

The Chalice Light

Vol. 48, Issue 4 April, 2019



April, 2019 Calendar

All events are held at the UUCRT unless otherwise noted. Italicized events are not UU sponsored but may be of interest to congregants.

April 7, Sunday -- 8:45 a.m.: Board of Trustees
12-1:00 pm.: Write Here, Write Now
Social Action Ministry

April 13, Saturday – 7:30 p.m.: *Hudson Valley Folk Guild Coffeehouse* – featured performer will be Stuart Kabak

April 14, Sunday – Noon: Gala Catered Luncheon provided by Stewardship & Finance Ministry to kick off our annual Pledge Drive!
--12.00-1.00 Fare Trade goods for sale
--1.00-2.00pm.: Care Team Ministry

April 28, Sunday -- **Learn about the UUCRT**
Informational session and brunch will be offered to visitors in April 28, directly following our 10:30 a.m. service. This is an opportunity 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!

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.*

April 7: Alice Shane and Cynthia Gilkeson

A visit with anthropologist, author and folklorist, Zora Neale Hurston

April 14: Mike Landrum – Why I am a UU

Part two of the talk scheduled for March 10 and partly snowed out. Get a taste from his [President's Message](#) below.

April 21: Terri Pahucki - The Earth Sings Salvation

On this Easter Sunday, is there any good news? Where are the resurrections of life in a time of ecological devastation? Does universalist salvation have meaning for us today?

April 28: Jaye Moyer – The Benefactor Practice

This is a meditation practice that has been adapted from Tibetan Buddhist tradition. It offers us the experience of receiving love unconditionally so that we can, in turn, offer our love to others. It is for people of all faith backgrounds and traditions. Please join us in learning more about this beautiful resource.

“We cannot put off living until we are ready. The most salient characteristic of life is its coerciveness: it is always urgent, ‘here and now’ without any postponement. Life is fired at us point blank.”

Jose Ortega y Gasset,

The Mission of The University - 1944

Reflection from Our Lay Commissioned Minister

This past weekend my 14-year-old daughter attended a Coming of Age retreat with youth throughout the region. The purpose of the retreat was for the young people to explore their own lives as spiritual journeys, and to spend time reflecting on their personal beliefs, which they will turn into a Credo Statement to be shared with their faith communities in an end of year ceremony. This is an important ritual in Unitarian Universalist faith formation, which signifies the movement from childhood to adulthood. While UU's recognize that our beliefs evolve and change over time, the credo is a chance to offer public witness to those values and commitments we hold most dear. Credo writing is a practice I believe we should continually revisit throughout our lifetimes.

Just as our own beliefs change over time, so does the wider faith of Unitarian Universalism. Murray Grove retreat center is significant as the historic location where the founder of Universalism, John Murray, first arrived in America and started preaching in 1770. The serendipitous meeting with Thomas Potter- an illiterate farmer who had built a chapel in hopes that an unknown Universalist preacher might come- is one of the most fantastic in UU history. (Read more here: <https://www.murraygrove.org/thomas-potter-and-john-murray-story>) Universalism was a theology of hope in a times of doomsday theology. It proclaimed that all people were saved, all sins forgiven, because God's goodness was limitless, and God's love too wide to leave any behind. This theology of universal salvation was radical and unique for its time, spurning Calvinist doctrines of predestination and other theologies that proclaimed eternal damnation for the unsaved.

The stream of Universalism that merged into modern-day Unitarian Universalism changed over time, with less attention on human destination in the afterlife, and

more focus on the wideness of God's love here on Earth. Today, many of us still affirm a Universalist theology: That Love knows no bounds. We are saved by Love- not in some eternal paradise, but in the here and now.

As we explore April's theme of "Salvation", I encourage you to remember and reflect on our Universalist heritage. What is your theology of salvation? Are you a doomsday believer? Or can we be saved from the threats of violence, destruction, and devastation around us? If so, what might be the source of our salvation? Let us reflect on and explore these questions together.

In hope,
Terri

Getting in Touch with Terri Pahucki, Lay Commissioned Minister

Terri Pahucki will be available for pastoral care during Rev. Chris's sabbatical and vacation, through July 31st. You may reach her at 845-344-7336 or tlpahucki@gmail.com to set up an appointment. She will also be present in the pulpit one Sunday a month, including April 21st, May 19th, June 23rd, and July 28th

What Unitarian Universalists Believe About Salvation ~

"Some believe in salvation through faith in God and Jesus Christ, along with doing good works and doing no harm to others. Many believe all will be saved, as God is good and forgiving. Some believe in reincarnation and the necessity to eliminate personal greed or to learn all of life's lessons before achieving enlightenment or salvation. For some, the concepts of salvation or enlightenment are irrelevant or disbelieved".

President's Message for April 2019

by Mike Landrum, President, Board of Trustees

When I first joined this congregation in the fall of 1993 it was lay-led and had been for many years. That appealed to me. As a boy, growing up in small, midwestern towns, I had little choice but to follow my parents to a series of protestant churches. As soon as I graduated high school and left for college, I liberated myself from religion and remained free for the next thirty-odd years.

In 1993 my wife Peggy was pregnant with our daughter, Elizabeth. We came to this meeting house to start our daughter on her spiritual path, but now both she and Peggy have left religion behind just as I did. So, it seems the task of spiritual pathfinding was my own.

The first service I attended here back in '93 was called "Creating Your Own Theology," and I felt at the time that it was a perfect goal. In the past quarter of a century, I see that is indeed what I've been trying to do, and this seems like an opportunity to evaluate my efforts.

The task facing anyone who becomes a UU is to create a new, original, *personal* religion for themselves. The thing that drove me out of my parent's church was the requirement to believe what I was told. What I found attractive here was the opportunity to decide how I should live.

It gradually dawned on me that my life so far had been a pretty ad hoc affair – simply following the hedonistic path of least resistance. I was a loner and proud of it. As a free-lance actor, I bragged about being "self-unemployed". In short, I lived almost entirely without real principles. Now, I suddenly found myself confronted with seven of them and not a word about beliefs.

The seven looked good to me in the beginning. Yeah, I can go along with those, no problem. Until I realized that really *owning* those principles means paying a price. Sooner or later those principles are going to

demand sacrifices. The most important difference having a great minister like Chris Antal makes is his guidance along that difficult principled path. He lends us his commitment and integrity and he sets a powerful example. Sometimes he expresses disappointment in us and sometimes we rebel at being asked to hew to his impossible standards. Finally, each of us must set our own limits, create our own theology.

Now, I'm looking at this pledge form in one hand and those seven principles in the other and realizing just how much this place, this community, this principled life, really means to me. I pledge a nice big number.

One or two points before I end this: Even though Elizabeth left, she still got the benefit of our 'self-made religion' and I'm proud of the values she absorbed here. And my parents did not bang on the 'belief drum' so much as show me the true value of community. They taught me something about leadership, service and the importance of belonging.

Yours in Service,
Mike Landrum

From the Board of Trustees:

The following motions were passed at the February Board of Trustees meeting:

Bill Domanico moved that the Jan. BOT minutes be approved, with two minor changes:

1. The date of Rev. Chris' event is May 6 – **ed note: The event referenced here is the next "Healing Ceremony for Veterans" in Philadelphia. See the Jan. Chalice Light for articles by Jonathan Beckenstein and Amy Kaufman.**
2. Sunday Services Ministry, (not Rev. Chris) is recommended to make Sanctuary Changes. **ed note: The minutes say 'change to March 3' however the context was correctly listed as the '5th Sunday Service' not March 5th). 2nd by Hollis Kellogg, approved as corrected.**



April 2019 UUCRT Newsletter

Jane O'Donnell moved, seconded by Hollis, that the 2019 Directory be mailed to members and friends. Carried.

Linda Mangelsdorf moved, seconded by Jane, that our administrative assistant, Kris, be asked to send out a request for volunteers to man a weekly book sale coordinated with UUA. Carried.

Alan Horne moved that the Board recommend that Mimosa, who works Sundays cleaning the building, be placed on the payroll as of January, 2019. Seconded by Jane. Carried.

Bill moved, seconded by Laura Bair, that we continue our financial support of Terri Pahucki until she graduates from Seminary in May, 2020. Motion carried.

Alan moved, seconded by Laura, that the Board offer to pay the \$40 registration fee for each of the eight participants in the Feb. 9 Caring Ministry workshop. Carried.

Alan moved, seconded by Bill that \$200 from the Religious Education budget line be used to support Camille Pahucki's participation in a Coming of Age Enrichment trip to Murray Grove on March 22, 2019. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Mangelsdorf, Secretary

From our Ministries

Stewardship and Finance

Did you receive your pledge invitation in the mail this week? Between March 20 and April 20, the UUCRT is inviting friends and members to look with gratitude at their participation in the UUCRT. Spiritual growth, enlightenment, friendships, community service, deep connections, music and art, social activism, fun; all and more are offered and available with our congregation.

From gratitude comes generosity! Your thoughtful commitment to our spiritual home makes a difference! If you have questions, or did not receive a pledge form and would like to contribute, please contact our Treasurer, Alan Horne, at Treasurer.UUCRT@gmail.com

Please plan to stay for a soup-er lunch on Sunday, April 14 immediately following the service!

With gratitude,
Stewardship and Finance Ministry
Alan Horne, Rebecca Jones, Jackie Jordan, Mike Landrum, Linda Mangelsdorf

Social Action

WHWN (Write Here! Write Now!) continues as we join other UU congregations in making our voices heard on an issue selected each month by the UU for Social Justice Advocacy group. <http://uusj.net/wp1/> (Click on 'Quick Links'). April letters focus on immigration and will be hand delivered by them to the House of Representatives on 4/9. Our letter writing table will be set up during coffee hour on both Sun. 3/31 and 4/7 with background info and a sample letter. Should you prefer to write your letter at home, please contact Marcia Westra mlwestra@verizon.net.

Greening our UUCRT - With Erica's help we looked at some improvements that would make us more earth-friendly. These suggestions will be sent to the Board: Repair the dishwasher, plan another Trash to Treasure Event, use up, or sell on Facebook, the kitchen or cleaning items we now use that are harmful to the earth, begin to compost again. In addition, Erica will make us her Magic Spray cleaner (with recipe) for us to try out and use instead of Lysol, etc.

Leadership Ministry

"The Little Congregation That Could!"

Have you checked out the history of this Congregation? We are, by comparison to the numbers of many, a tiny group, but in terms of accomplishments, we are Huge. Here is your opportunity to join the leadership teams that continue to make a difference!

In May, at our Congregational Meeting we will elect three new members to the Board of Trustees. A vacancy also exists on the Leadership Ministry for the 2019-2022 term. Consider these opportunities to share your wisdom, experience and talents. If you'd like to discuss

the possibility of becoming one of our leaders, here's your chance! Please contact Leadership Ministry:

Keith Jordan kjordan101010@gmail.com
Nan Dempster nandempster@hotmail.com
Linda Mangelsdorf LNCM75@gmail.com

Coffee House April 13, 7.30pm Rock Tavern Chapter, Hudson Valley Folk Guild



New April Art Show in Sanctuary Watercolors by Ginny Sivilli

“Being a native of the Hudson Valley has always been a blessing. Painting is a way for me to express this beauty. I started painting when my kids left

the nest. Learning through classes, art groups and workshops given by artists worldwide has helped me develop my skills and style.

“I love impressionistic watercolors. The spontaneity of unexpected beauty that can happen as the paint ‘does its thing’ is very exciting.

“I am a member of Wallkill River Art School, Goshen Art League, Middletown Art Group, OCAC, MaracoCenter, and Riverside Art Workshops. I have found my passion and my Zen.”

Photo: Stuart Kabak

Stuart Kabak to be featured at Coffeeshouse April 13 The Rock Tavern Chapter of the Hudson Valley Folk Guild, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, will be featuring on Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. Open mic performances will be available to



all. Cost of admission for this event is \$6 (\$5 for Folk Guild members and seniors).

Stuart Kabak, a member of the Hudson Valley Folk Guild since 1985, is a five-time Fast Folk magazine veteran and has won numerous songwriting awards from such organizations as The Great American Song Contest, The Los Angeles International Festival of New Music and The South Florida Folk Festival. Several of his songs have been covered by other artists. His songs contain a combination of unique music and powerful, precise stories with quality images in the lyrics. Stuart's songs are intelligent and often deeply spiritual, and he has been called a songwriter's songwriter. He is also known as the "Captain" of Pirate Camp at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern is located in the Town of New Windsor at 9 Vance Road, Rock Tavern, NY, off Route 207, 3.4 miles west of Rte 300; or take I-84 to Exit 5A, Rte 747 south to Rte 207, make a right and take the second left.

For more information call Keith Jordan, President of the Rock Tavern Chapter of the Hudson Valley Folk Guild, at 845-978-5620.



Stock Up! Fair Trade table will be back on April 14 with your favorite coffee, chocolate and a surprise Spring sale. K cups available also.

"The applause of a single human being is of great consequence."

Dr. Samuel Johnson
in Boswell's *Life of Johnson* - 1780

The trees reflected in the river – they are unconscious of a spiritual world so near them. So are we.

Nathaniel Hawthorne
American Notebooks – 1841-52

**Great Music Series
of the
Hudson Valley**
Live in our Sanctuary!

Julie Zivarras and Ken DeAngelis
Sunday, May 5, 2019



Husband and wife team singer/songwriter Ken DeAngelis and soprano Julie Zivarras present a repertory which features Ken's original acoustic songs and includes a strong collection of traditional American and international folksongs. They showcase outstandingly lyric vocals and tight musicianship accompanying themselves on guitars and other instruments. "Wonderfully detailed music that features evocative lyrics, lovely harmonies and melodies that stay with you long after you hear them."

An email from Rev. Chris:

(Attachment follows)

Dear Ones:

I hope this note finds you and the UUCRT (Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern) well. This is a terrific opportunity with a three-month window (The pilot needs to be done before July). I used this video series at the training at West Point that was attended by Mike, Fred, and Linda. If the UUCRT joins the trial it will be the first and perhaps only UU congregation in the country to be part of the pilot.

If you are interested please follow up with Summer Anderson and Steve Sullivan, copied in this email.

Best regards,

Chris J. Antal
Staff Chaplain
Corporal Michael J Crescenz VA Medical Center
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Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 823-4392

christopher.antal@va.gov

Rev. Chris Antal is on sabbatical through June 30, and vacation during July. He will return to the UUCRT pulpit on August 11, 2019.

The attachment:
**Creating a Place to Call Home –
Introduction & Information for Faith
Community participants**

Thank you for your interest! Creating a Place to Call Home consists of the following:

- Who – This offering would be a perfect set of “lessons” for an adult education class or any other already existing group. It would also be appropriate to convene a new group based on topic interest.
- What – The content is a free set of four, 20-minute videos covering the topics of 1) Partners in Care, 2) Trauma, 3) Moral Injury and 4) Belonging and a discussion guide that contains suggested questions for group discussion after viewing the video. Surveys to measure changes in attitudes and behaviors are also included.
- Where – Any venue that allows for projection of DVDs or access to video content housed on the internet is appropriate.
- When – Although designed with an hour-long Sunday School class or mid-week group in mind, these videos and the discussion guide could be used anytime.
- Why – The program is intended to promote conversations focused on ways faith communities can foster a sense of belonging, particularly for veterans and persons with mental health problems.

It would be exciting to us for your congregation to agree to view our videos, not only because we hope they will spark fruitful conversations about how congregations might become more welcoming, but also because your participation will help increase our knowledge of how best to engage faith communities in the future. The results of the surveys and summaries will help improve the content and use of the videos and discussion guide. In addition, your participation may improve the integration of veterans and/or persons with mental health problems into your faith community – an outcome that could benefit you, people you care about, your community and perhaps people you do not yet know.

If you would like to preview the first video, it can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8RIMtLcyAc&feature=youtu.be>

If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Summer Anderson at Summer’s phone.

Thank you for considering participation!

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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Please send news to johnpkinney@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.