

# 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)



**FEBRUARY, 2017**

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

## **Monthly Schedule**

February 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.

**February 5 – Rev. Sara Goodman – “UU Identity in a Time of Crisis”**

**February 12 – BraveHearts** – This is a nonprofit organization and a Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International Premier Accredited Center providing equine assisted services to children, adults and military veterans in need. See more information in this issue.

**February 19 – Rev. Sara Goodman – “Claiming Our History”**

**February 26 - Rev. Jody Rendall – “Political Climate Change: LGBTQ Survival In A Changing Legislative Landscape”.** Over the last years, the LGBTQ Community has seen a growth in rights, protections, services, and court rulings. With the November election, we’re seeing the stage being set for our country to do a 180. In an environment of hate and alternative facts what can be done by the Queer Community and its allies to stave off greater marginalization?



### **OFFER WHATEVER LIGHT YOU CAN**

This month’s theme is identify. We will be reflecting on what it means to share an identity with other UUs and to separate ourselves from others by claiming our identity.

An important part of our religious heritage is a dedication to protecting human rights and the resources of our planet. As the events of the last two weeks have shown us, we need to live in to this identity more than ever.

As more and more things are starting to look bleak in the political arena, I have trouble seeing the good in the world. But then my baby laughs, or someone posts to say they've called their representative, or I see my good friend donating the proceeds of selling her art to the ACLU, and the world seems a little brighter.

Right now, we have to find the balance between fighting for what's good in the world and keeping ourselves sane. Maybe we can find that balance by making a plan as how we experience the news of the day, limiting ourselves to one or two check ins a day. Perhaps we can find a way to be a little light on the world, bringing kindness to those who need it.

I offer my love to my child, and loving care to my friends and congregants. How will you offer light to the world? Rev. Sara Goodman

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**UUCRV CARE AND CONCERN** – The purpose of Care and Concern is to assist UUCRV in the ministry to one another. Care and Concern is part of the Membership Committee. A care request needs to be something that is possible for UUCRV members to do—like providing food, rides to medical appointments, running errands, visiting members who are house bound, in the hospital or rehab, etc.

If you or another UUCRV member needs help from UUCRV Care and Concern, please contact Wendy Edgington (815-865-5364) or Dianna Kevari (608-365-2343). Wendy and Dianna send cards to members as needed. Please contact them if you know one of our members is ill, has lost a loved one, or is experiencing a difficult time. They would rather hear the news twice than not at all. Remember that Wendy and Dianna are assisting our church in its ministry to one another.

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### Green Corner

Snickers, M & Ms and Twix are among my favorite candies. Now, all you environmentalists, I present a new reason to justify mass consumption of the above named treats.

In spite of all the Trump rhetoric about climate change being a Communist plot, and the EPA being an endangered species, the Mars Food Company has good news for us all (well, maybe not the fossil fuel companies and their investors). Barry Parkin, chief sustainability officer for Mars, says companies here and around the world are making clear their determination to curb their emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, regardless of what governments choose to do. Mars has gone so far as to plan to completely eliminate green-house gas emissions by 2040. Since 2007, the company has managed to check its reliance on fossil fuels by 18%.

Mars is well on its way to meeting their future goal. Their 200 megawatt wind-energy farm in Mesquite Creek, Texas already produces electricity equivalent to 100% of the company's power needs in the U.S. Way to go, Mars!

Asked about Trump's climate agenda, Parkin said, "Administrations come and go, and the problems and solutions will outlast them." Three cheers for government bureaucracy!

Ray

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## **BRAVEHEARTS COMING ON FEB. 12**

On February 12, 2017 at our 10:30 AM service, BraveHearts will be our guest speakers.

They will speak about how BraveHearts services are helping the community. BraveHearts is 501c3 nonprofit organization and a Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) Premier Accredited Center providing equine-assisted services to children, adults and military veterans in need. BraveHearts has two locations in Illinois (Harvard & Poplar Grove) and the largest PATH Intl. horse program in the country for military veterans, serving all veterans free of charge. This year BraveHearts has served 630 military veterans providing veterans with 12,859 equine sessions. BraveHearts is considered the leading PATH organization in the nation for innovative programming. BraveHearts has developed, presented and implemented curriculum at the national level to help serve more individuals in need and to strengthen the industry's education on serving individuals with various diagnoses using horses. Additionally, BraveHearts has hosted the Special Olympics Equestrian Games for the past 5 years for athletes in Illinois.

"We are constantly humbled by our community's effort to raise awareness and support for the services we provide and the people we serve at BraveHearts. We are honored to have been asked by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley to speak at their service on February 12, 2017. We hope that the presentation will help to raise community awareness of the services BraveHearts provides in hopes to reach individuals in our community who may be looking for the hope, joy and unlimited possibilities that BraveHearts has to offer through equine services." Meggan Hill-McQueeney, President/COO of BraveHearts

Visit [www.braveheartsridding.org](http://www.braveheartsridding.org) or email [generalinfo@braveheartsridding.org](mailto:generalinfo@braveheartsridding.org) to learn more about how to support BraveHearts. Visit <http://uucrv.org/> to learn more about the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley.

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**SPIRIT MEETING** — The Spirit Meeting will be on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 o'clock. We will discuss, "What does it mean to be a community of identity?"

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## Tricia Graham & Family



The dark tasteless state of my slumber begins to shut off. As I first notice a smell. It's leathery and warm. Next I start to feel my face. My mouth shares a familiar breath and a gust of hot air floods my face. My eye lashes twitch and my eyes close tight. My lips form a smile while my hand unfolds from the covers and reaches out to familiar fur. I open my eyes to a large leathery nose. My Peela. 36" of long, shiny dog extends past that wet nose and only a few inches back I find the kind and gentle eyes of my beautiful black lab. I take a quick check of my phone before greeting her and telling her she's a good girl. I know she has been waiting patiently in the hallway for a couple of hours and she simply can't go another minute. Sleeping Tricia = Lonely Peela.

I stagger out of bed and peek in quietly at the other bedrooms in the house. One bed is empty with a stuffed bunny laying just under the pillow. The other room has two lumps under brightly colored bedding along with life size stuffed animals. I continue downstairs to my bright and cheerful yellow kitchen and peak into the living room. In the chair and under a blanket, I find a girl who looks almost exactly like every image of my childhood photo album. My sweet 10 yr. old. I make myself a quick snack and turn on CBS Sunday Morning.

At some point during the show a tall, quiet 12 yr. old girl appears. She gently touches my hair and snuggles on the couch with the dogs. She wears a full piece onesie pajama outfit and her hair sits up on top of her head. During commercials, I visit with the girls, proclaiming my love for Mo Rocca and the various artsy topics being covered in on the screen. 9:30 my show is over and it's time to wake up my oldest. She wakes up and I remind her it's Sunday and we leave for church at 10 am. The ball of blankets unfolds and a pretty little face pecks around the room. I quickly get ready and return to the kitchen to feed dogs and listen for little opportunities to be helpful in the process of getting all four of us out the door. That's us! And that is our Sunday morning. We love our church family so much and treasure all of our time together. Tricia Graham



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## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Mariah Gomez – 2  
Grant Heckel – 16  
Alicia - 17

Zoey Kevari – Zimmerman – 24  
Dianna Kevari – 27



## **Officers for 2016 - 17**

	President	Denny Broderick	608-289-1432
	Vice-President	Susan Busker	815-624-2833
Secretary	Paulette Lucas	815-601-3225	
Treasurer	Cher Zimmerman	608-365-2343	



*uucrockvalley@ [www.uucrv.org](http://www.uucrv.org)*

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