

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



July, 2016

Monthly Schedule

July services all begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley, 329 School Street, Rockton, IL 61079. Child care provided. We welcome visitors, and invite you to coffee hour afterwards for snacks and chat.

July 3, 2016 – no service, enjoy the 4th of July weekend with family and friends!

July 10, 2016 – Eman Ghazal – “The Religion of Islam: The Mercy of God”

Eman’s talk will center around how experiencing the Islamic month of Ramadan brings spiritual renewal, prayer, and of re-commitment to bettering oneself. We enjoy the increased opportunities to spend time and strengthen bonds with our families, friends, and the community. During this blessed month we are reminded how God showers us with many blessings by just giving us a chance to create peace and harmony with one another. Not only does this month make us compassionate human beings, but it will also open up the lines of communication, appreciation, and understanding between our different cultures and faiths – something so important to Muslims – especially in this day and age.

Eman Ghazal is a resident of the Rockford area for 18 years. She went to Rockford University and was involved in many clubs and associations on campus such as Multicultural Club, Student Government, Muslim Student Association, intervarsity, etc. She recently married in April and is moving to the Chicago area in the fall for a new job and new beginnings.

Please welcome Eman on July 10th. I suggest older children attend this important sharing of cultures.

July 17, 2016 – National Parks Services Celebrates 100 Years – “Congregational Sharing of National Parks Visits”

Jerry Paulson and Lynda Johnson invite all of you to join us in celebrating our National Parks. (no sermon!) The chairs will be placed in a circle, with a table up front to place souvenirs and photos. (that’s one table, not 10!) It will be fun to hear everyone’s **short** adventures as we travel around the country.

Children are welcome to stay for this service, and join in the sharing, if they wish. Instead of hymns, we’ll sing a couple of “camp songs.”

July 24, 2016 – Susan Busker – “Growing A Beloved Community – twelve hallmarks of a healthy congregation”. Member, Susan Busker, has been leading a congregational discussion for several months after services, once a month. The content of this book is so good, those of us who are reading it wish to share it with everyone. Growing a beloved community is about helping us to think about bravely building bridges of hope for the larger universe; it teaches us how to do and be church the Unitarian Universalist way. Come prepared to practically acknowledge the Spirit of Love incarnate in human fellowship. And thank-you, Susan, for agreeing to lead this service.



JULY 31 – Rev. Jody Welden – Retired BCC – “The Spirituality of Illness” -

We often see illness as a problem – or, a betrayal...as if the illness came to hurt us. The reality is, illness is a natural companion in life. It can move us into deeper understanding & growth, if we allow it. Alternatively, we can choose to be burdened by illness, to live in denial, or in bitterness and to thwart the possible gains. This talk will posit that illness has a rhythm we can discern, if not a reason.

Jody runs a business called “Care of the Spirit.” She conducts presentations on spirituality and heart-centered living. She is passionate about two new books she is working on now about healing and living with grace. She is also an amateur artist, and is writing her first mystery book! Please welcome Jody and come with an open heart.

She will have one of her pieces of art on heart centered living, **GIVING FROM THE HEART** and also a book, “Stopping By the Side of the Road: A Tale About Dying” with her for sale.



GIVING FROM THE HEART

*A note to possible visitors: Before I joined this congregation, two of my friends invited me repeatedly to visit –FOR TWO YEARS! I don’t know why it took so long before I walked in the door for the first time; I guess, secretly I though Unitarians were, well sorta “weird” or something. Then I came, and couldn’t believe how welcoming and friendly they were – and they weren’t “weird” at all! May this month be the time you come for the first, and second, and third time! Try it – you’ll like it. Lynda Johnson

Green Corner

Hey, what's with all the clover in my lawn? It seems to be taking over, and it is not just my lawn. Did anyone else notice this? I'm not complaining, it's good for the lawn - it's just weird.

The garden is looking good. I have had several helpers (Trish, Vesta, Mariah, Anders, Vinnie, Carly, Lila, Michael and Nina) helping with weeding, net installing and removing, compost and mulch spreading and planting. Due to a brain abnormality (some of you suspected this as soon as you met me) my right side is getting progressively weaker and less coordinated, and many of the above tasks are getting quite difficult for me.

I plan to turn over the garden administration to someone else next year. I stand ready to advise and assist. We can do away with the rain barrels and just use tap water to run through the soaker hoses, and that will make watering quicker and easier. Please let me know if you are interested.

I also have kept a log of garden activities which should be helpful in getting things going. The pantry garden is the only ongoing social justice activity that we do, and it would sadden me to see it disappear.

No activity in the garden until early July, but then it will be bean picking time and I will be needing pickers. I know lots of us are old and creaky, but I will have kneeling pads to make it more comfortable for you. I will let you know when picking time begins and will give you some dates to choose from. Let the excitement begin!

Ray

Workshop for Welcoming Congregation Task Force

Jodi Rendall, from the UU Church in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, will be leading a workshop for the Welcoming Congregation Task Force on Sat., July 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the church. She will be addressing the process we need to go through to become a “Welcoming Congregation to people of the LGBTQ community.” There is room for 5 more interested people, in addition to the committee members. Please call Lynda, 815-779-423-0878.

SPIRIT MEETINGS

UUCRV Has a group of eleven people who meet once a month to support one another, and to discuss and share spiritual ideas on a theme. This year we met on the second Thursday at 1 p.m. The theme is provided by a website – Soul Matters Sharing Circle which prepares a monthly packet rich in readings, questions, suggested activities and other resources. Meetings will resume in September.

There was some interest in an evening meeting. If that would interest you, contact Connie Matusiak to see if there are enough people to make it feasible.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 10 – Charlie J

Vincent J

19 – Erin Fisher



2016-17 Officers

President	Denny Broderick	608-289-1432
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