

The Chalice Light

Vol. 48, Issue 7 July/Aug., 2019



We welcome all seekers regardless of age, creed, race, ability/disability, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

July 7: General Assembly Service – Michael Nichols and Verne Bell

We will show an edited version of this service which is a great way to connect our congregation with the annual GA. It gives us a chance to see the whole of which our UUCRT is only a small part.

July 14: Embodying our Goodbyes—Terri Pahucki

How do we move into change with our full selves? Together we will bring focus to the endings and transitions in our lives, that we might embrace openings of liberation and joy.

July 21: Exploring Forgiveness – Jaye Moyer

Zen teacher, Joko Beck wrote: "Our failure to know joy is a direct reflection of our inability to forgive." Starting with this understanding, we will explore the experience of forgiveness. Forgiveness can be a long and arduous path. What are the obstacles that we confront along this path? How might we begin or move in the direction to soften and release the armor of resistance and allow more space to grow freedom, spontaneity and joy?

July 28: Poetry Service-- Mike Landrum and Hollis Kellogg

Annual Summer Poetry Service led by Mike Landrum and Hollis Kellogg. The Congregation and guests are encouraged to bring poetry you love or you wrote that has a deep felt spiritual meaning to you. You can also read passages or sing a song. Come one, come all!

Aug. 4: Joe Alvarez

Aug. 11: Rev. Chris J. Antal

Aug. 18: Participatory Service – Linda Mangelsdorf/Michael Nichols

Aug. 25: Rev. Chris J. Antal and Terri Pahucki

Sept. 1: Labyrinth Walk

July/Aug., 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.

July 7, Sunday -- 8:45 a.m.: Board of Trustees meets
-- Write Here! Write Now! Table immediately after service
--Noon—Greening U and the UU with Erica Nichols.

July 13, Saturday 1-4 p.m.: *A Physician's Experience of Mystical Guidance. For information please contact Jon Mundy at 845-527-8693. \$35 with reservations, \$45 at the door.*

July 14, Sunday, noon – Pot luck Sunday!

Aug. 4, Sunday 8:45 a.m. – Board of Trustees meets

Aug. 11, Sunday, noon-- Pot luck Sunday!

Aug. 18, Sunday, noon -- Greening U and the UU with Erica Nichols

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.*

Reflection from Our Lay Commissioned Minister

It is hard to believe that this is the last column I will write as your lay commissioned minister. As I write these words, my heart is full of gratitude for our time together these past three years. I treasure the journey we have traveled together- the joy we have shared in worship, the learning of our small group ministry circles, the service and witness in our larger community.

There is also sadness and loss in my heart at this time. This past month we said goodbye to David Bell, a dear friend of our congregation, supporting his family through their time of grief. We share their grief as we will greatly miss Dave's smile and warm-hearted presence in our community.

In the midst of this sad occasion, I saw the people of this congregation come together to prepare a beautiful memorial service- with gifts of flowers, cleaning and setting the space, kind words and hugs, and faithful presence.

In the midst of sadness, there was love. These gifts were not out of the ordinary for this community, as I have seen more closely in the past few months of supervising the Care Team how so many regularly support one another through providing rides, making blankets, helping with tasks, visiting our homebound friends, and pitching in when help is needed at special events. Please take note of our Care Team's column this month if you would like to offer your service. My heart is hopeful because of your caring.

Finally, there is joy and anticipation in my heart. Every ending carries within it a new beginning. As I complete my service to this congregation on July 31st, we welcome back Rev. Chris from his sabbatical on August 1st. Chris will be leading worship on August 11th, and we will celebrate our transition together on August 25th. The Sunday Service ministry has grown, with Diane Diachishin now joining Bill Domanico in the role of co-chair. The team is visioning for the year ahead with new collaboration and enthusiasm. New members have been elected to the Board of Trustees, with Laura Bair serving as acting president. They are setting their goals for the year ahead also. The 150th Anniversary of this congregation will take place in 2020, and offers possibilities for both celebration and vision.

On a personal note, I will begin my work as the Intern Minister at the UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester

in Mt Kisco on September 1st. I will also be interning with the interfaith environmental organization GreenFaith. I anticipate that there will be opportunities for us to stay connected through environmental justice and advocacy work for the Earth rooted in our shared Unitarian Universalist faith.

With love and gratitude,
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.

President's Message

by Mike Landrum

Dear Members and Friends,

This will be my last message as president of the Board and it's natural to look back at what's been accomplished.

When I look at the work of our Board of Trustees I find much to admire in the selfless contributions of Jane O'Donnell, Linda Mangelsdorf, Alan Horne, Hollis Kellogg, Bill Domanico and Laura Bair. To their great efforts add the tireless work of Jay Beaumont, John Kinney, Verne Bell, Pasha Moffet, Kris McGuire, Patti Beaumont, Robin Bonne, and many other members and friends.

It's easy to be proud of the work of this congregation! Just yesterday we memorialized a dear friend, David Bell, taken from us way too soon. And we are still mourning the loss of Mike McGinn, our previous president, who served heroically through his illness. His widow, Bernadette, has graciously stepped forward to serve on the board along with Nan Dempster and Michael Nichols who will lead us into the future.

For my part, I see several projects that I had hoped to complete, still undone. The sound system is still inadequate, although Diane Diachishin and I recently met and made plans to move forward on new equipment that will be ready for the fall season of services and music programs. And I'm glad to see our friends at the Birch School are doing well. Yes, there are difficulties when one building serves two purposes and

some may see our situation as untenable and schizoid – but we serve each other symbiotically and, for the time being let’s make a virtue of this necessity. Birch School is one of the ways we serve the community and I am gratified to find our beloved building usefully occupied five days a week, ten months a year!

I’m told there are disputes among UU’s in this country about whether or not to display our nation’s flag. The board has voted (at my suggestion) to hang both the American and the United Nations banners in our sanctuary. I’m happy to take the blame. Those two emblems hung in the old sanctuary when I first joined this body and I’ve missed them. Now, I understand that Old Glory has been soiled lately by politicians and bigots and other lowly forms of life, but that’s not her fault. She was invented by an American woman named Betsy at the request of some men who, with wisdom and foresight and incredible courage, through revolution and hardship, created a brand new form of human government.

As Reverend Chris so eloquently says in his video tour of our crowded, busy space: “the seven principles in our covenant are *aspirational*” – and we often fail to live up to them. So is the Flag of the United States aspirational. She is a symbol of hopes and dreams that have never yet been fully accomplished, not by any of us, not even those founders who are now vilified as hypocrites in these tempestuous times.

Well, I’m now a sentimental old man who weeps at some passages of music and poetry, but I’m damned if I’ll strike our colors. Yes, this country is full of people who completely misinterpret what the flag stands for, and if we take it down it would mean we agree with them. We UUs are better than that.

In service,
Mike Landrum

Strengthen me by sympathizing with my strength not my weakness.

- Bronson Alcott, educator, Unitarian

The Social Action Ministry Report

Tell Your US Representatives to Take Action to Stop and Defund Immigration Raids

Urge your Representative to stop mass indiscriminate raids on our immigrant neighbors and not to spend one penny more to round up immigrants and break up

families. The president has threatened to ramp up ICE enforcement in 10 cities nationwide. We must say NO.

At the 2019 UUA General Assembly in June, delegates passed an Action of Immediate Witness “Immigration and Asylum,” which calls us to “communicate with [their] Congressional representatives and condemn the policies of the Administration.” Our UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray has also [called on us to take action.](#)

Stop by the *Write Here! Write Now!* table and write your letter on Sunday July 7th. If you prefer to do this at home, please contact Marcia at mlwestra@verizon.net or 358-0390 and bring your letters to us by Sunday July 7th. They will be delivered by the UU’s for Social Justice Advocacy Corps on July 9.

Greening U And the UU

Greening U and the UU - Erica Nichols will lead two workshops on this, the first at 12 noon on Sun. July 7th and the second at the same time on August 18th. Don't miss this chance to hear how her family lives a life as sustainable as possible . . . what they do and how they do it. We can all benefit from conversation on this important topic.

Care Team Ministry Report

The UUCRT has a long and deep tradition of compassion which is expressed through care for others in the congregation and beyond. Our members and friends support each other in our hours and days of need through visits, transportation, errands, food, phone calls, companionship and spiritual support. This



is our foundation; this is who we are.

Of late, we have formalized that care and compassion into a Care Team Ministry. Its mission is to provide support and

encouragement to members and friends of the congregation by tending to their emotional, spiritual and material needs, to coordinate continuity of care and to cultivate a feeling of community among members and friends of the congregation.

Members of the Care Team enable and support this compassionate commitment with the assistance of

others in the congregation who have stepped forward to help each other. To list them all would make this column too long and run the risk of leaving someone out. We know and praise the good work they have accomplished and we also know that they, too, have gained and grown from this effort.

A current goal of the Care Team Ministry is to recruit more volunteers whose commitment will strengthen responsiveness to the needs of UUCRT members and friends. Here are some of the ways you can contribute: mail cards; make phone calls; make home visits; help with home repairs; help with light moving; prepare and drop off a meal; provide computer help; and provide transportation. Care Team members are listed below. Feel free to contact one with your volunteer contribution.

In Service,
Jan Kinney, chair, jankinney1949@hotmail.com
Jaye Moyer, jayemoyer@gmail.com
Donna Deming, donna1489@gmail.com

Care Team Coverage for July

July 7 – Jaye Moyer
July 14 – Terri Pahucki
July 21 – Jaye Moyer
July 28 – Donna Deming

The larger story of the universe is still being written, and each of us has a part to play on how that story ultimately plays out.
- Katherine Hering, UU minister

From the June Board of Trustees minutes:

- Jane Moved, seconded by Bill that the May minutes of the BOT be accepted as written. Carried.
- Linda moved, seconded by Laura, that the videos [from the “Place to Call Home” series] be used as two of our summer services, and that they be advertised with invitations specifically to veterans. Carried. (**Further research showed that these videos are not appropriate for use as stated above, and the programs will not be held.**)

- Jane moved, seconded by Hollis that we continue to honor the intent of the donor and keep the remaining \$8,263 in our interest bearing account, and, as needed, administer expenditures for local refugee needs as requested by the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council . Carried. (**Following the service, in a conference with the Donor, Jane, Verne, and Mike L., the donor stated again that the UUCRT could use the funds as needed.**)

Lifespan Religious Exploration

It’s a Wrap!

Religious Education classes have ended for the 2018-2019 school year. Classes will resume in the fall for children ages 7 - 12.

We are looking for volunteers to teach these classes which will again be held on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of each month. A curriculum will be provided. Volunteers are also needed for babysitting for newborn through age six. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Laura Bair, lginer4@gmail.com.

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 labeled “For Chalice Light” to johnpkinney@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.