

The Chalice Light

Vol. 47, Issue 9 October, 2018



October, 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.

Oct. 2, Tuesday – Noon rally at the White House to stop the war in Afghanistan. See story in News section for details.

Oct. 7, Sunday – 11:45 a.m. – New to the UU information session with the Rev. Chris J. Antal

Oct. 10, Wednesday – *evening spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Birch School. All invited.*

Oct. 13, Saturday – 7:30 p.m. *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Coffeehouse*

Oct. 14, Sunday – Noon-- potluck luncheon

Oct. 14 and 28, Sundays – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fair Trade Booth

Oct. 21, Sunday – Noon to 1 p.m. Looking Deeply Circle in Sanctuary with Terri Pahucki
-- 1 p.m. Fundraiser Concert in Sanctuary

Oct. 28, Sunday – 12:15 p.m. Social Action Ministry

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.*

Oct. 7: Rev. Chris J. Antal '18th Year'

On Oct. 2, a diverse group of people converged on the White House united in their demand to end the U.S. war in Afghanistan. Rev. Antal was among them. In this service, he will share some reflections on the experience, facilitate a respectful dialogue to elicit the perspectives of the community, and attempt to craft a statement the congregation can sign together.

Oct. 14: Bill Domanico Spiritual Transplants

Many of us were not born Unitarian Universalists. So what were some of our previous spiritual backgrounds and what led us here?

Oct. 21: Terri Pahucki Embracing Diversity

Unity is not achieved by erasing difference, but by embracing it. What might it look like to live this kind of community in the world?

Oct. 28: Rev. Chris J. Antal Death and Diversity

Our mortality is one common denominator that unites humanity, yet the diversity of views we hold about the meaning of death and what, if anything, comes after, is far-ranging. In this service, Rev. Antal will invite the congregation to explore this diversity together, and perhaps discover some unity along the way.

When spiders unite, they can tie down a lion.”-
Ethiopian Proverb



Peace in Our Times

Following the Water Communion Ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 9, Rev. Chris J. Antal blesses the congregation's peace pole with water representing individual aspirations for peace. Then (below) Rev. Antal and friends and members renew those aspirations. (photos by Jay Beaumont and John Kinney)



Message From Your Minister

Too often we have allowed our disagreements to distract us from all that we can do together.

These words, from the UUA Creating Peace Statement of Conscience, were reaffirmed by the congregation in a litany I led during Sunday Service on September 23.

In our congregations we are free to disagree; we celebrate diversity; and, as we covenant in our declaration of principles and purposes: "we are grateful for the religious pluralism that enriches and ennobles our faith."

The challenge we face in discerning "What is ours to do?" is this: how do we move beyond the diversity towards unity of purpose, and unity of action?

"We need not think alike to love alike." This often quoted phrase is attributed to the early Unitarian clergyman Francis Dávid, who is often said by Unitarian Universalists to have proclaimed this at the Edict of Torda (1568).

More likely, Dávid never said this; the phrase was appropriated (plagiarized?) from the English Methodist founder, John Wesley, who asked in a sermon on "Catholic Spirit," "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?"

Even so, the phrase speaks to the theme of this month: unity and diversity. Even though we are diverse in our thinking, might we be united in love? Or, more specifically, united in common action in service to our most essential values: fairness, compassion, honest, respect, and responsibility?

What can we do together? Can we stand together to end the US war in Afghanistan, which will enter year 18 on October 7? Can we stand together to lobby elected officials to restrict the war powers of the Executive Branch? Can we stand together to address social injustices in our neighborhoods and communities?

What can we do together? Your views matter and I hope to hear your response to this critical question of congregational discernment.

See you on Sunday.

Chris J. Antal

Reflection from the Lay Commissioned Minister

My family and I recently moved to a new neighborhood. The past few weeks I have gotten to know this place on walks with my dog by taking particular notice of the trees: the tall tulip tree towering over my back porch; the oaks that feed squirrels with acorns beneath; the sugar maple leaves just beginning to turn red. Crab apple, walnut, elm, black locust, birch,

and many evergreen species also live here. I am learning their names and listening to what each one has to tell me about their lives-- about the other lives they harbor, and the gifts of shade, beauty, and oxygen they give to me and other people of this place.

Just as biodiversity is essential for a thriving ecosystem, so does multiplicity allow human systems to flourish. Holding diversity as a core value means cherishing difference, celebrating multiple expressions of being in the world, and sharing unique perspectives that enrich one another's lives.

Too often we miss the diversity that is right in our midst. We make judgments too easily, falling into easy stereotypes, or

make broad generalizations that miss the important particularities of individual experience. We forget to listen to what other people have to tell us about their lives.

As Unitarian Universalists we seek to embody diversity. We must be vigilant not to mistake implicit cultural norms for the core of our faith. We are called to embrace a multiplicity of identities and expressions of race, class, age, gender expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, and more. Unity does not mean conformity. We can make space in one community for quiet meditation and shouts of *Amen* during sermons. We can embrace gospel and classical music, *cantares de español*, and English hymns. We can strive to create a community in which all people are not only welcome but also celebrated and loved for who they are.

Let us seek to live our faith through unity and diversity-- united by shared core values, expressed in many different ways that breathe life into our world.

Peace,
Terri Pahucki

Monthly Themes 2018-19

October- Unity and Diversity

November- Gratitude

December- Peace

January- Grace

February- Prayer/ Spiritual Practice

March- Letting Go

April- Salvation

May- Mystery

June- Transcendence

Message from the Board of Trustees

"Count your blessings!" was my mother's favorite saying and her most important lesson. I've always considered myself lucky and now that I'm in the late innings of life, my blessings are even more apparent and important. This community is one of them and the twenty-five years I've spent in your midst have been filled with important work and accomplishment.

Twelve years ago last month when fire destroyed our building, none of us at that time saw that sorry event as a blessing. We loved that strange place. Yes, some ridiculed it as a cheap, drafty, poorly designed Quonset Hut. We had a school then, just as now, which allowed us to hire a minister. I believe we had actually paid off the small mortgage we had carried since the place opened in 1969 – and we were rightfully proud of our selves and the soaring sanctuary with its laminated wooden beams, arching to a peak forty feet overhead.

Yes, it was an impressive space with high windows on the east end where we could watch the occasional cardinal flit through the branches of the big spruce just outside. The laminated beams were spaced four feet apart stretching down both sides of the forty-foot room. It made a handsome art gallery with the twenty spaces, ten on each side of the room.

We created a lighting system with track lights suspended on slender planks that flexed to echo the parabolic curve of the beams. The Montessori school, begun by a member family but later turned over to a nun named Sister Michele, had to be unpacked and repacked into large rolling shelf units lining the sanctuary walls. My, what howls of complaint rained down on the Board about that school! And yet, the whole place seemed to work.

Now, we have a new, unburnable building, and a new school and, of course, a new set of complaints. But if we take the long view, we'll find that we are living in a garden of blessings. The school means our lovely new



building is serving the community five days a week, and allowing us to support our excellent minister and his lovely family!

How wonderful that Kate and Ed and their faculty embrace our seven core principles and teach our values to their students! Our congregation is badly in need of more members – the Birch School fills our rooms with people every week, and they are a friendly resource. Those kids come from progressive families, some of whom may be looking for just the sort of Sunday meeting we offer. Yes, it's difficult to have 35 or 40 roommates, but we have to recognize them as the blessings they can be! Consider them our guests!

They count as blessings!

Yours,

Mike Landrum

President, Board of Trustees UUCRT

From the Secretary:

Board of Trustees Motions

Here is a recap of motions from Board meetings over the summer:

June 24, 2018 meeting:

Prior to the meeting an email motion was made, seconded and carried appointing Linda Mangelsdorf to the Board for the 2018-19 year. She will serve as Board Secretary, and attend meetings via Skype when necessary.

Minutes of the:

March 25, 2018 Board meeting. Motion to accept as written: Bill Domanico, Second: Laura Bair. Passed

April 29, 2019 Board meeting. Motion to accept as written: Jane O'Donnell, Second: Laura. Passed

Nov. 17, 2017 Congregational Meeting: Motion by Jane to carry the corrected minutes forward to the 2018 November Congregational meeting and vote on them there. Second: Laura. Passed.

May 20 Congregational Meeting: Motion by Jane to carry the amended minutes forward to the November 2018 Congregational meeting and vote on them there. Second: Bill. Carried

August 5, 2018 meeting:

Laura Bair moved that the minutes of the June 24, 2018 meeting be approved as amended. Second: Bill Domanico. Approved

Linda Mangelsdorf moved to host a one hour neighborhood coffee party Sat., Sept. 10. Second: Laura. Carried. (This event was cancelled later in the month)

Alan Horne moved to place the remaining Refugee Resettlement Funds into our endowment fund. Second: Linda. Carried.

Linda moved that the door code be changed, with records kept of who has the code. Second: Laura. Carried

August 26, 2018 meeting:

Bill Domanico moved to accept the minutes of the Aug. 5 Board meeting as amended. Second: Laura Bair. Carried

Hollis Kellogg moved that the two-person audit report for fiscal 2017-18 be accepted as presented. Second: Laura. Carried

Full copies of Board Minutes are posted monthly on the bulletin board in the Foyer when they have been approved by the Board.

Learn about the UUCRT!

Informational sessions during this fall season will be offered to visitors at about 11:45 a.m. on October 7th, November 4th, and December 2nd, directly following our 10:30 a.m. service. This is an opportunity to meet our minister, Rev. Chris Antal, and to learn more about our congregation at Rock Tavern. Come and enjoy some light fare, hear about Unitarian Universalism, and get your questions answered. Hope to see you there!

Great News! New Assistant on Board

As of August 2, 2018, the UUCRT is pleased to welcome Kris McGrath---our new part-time Administrative Assistant. A Newburgh native, she lives with her husband, John, in the Town of Newburgh.

Kris is a competent and meticulous manager of data systems and social media, and has already made great strides in organization and communication with and for the Congregation. Her friendly email invitations and

reminders are bound to make a big difference in the effective management of the day-to-day life of our congregation.

If you've not received an email already, your information must not be up to date. Please drop a note to aa.uucrt@gmail.com and correct your profile. And say 'hi' to Kris!

From our Ministries

Religious Exploration

A Warm Welcome to the 2018-2019 RE School Year

Welcome to the 2018 – 2019 Religious Exploration Program for children. This year, Religious Exploration (RE) lessons will focus on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist through the study of the seven principles and the sources used by Unitarian Universalism.

RE began Sunday, September 9th and will continue through the end of May, 2019. Lessons for children ages seven through twelve take place during the Sunday morning service after The Time for All Ages. A regular schedule will be followed on the first, second, and fourth Sunday of each month.

Babysitting for children from newborn through age six is available on the third Sunday of each month. However, we are actively looking for additional babysitters and hope to provide this service on a more regular basis. If you know of any responsible teenagers who might be interested in this position, please contact Laura Bair at 845-542-4881 or lagbair@aol.com. This can be a paid position.

For interested young people age thirteen and older, opportunities exist to work with the Fair Trade exchange program and to assist with the RE lessons. Please speak with Laura Bair.

Nothing that I can do will change the structure of the universe. But maybe, by raising my voice I can help the greatest of all causes -- goodwill among men and peace on earth. - Einstein

Social Action Ministry

WRITE HERE! WRITE NOW! The SAM invites YOU to write a letter to those in power on the local, state, and

federal level in government or in business, on different and timely issues throughout the 2018 - 2019 fellowship year.

To begin with, on Sun. Oct. 21, a letter writing table, with fact sheet, sample letter and writing supplies, will be available in our Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. The October advocacy topic we have chosen is to support a resolution in the House of Representatives, H.R. 922, that would limit the president's power to start a war of choice. The resolution says that a Presidential war undertaken without Congressional approval is an impeachable offense.

We hope you are as enthusiastic about this as we are. Next meeting of the Social Action Ministry will be Sunday, Oct. 28.

NEWS

Redeployed from Afghanistan, church deploys minister to White House to get US out of 17-year war

ROCK TAVERN -- The Rev. Chris J. Antal, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern in New Windsor, will be a featured participant in a noon Oct. 2 rally at the White House to end the 17-year war in Afghanistan.

The Rev. Antal is an Army veteran of the war in Afghanistan who resigned his commission as captain to protest U.S policies regarding militarized drones, and the kind of “preventive war” reasoning that he says has trapped the US in Afghanistan. “We should authorize lethal force as a last resort in order to defend US persons from imminent danger, never aggressively and preemptively as we have done in Afghanistan for most of the past two decades” Antal says.

At the rally, a letter will be delivered to the President signed by a long list of prominent U.S. citizens and organizations, and thousands of others. They ask President Trump to live up to his campaign promises to get the U.S. military out of Afghanistan. The coalition will be gathering signatures through Oct. 2nd and delivering them to the White House that day.

Rally organizer David Swanson noted that then candidate Trump declared “Let’s get out of Afghanistan. Our troops are being killed by the Afghans we train and we waste billions there.”

The rally is being organized by Swanson, director of World Beyond War and includes Hoor Arifi, Afghan activist and student; Medea Benjamin, Co-Founder of CODE PINK: Women for Peace; Matthew Hoh, who resigned in protest from his post in Afghanistan with the State Department over the U.S. escalation of the war in 2009; Liz Remmerswaal, Coordinator of World BEYOND War in New Zealand; David Swanson, Director of World BEYOND War; Brian Terrell, Co-Coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence; Ann Wright, retired U.S. Army colonel and State Department official.

The Rock Tavern congregation will be sending a contingent to the rally to support the movement to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Anyone interested in attending the event should contact Linda Mangelsdorf at 845-728-3260 or lnrn@aol.com.

Oct. 21 Fundraising Concert Set

There will be a concert on Oct. 21 at the UUCRT at 1 p.m. following the service.

This a benefit concert to help with the budget. It will feature violinist Elfin Vogel and pianist Hollis Kellogg, playing works by Beethoven, Schubert, and Dvorak. A \$10 donation is suggested. Refreshments provided.

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 part-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.

"All humanity is one undivided and indivisible family, and each one of us is responsible for the misdeeds of all the others. I cannot detach myself from the wickedest soul." - Mahatma Gandhi