY. Social Hour 11:00a.m. ∞ Lunch & Program 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40. RSVP by April 6th, 2018. [humanrights@orangecountygov.com](mailto:humanrights@orangecountygov.com)

*“Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark.” -  
Rabindranath Tagore 1861-1901*

### **Help Rev. Chris Count the Nuclear Weapons Money at the UN!**

(Rev. Chris J. Antal has accepted the invitation – below – to be an honorary money counter and invites you to join him in this effort during the United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament from May 10 to 16.)

The Rev. Chris J. Antal  
Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern

Dear Rev Antal,

We invite you to join us as an Honorary money counter in Count the Nuclear Weapons Money, and exciting action taking place in New York City from May 10-16 in conjunction with the UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists recently moved the Doomsday Clock to 2 minutes to midnight, indicating the increasing risks of a nuclear conflict. In addition,

the nuclear-armed countries are spending over \$100 billion per year on nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. These are funds that are sorely needed for other economic, social and environmental needs.

From May 14-16, the United Nations will hold its first ever UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament to address this issue. Count the Nuclear Weapons Money is being organized in support.

Over seven days and nights from May 10-16 we will count out \$1 trillion (in one million notes each of \$1million value) – which is the nuclear weapons budget for the next 10 years. While counting, we will highlight what this money could instead cover.

The action is part of a global campaign Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, which includes efforts to cut nuclear weapons budgets, encourage divestment from the companies manufacturing nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and reallocate these budgets and investments to meet economic, social and environmental need - such as ending poverty, protecting the climate, supporting renewable energy, creating jobs, and providing adequate healthcare, housing and education for all.

Honorary money counters are invited to count for 15-30 minutes and use this platform to highlight areas to which they believe the money should instead be allocated.

If you would like to be an Honorary money counter, please register online or email us letting us know on which date and time you would be interested in participating.

We look forward to your reply and hope that you can join us for this exciting action in New York.

Respectfully yours,

Gene Seidman, Project Manager, Count the Nuclear Weapons Money

Holger Güssefeld, Special Projects Officer for the World Future Council

Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament

and the rest of the Count the Nuclear Weapons Money Team

Ben Cohen, Co-founder of Ben and Jerry's Ice-cream  
Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute

Marzhan Nurzhan, Convener of the Abolition 2000  
Youth Network  
Rob van Riet, Climate Change Program Director,  
World Future Council

*"If you no longer believe in the God in  
whom you believed in before, this comes  
from the fact that there was something  
wrong with your belief, and you must  
strive to understand better that which  
you call God. - Leo Tolstoy 1828 -  
1910*

***THE CHALICE 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-  
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15<sup>th</sup> of the month.