

# UUCRV NEWS

Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley  
P.O. Box 256, Rockton, IL, 61072 Phone number: 1-815-624-4094  
Visit us at [www.uucrv.org](http://www.uucrv.org)



**September 2017**

## Monthly Schedule

**9/10** – *Guest Speaker Misha Sanders* The first worship service Sunday of September is a tradition for UUs: “Water Communion”. Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water from a place they have visited, or that is special to them, to add to a communion bowl.

12:00 – Worship Committee Meeting

**9/17** – Ray Herzer “*Acts of Kindness*”. Every day we experience little acts of kindness - a door held open, a dropped pencil retrieved. Sometimes these acts go above and beyond the ordinary. They could be from family, friends and even total strangers.

We will share these stories (limit yourself to two minutes) and will close with a story of an extended act of kindness I received from total strangers when I was seven years old. It’s a Hallmark story. Bring some tissues.

12:00 – Board Meeting

**9/24** – TBD (an email will be sent with the information)

**10/1** – *Guest Speaker Misha Sanders*

**10/8** – *Guest Speaker Jeff Percy* Gallery Celebration “*Our Trans Family photo exhibit*”

## welcoming Congregation

We had our first meeting for this church year on August 22, 2017. The members of our welcoming committee are: Laurel Burke, Dianna Kevari, Jan Henningsen, Judy Petree, Lynda Johnson, Lee Johnson, Marla Wallace, Linda Brefeld, Cher Zimmerman. We discussed a lot about “Our Trans Family” photo exhibit that UUCRV is hosting during the month of October, 2017. There is a flyer ready to hand out and start inviting people. The details of the days and times are listed on the flyer. Any questions please ask any one of us on the welcoming committee. – Dianna Kevari

## Membership Committee

A meeting was held on Friday, August 18. The members of the committee this year are: Dianna Kevari, Marla Wallace, Diane Busker, Paulette Lucas, Jackie Shair, Wendy Edgington, Nina Herzer. We went over the roles and responsibilities for this committee. Diane Busker volunteered to find people

to fill the coffee hour sheet. Nina will maintain the kitchen supplies. We talked about the photo exhibit in October. We also talked about having a Halloween Party this year, planned for October 29, 2017 following our church service. - Dianna Kevari

## Religious Education

Our RE meeting yesterday confirmed that Religious Education will not use an entire hour on Sunday Morning, but will allow all the kids to go into the church with their family and stay until the children's story is ended. It will mean going back to old routine for the Worship Committee people of including the children's story in the bulletin, having it done by whomever is speaking or whomever is chosen to tell the story. Our "Sunday Morning Kids" class time will then be about 45 minutes.

One of the things we ask of everyone in the congregation is that all electronics are shut down during Sanctuary Time.

Also, the idea of planting milkweed pods in May was accepted too. So that can go on the church calendar.

At our September meeting we will have teacher assignments and since Oct 29 is a fifth Sunday and the RE group has conducted the worship service in the past, we want to have a (el Dia de los Muertos) Day of the Dead, remembering our ancestors, celebration. It will be festive. it will take work. But we hope to put it together. In Mexico it is celebrated on November 2.

We are looking into the Owl Program for our kids who are 12 & 13 years old.

Also, our RE room will be patched and painted before our first class Sept. 10. - Judy Petree

## Worship Committee

We held our Committee Retreat at UUCRV on Saturday, August 22, 2017, Jeff Pearcy will be speaking on Oct. 8, 2017, about his "Our Trans Family Photo Exhibit" which we are hosting the month of October.

We are happy that Misha Sanders has agreed to be a guest speaker once a month..

## Green Corner

Raspberries on back of church lot should be ripe by Sunday, August 27. I will have some clamshell containers available if anyone wants to pick some. I cleared out some poison ivy from the bushes last year, but keep a watchful eye out if you choose to pick.

A bit of irony - The Kentucky Coal Mining Museum is converting to solar power.

More irony. Electric car company Tesla, in March, 2017, was valued higher than Ford. In the same month, Scotland produced enough electricity from wind to satisfy the needs of 136% of all the country's households.

Possibly coming soon to a neighborhood near you, Marshall Islanders, whose homes are being threatened by rising ocean waters. Seawalls built to hold back the tides have failed, and these people will have no place to go. But under a 1986 compact with the U.S. because of long standing military ties, these islanders are free to emigrate to the U.S. Already communities have been established in Salem, Oregon and Springdale, Arkansas.

A bit of absurdity. Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Scott Wagner thinks warm human bodies are partly to blame for global warming. And, oh yes, the Earth is moving closer to the sun each year. That pretty much lets us humans off the hook, doesn't it?

## INFO FROM UUCRV TREASURER

If you wish to receive a donation letter from our church in January, your donation must be in the form of a check or cash placed in an envelope that has your name on it before you put it in the collection plate. This is also how you are credited if you are making a pledge to the church. If you put cash in the plate without your name, there is no way to credit you, so your donation is credited to “cash member” in our new bookkeeping system.

I appreciate your helping me with my job! — Nina Herzer, Treasurer

## Coming to UUCRV in October... “OUR TRANS FAMILY Photo Exhibit”

This project started in Milwaukee WI and fosters greater understanding about people who identify as transgender. The photos include a broad range of people who identify as “gender fluid” and do not identify with a binary definition of their gender. In an effort to show people in the transgender community as they express themselves and with the support of their natural or chosen families of support, “For Good” Photography interviewed and photographed between twenty and thirty people and their families in the transgender community. “For Good” Photography is a collaborative effort by three experienced documentary photographers, Jeff Pearcy, Meredith Watts, and Rikki Thompson. <http://www.forgoodphotography.com/>.

Photo Exhibit opens Friday, 6 October 2017, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm central. The exhibit will be open Fridays and Sundays during October and by appointment.

**To hear more about the project and how Jeff’s photography journey includes Unitarian Universalism, join us 10:30 am central for our Sunday service, 8 October 2017.**

**Join us again for our Gallery Talk and Reception, Friday, 13 October 2017, 5:00-7:00 pm.**

## September Birthdays

**1** – Tricia Graham

**4** – Denny Broderick

Diane Busker

**7** – Gloria Shafer

**8** – Linda Brefeld

**17** – Judy Petree

**25** – Marla Wallace

**27** – Kirsten Fisher

Phil Dierstein

On August 24th, The Sugar River Forest Preserve was home to the first "Annual UUCRV Women's Campout".



Nine members and friends of UUCRV enjoyed camping, music, readings, food, frolic and fun! We are hoping to add more overnight campers AND day trippers for next year.





Don't forget to get your button and wear it out in public.

Wendy Edgington was at the farmer's market one day when a young couple noticed her button – they then had a conversation about our congregation which would not have occurred without the button. ***Thanks for spreading the "good news" about our congregation!***



A warm welcome to our newest members, Erin and her son Calvin! We are excited to have them join our Beloved Community! They have both become active on our Building and Grounds Committee, pulling onions from our garden to provide to the food pantry at CARITAS and helping maintain the grounds.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley,  
PFLAG of Rockford, and Yellow Brick Road Organization

presents

# *Our Trans Family*

— P H O T O E X H I B I T —

**October 8, 2017 - 10:30am to 12:00pm**

Gallery Celebration with sermon by Jeff Pearcy

**October 13, 2017 - 5:00pm to 7:00pm**

Gallery Talk with Photographers

**Gallery is open Fridays, Sundays and  
by appointment in October:**

Fridays (6, 13, 20, 27) 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Sundays (8, 15, 22, 29) 11:30am to 2:00pm

and by appointment only

**329 School Street, Rockton, IL 61072**

(608) 289-1432 Judith Ann

[www.uucrv.org](http://www.uucrv.org)

[www.yellowbrickrd.org](http://www.yellowbrickrd.org)

[www.pflagillinois.org/category/pflag-rockford](http://www.pflagillinois.org/category/pflag-rockford)

[www.forgoodphotography.com/#/our-trans-family](http://www.forgoodphotography.com/#/our-trans-family)

## Unitarian Universalists in History – Teachers

On August 6<sup>th</sup> Connie Matusiak, a UUCRV member, led the congregation in a service titled “Teacher Appreciation.” Members were invited to share testimonials of a teacher who impacted their lives. Connie shared poignant and humorous readings about teachers portrayed in literature and members took turns reading quotes about teachers. ***Thank you, Connie, for a very interactive and touching service!***

Connie asked for a show of hands to identify UUCRV members who were teachers. Members who were teachers or involved in education in some way includes: Linda Brefeld, Susan Busker, Margaret Curtright, Erin Fisher, Millie Fleeer, Tricia Graham, Jan Henningsen, Nina Herzer, Ray Herzer, Beth Ingle, Lynda Johnson, Paulette Lucas, Connie Matusiak, Gloria Shafer, Jackie Shair, and Cher Zimmerman. It is interesting to note the number of historical figures involved in education who were Unitarians or Universalists, including:

Ezra Cornell (1807-1874): *education administrator; founder of Cornell University*

John Dewey (1859-1952): *regarded as the father of progressive education in America*

Charles William Eliot (1834-1926): *President of Harvard*

Mark Hopkins (1802-1887): *educator, President of Williams College*

James R. Killian (1904-1988): *President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Horace Mann (1796-1859): *founder of the first public school in America in Lexington, MA*

George D. Stoddard (1897-1981): *President of University of Illinois*

With our congregation being housed in the former Stephen Mack School, there has been some discussion around how we might use this building and/or the talents of our congregation to support education in our community and in the world. Could we offer workshops for teachers, such as teaching compassion and peaceful conflict resolution? Are there programs for children we might be able to put on, e.g. planting wildflower seeds to attract monarch butterflies? What types of adult education might we sponsor, maybe a lecture on climate change?

***Please share any ideas you have with the Board!***



**We found this old desk in the shed when we moved in and restored it to create a small area in the front entry dedicated to the history of our building as a school. It continues to be a place of learning for this congregation!**



## Balancing Justice and Joy – Taking Action for Social Justice and Sharing Joy

“...remember, social justice outreach can’t be sustained without oodles of humor and incessant merrymaking.” Tom Owen-Towle in Growing a Beloved Community

<i>Justice</i>	<i>Joy</i>
<p data-bbox="235 352 812 772">Our congregation participated in the Beloit Together: Stronger Together Vigil on August 19<sup>th</sup> held at Horace White Park. This gathering was planned to address racial tensions following the white nationalist protest in Charlottesville, WV the previous week. You can see a video of the event on their Facebook page and see coverage from television stations WIFR Channel 23 (Rockford) and WKOW Channel 27 (Madison).</p>  <p data-bbox="235 1071 812 1144">UUCRV members with our new Standing on the Side of Love banner.</p>  <p data-bbox="235 1430 812 1503">Friends from the Janesville UU Fellowship also attended.</p>  <p data-bbox="235 1801 747 1911">Wisconsin State Representative Mark Spreitzer, along with a number of local advocates, spoke to the crowd.</p>	<p data-bbox="846 352 1450 541">On Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, we were treated to an outdoor service of songs sung around the campfire. The weather cooperated, with clouds keeping the temperature down some and no raindrops to spoil the fun.</p>  <p data-bbox="846 976 1425 1123">Denny Broderick and Wendy Edgington prepared a variety of familiar songs for our enjoyment, with Denny accompanying us on the guitar.</p>  <p data-bbox="846 1568 1456 1680">After the sing-a-long, Denny, Wendy, and Paulette Lucas provided the congregation with a cookout of hotdogs and s’mores.</p> <p data-bbox="846 1736 1466 1820"><b><i>Thanks Denny, Wendy and Paulette for planning such a fun event for all of us!</i></b></p>

***Please share with the Board any ideas you may have for balancing justice and joy!***





### **2017-18 Officers**

President	Susan Busker	815-624-2833
Vice-President	Wendy Edgington	815-865-5364
Secretary	Jan Henningsen	815-397-4721
Treasurer	Nina Herzer	815-624-2283



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