

The Chalice Light

Vol. 47, Issue 11 December, 2018



December, 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.

Dec. 1, Saturday – 4 p.m. Alice Nielsen-Shane in concert

Dec. 2, Sunday – 9 a.m. Board of Trustees
– 12:15 p.m. Social Action Ministry

Dec. 8, Saturday – 7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Folk Guild
Coffeehouse

Dec. 9, Sunday – Noon -- potluck luncheon.

Dec. 23, Sunday – Noon—Veterans For Peace

Dec. 30, Sunday – 1 to 4 p.m.—workshop on Power of
Decision with Jon Mundy, PhD

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 2: Rev. Chris J. Antal
Peace with Pain

Privilege provides us the choice to pay attention to pain and seek to relieve it, or insulate ourselves in anesthetizing slumber. How we choose determines whether become compassionate, or something less.

Dec. 9: Michael Nichols
Hiawatha and the Peacemaker

The message will focus on the conversion of Hiawatha during a visit from the great Peacemaker and the way in which this story can relate to us today. A message of finding the inner strength and motivation to "be" better people, not to simply "try to act" like better people.

Dec. 16: Alice Nielsen-Shane
The Search for Higher Truth

This service will be an exploration of how imagination, science fiction and fantasy shape our reality and our search for a higher truth. Come and write your own story of creation and time as we know it.

Dec. 23: The Rev. Chris J. Antal
On Darkness

A reflection on the role of darkness in human religious experience through time.

Dec. 24, Monday, Christmas Eve: Terri Pahucki

Our Christmas Eve service will lift up a message of peace and goodwill. The service includes our traditions of candle-lighting and caroling. There will be a hot cocoa and cookies reception before the service at 4:30 p.m. The service begins at 5 p.m.

Dec. 30: Jon Mundy, PhD
The Healing Power of Humor

Followed by a 1 to 4 p.m. workshop on The Power of Decision. \$25 registration but no one turned away who cannot pay. For Information/Directions: 845-496-9089

Yesterday is ashes, tomorrow wood. Only today does the fire burn brightly. Live Today!
- Old Eskimo Proverb

Message From Your Minister

Recently a rabbi taught me something about spirituality. His name is Paul Swerdlow and he is a chaplain in the VA medical center in Northport, on Long Island.

Here is what he taught me:

Spirituality is about being a time traveler. We exist in space and in time. Spirituality allows us to travel back in time, by remembering, and travel into the future, by imagining. One indicator of spiritual health is to be able to freely travel into the past and into the future without any blockages. Guilt can be one such blockage. There is guilt that punishes and guilt that teaches. The guilt that punishes is a blockage because it keeps us from remembering parts of our past that are painful. Hopelessness is another blockage. When we are hopeless, we cannot imagine a future.

Paul reminded me that spiritual health is about knowing and embodying a past story, a present story, and a future story that fully integrates the range of experiences of our lives. What story do you tell about your life? What story do we tell about our life together? Our theme this month, "peace," seems to have something to do with telling an honest story about ourselves, accepting all of ourselves, yet ever yearning to go beyond our past and present by imaging and creating a future of greater hope and opportunity for all.

See you on Sunday

Chris

Getting in touch with Rev. Antal

Rev. Antal will be at the UUCRT on 12/2, 12/23, 1/6, 1/27, 2/3, and 2/24. He is available by appointment on those Sundays between 1-3 p.m. Contact him by email at antal@uuma.org to schedule an appointment. Rev. Antal takes sabbatical from March 1 through June 30.

The UUA Common Read Book Study

In January and February Rev. Antal will lead a book study of the UUA Common Read for 2018-19, which is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the UUCRT in December.



Welcome New Members

Congregation President Michael Landrum (left) and the Rev. Chris J. Antal welcome new members Michael and Erica Nichols (holding baby Savannah) and good friend and member once more, Bernadette McGinn.

Reflection from the Lay Commissioned Minister

From Terri Pahucki

This semester my "Religion and Ecology" professor gave us an assignment to visit a quiet place in nature twice a week. I usually walk at Dennings Point in Beacon with my dog, who takes her slow sweet time smelling every smell along the way, before arriving at our destination. As I walk into the clearing where the Fishkill Creek meets the Hudson River, I am greeted by the gentle lap of water, and- depending on the season- blue heron, swans, wild geese, and mallards. The peace of the moment is pervasive and holy.

And yet, in the midst of this peace, I have become keenly attuned to signs of loss and destruction- the untold removal of peoples who once lived and worshipped and buried their dead here; the remains of brick and awning factories that changed the landscape and soil forever; and symbols of current day consumption- plastic bottles and trash along the shoreline, habitat loss, deforestation and destruction. At the same time, adaptation and ingenuity serve to restore and renew. The land here is now protected in winter for bald eagle nesting; spring through fall, it is a place for scientific study of water, environmental education of school children, and nature wanderers and dog walkers like me.

This afternoon I listened to a storyteller of the Ramapough Lenape nation speak of his ancestors, and

(Reflection continued)

his sense of kinship with the land. For 13,000 years, his ancestors lived on this land- the same land which includes the place where our own meeting house is situated. He spoke of his own sense of self being intimately connected to the land. I thought of my own wandering over land to which I am, by comparison, a real newcomer...

I wonder, as we celebrate the holidays this month and enter into a time so often characterized by busyness and consumerism, if we might consider- not the heavens, but the Earth. What would it look like to live that most sung about, sought after, prayed after, "Peace on Earth"... perhaps we need not look to the skies, but to the snowy ground beneath our feet, and all who have walked this way before.

In peace,
Terri

Monthly Themes 2018-19

December- Peace

January- Grace

February- Prayer/ Spiritual Practice

March- Letting Go

April- Salvation

May- Mystery

June- Transcendence



Report on the Fall 2018 Congregational Meeting

Thirty-two members and friends of the UUCRT gathered on Sunday morning, Nov. 18 for the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting. Rev. Chris, noting that he is only the 2nd minister of this congregation in the past 50 years, discussed the 'Story of Us' –a group of spiritual time travellers, and raised the question "Who are we and how do we tell our story?"

A lively discussion resulted in the ratification of a Congregational Resolution affirming our Peace

Advocate status, as well as our support of Rev. Chris as he speaks and takes actions to end the war in Afghanistan. The resolution is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Nan Dempster was elected to a three-year term on the Leadership Ministry. Reports from all nine standing Ministries were well received, and 27 new signatures were added to the Ministry Membership rolls!

As Rev. Chris will be on Sabbatical from March 1 to June 30, 2019, and Terri Pahucki, our Lay Commissioned Minister will continue her quest for UU Ministry by beginning an internship on July 1, a new Caring Ministry was formed. Member to member support is present now, and will continue to be much needed!

Marcia Westra agreed to co-ordinate Serendipity Dinners this winter, with the support of Kris McGrath, our Administrative Assistant.

President Mike adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

-- Linda Mangelsdorf, Secretary

Resolution approved at Fall 2018 Congregational Meeting

Whereas: In alignment with our status as a Peace Advocacy Congregation, and our endorsement by congregational vote of the UUA 2010 Statement of Conscience, particularly referencing the Statement of Peace Advocacy, to wit:

We repudiate aggressive and preventive wars; the disproportionate use of force, covert wars, and targeting that includes a high risk to civilians.

We support international efforts to curtail the vast world trade in armaments and call for nuclear disarmament and abolition of other weapons of mass destruction.

We repudiate unilateral interventions and extended military occupations as dangerous new forms of imperialism.

In an interdependent world, true peace requires the cooperation of all nations and peoples.

(Resolution continued)

Whereas: US participation in the war in Afghanistan has continued unabated since 2001,

Whereas: no end is in sight,

Whereas: US troops, supplies and resources have been expended for these many years,

Whereas: lives are lost—too many military personnel and civilians killed,

Whereas: Rev. Chris J. Antal, D.Min., minister of this Unitarian Universalist Congregation has served in this war, and has resigned his commission in the US Army due to his objections to US activities there,

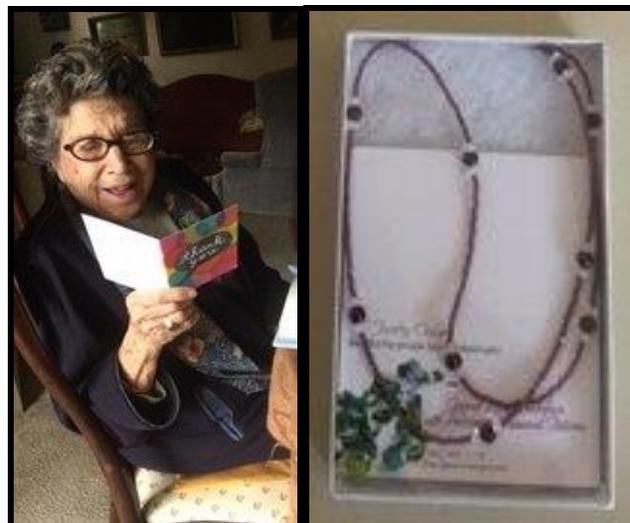
Whereas: Rev. Antal stood before the White House and asked that the President end US involvement in this war,

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of this UUCRT stand with Rev. Antal, and fully support his efforts and activities in protest of and toward the ending of United States military activity in Afghanistan; and that we support his request that our troops be withdrawn from this region and returned to the United States.

Adopted by a vote of the members at the Congregational Meeting on the 18th day of November 2018.

For the UU Congregation at Rock Tavern,
Michael Landrum,
Congregation President

I do not want the peace which passeth understanding, I want the understanding which bringeth peace.....Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, the togetherness of a family.
- Helen Keller



Thank You Mildred!

Former UUCRT member and current benefactor Mildred Starin at home reading a note signed by members thanking her for her generous donation. Right: A jewelry gift by Jackie Jordan which was presented to Mildred by the congregation.

From our Ministries **Stewardship and Finance**

At the November 25 Sunday Service, which was beautifully led by Diane Diachishin on the monthly topic of Gratitude, a \$5,000 gift from Mildred Starin was presented to the Congregation by President Mike. Mildred, with her late husband Jeffrey and their four children, was a member of the Church of our Fathers--- the 'UUCRT' when it was located on South Street in Newburgh in the 1960's.

Her gift was given in gratitude, honoring her long time friendship with Linda Mangelsdorf. Recently recovered from pneumonia at age 95, Mildred says that she believes she "wouldn't be here" if it weren't for Linda's support, care and encouragement during her illness.

The Congregation responded with a gift from JJ Jewelry Designs and a heartfelt note signed by members present. The S&F Ministry recommends to the Board that the dollars be used to further reduce the principal on our mortgage. Thank you very, very much, Millie!

(Stewardship continued)

S&F also recommends to the Board that a request from the Social Action Ministry that our 5th Sunday Collection Plate Offerings be donated to a charity chosen by Social Action.

Social Action Ministry

From Verne M. Bell

As we go to press, the SAM is waiting to learn the next monthly issue decided upon by the WRITE HERE! WRITE NOW! core group of UU's for Social Justice.. That should happen before Sunday, Dec. 9th, so stay tuned! We are just beginning this action and invite members and friends to join us and write a letter of social concern to congress, corporations, etc.

NEWS

Alice Nielsen-Shane in Concert Saturday, Dec. 1

ROCK TAVERN -- If you'd like to hear quick-silver stars twinkling, you're invited to a free will donation concert by musician Alice Nielsen-Shane at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1.



Alice, a territorial Alaskan born in College, AK before statehood, will perform a collection of songs including "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" which she sang at the request of acclaimed Times Herald-Record journalist and humanitarian Chris Farlekas at a concert in his memory in 2015.

A bout with Lyme disease in 2016 left her with limited use of her right hand. However, Alice has rebounded and picked up her guitar again. She will include material she sang on the road in Montana, Oregon, and Idaho working for Billy Tipton's Talent Agency.

She'll sing and play the blues of Sippie Wallace, Bessie Smith and others with a tip of the hat to the world's oldest profession. Alice will close her program with a

reading of Robert Service's "The Shooting of Dan McGrew".

"When I hear Alice Shane play and sing, I hear quick-silver stars twinkling," the late Chris Farlekas said of this versatile and talented artist.

All proceeds of this free-will donation concert will benefit the Rock Tavern congregation's discretionary fund, which supports peace, justice and the needs of those who have been misplaced and underserved.

The Rock Tavern congregation is located at 9 Vance Road, off of Rt. 207 in the New Windsor hamlet of Rock Tavern.

Buy Jackie's Jewelry and Help the UUCRT

JJ Jewelry Designs creates handmade, genuine gemstone jewelry with the spiritual meanings of the stones in mind. Our member, Jackie Jordan,



began the business five years ago as a result of taking a table at the UUCRT Craft Fair.

The enthusiastic support of her fellow members and friends of the congregation encouraged Jackie to expand the business. JJ Jewelry Designs looks forward to returning to where it started for one more Sunday, December 9.

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. Chris J. Antal, serves us part time and is available two Sundays a month. He is available by appointment on those Sundays between 1-3pm. Contact him by email at antal@uuma.org to schedule an appointment.

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