

Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Community of Rock Valley
329 School St., Mailing address: P.O. Box 256, Rockton, IL 61072
Phone: 815-624-4094 Visit us at www.uucrv.org

MARLENE'S MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

As I write this on the first day of spring, today's weather is more like February. I so want it to be spring but that's how March goes. One day cold and snowy and the next day warm and sunny and I begin to hope again for spring. I watch for all the signs. Buds on trees, robins returning in huge numbers, early flowers starting to bloom. It's coming I know it is. And I feel this sense of waiting, waiting for something to happen.

Around this time four years ago everything shut down. We had no idea how long it was going to be. And we have been irreversibly changed by these past four years. In ways we don't even fully understand yet. I just read a survey of clergy who have been serving in congregations since the beginning of the pandemic and it showed that 81% of clergy have symptoms of PTSD. I suspect that's probably true of all of us.

And yet, we learned a lot. We learned that community care is essential. Caring for the most vulnerable is caring for the whole. We learned lots of new technology, lots and lots. And we have learned, and are learning even more, how to do church differently. And as we row together to whatever comes next, may we remember the lessons of the last four years. Community matters. People matter. Hope matters. And I feel this sense of waiting, waiting for something to happen.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace.

Rev. Marlene



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

March 24, 2024

Thank you to everyone who made a gift or pledge to our Rai\$e the Roof campaign to pay for replacing the membrane on the flat roof of our church building. At the time that this was written we had received almost \$10,000 of cash gifts and \$2,300 of pledges for future gifts to replenish our building fund!

A strong church needs a solid foundation, which we have, and a good roof to weather the storms that come our way. No matter what we decide as a Congregation to do about keeping or selling the building, we need to keep a good roof over our heads.

We still need donations to meet our goal of \$15,000. A second payment for the repairs to the roof of \$10,671.00 is due on April 1st. You can make your gift by sending a check made payable to UUCRV to the Rai\$e the Roof Campaign, P.O. Box 256, Rockton, Illinois 61072, or through PayPal or with a credit card by going to our website, www.uucrv.org and clicking on the "Donate" button in the lower left of the home page.

Thank you for your continued support of UUCRV,

Jerry Paulson, President

Kathy Dierstein, Campaign Chair

UUCRV ACTIVITIES

MEANINGFUL MOVIES AT UUCRV

Meaningful Movies are on the second Tuesday (1:30 p.m.) and Saturday (6:30 p.m.) of each month through June.

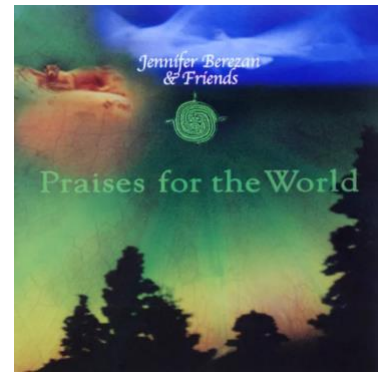
APRIL 9 & 13 *PRAISES TO THE WORLD: JENNIFER BEREZAN AND FRIENDS*

Join this celebration of our Earth.

"Praises to the World is a visual experience on a sumptuous, multicultural tapestry of enthralling voices, dance, poetry and prosas that achieves a rare state of grace with as much musical richness as spiritual depth."

Sometimes meditative, sometimes evocative Jennifer Berezan and Friends draw you into the experience of falling in love with the Earth and possibilities for caring for each other.

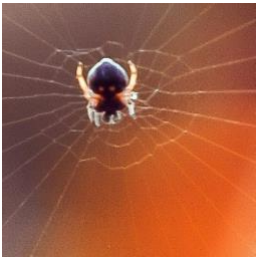
NOTE for those who enjoyed "100 Days with Tata" in March. **Luisa Cantero**, Miguel Ángel Muñoz's Tata, dies at the age of 98, 7/23/2023, 5:51:04 AM: *"I thank you for taking care of me so much and so well."* The Spanish actor, Miguel Ángel Muñoz made a documentary film about his relationship with Tata during the Covid pandemic shut down. "I don't know if one day I will come to understand the special bond we have had becoming the most special LOVE story I have ever lived,"



THE TOUCHSTONES JOURNAL APRIL TOPIC IS GENEROSITY

The Touchstones Discussion Group meets at the church on April 17 at 10:30. For more information, contact Connie Matusiak @ 608-361-9669. The Touchstones Journal is available to all members. Here is the link to the April issue: https://www.touchstonesproject.com/files/ugd/552cc1_43cc54c9641346999680d30aba2d0587.pdf

SOUL MATTERS APRIL TOPIC: INTERDEPENDENCE



Talk of interdependence immediately calls up the work of saving the planet, rightly so. But what if the first step toward saving the planet is learning to speak to it? And hear it? Could our collective failure to confront the climate crisis be rooted in our lost ability to listen? What if the quickly-going-extinct creatures don't want our sympathy, but our ear? What if the fraying of the web isn't just about us failing to act, but also us having forgotten who we are. And what if nature itself is the only one who can help us remember? It's a month of tricky questions, friends.

UUCRV has a subscription to Soul Matters. You can delve into these questions and explore interdependence by emailing uucrockvalley@gmail.com and requesting a copy.

WELCOME FARMER ANNIE SINGER

Once again, there is in the former Food Pantry Garden thanks to Annie Singer and Susan Busker. Last fall Susan noticed Annie's post on the Roscoe/Rockton Neighbors Helping Neighbors Facebook group. Annie was looking for a sunny spot to garden with a nearby water source. Susan thought this was a great opportunity to put UUCRV's fallow garden spot to use and contacted Annie.

In October, Susan and Donna Beaumont met with Annie and all three agreed that it looked like a match. An agreement between Annie and the Board was struck. Annie agreed that in exchange for use of the garden spot and water, Annie will contribute a portion of their crop to a local food bank or other charitable cause. They will also continue the practice of no chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides.

Annie is relatively new to the area, moving here with their husband Blake and coonhound Darwin in late 2022. BUT Annie is no stranger to gardening and charitable giving. Before moving to Roscoe, they spent two summers working with Beaver Creek CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in Kenosha. Annie describes herself as "passionate about food justice and food access," and "interested in travel and foods and plants used in different countries and cuisines." They plan to contribute a portion of their crop to Caritas and give some away directly to local families.

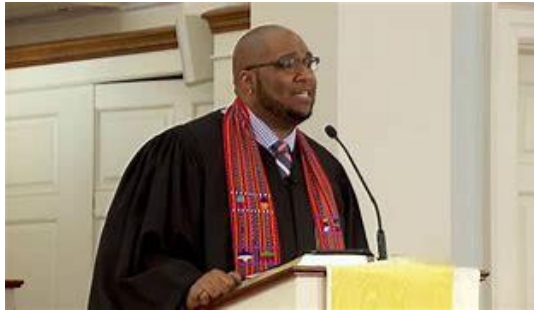
It will be a joy to see the garden productive again, and a new friend as well.

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 COMMUNICATION: THE THIRD "C" REV. DR. MARLENE WALKER

This is the third in the series of the three "C's" of building strong congregations – Curiosity, Capacity and Communication.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 SPIRITUAL IMAGINATION GUEST VIRTUAL MINISTER: REV. DEREK JACKSON



Lay Leaders: Donna Beaumont and Nina Herzer
Rev. Derek Jackson, the Director of Ministries for Lifelong Learning of the UU Ministers Association and one of the authors in the book Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry will provide the message: Our imagination is a powerful tool. It can drive our creativity, fuel our hope, and deepen our faith. What if we engaged imagination as a spiritual practice?

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 ROWING TOGETHER `REV. MARLENE DR. MARLENE WALKER

This is the kick off of our Annual Budget Campaign and the theme this year is "Rowing Together". Did you know that your minister trained as a river raft guide on the Nantahala and Chattooga rivers? Come hear some stories of how important rowing together is.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 OUR ANNUAL POETRY SERVICE LAY LEADERS: CONNIE MATUSIAK AND JUDY PICKLE

Our annual Poetry Service is April 28th. You are invited to choose a poem to share and let Judy Pickle or Connie Matusiak know about it by Friday April 19th.

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

PASSOVER SEDER

All are invited to join a Passover Seder on Wednesday, April 24 at 5pm at UU Rockford. Both Rev. Marlene and Rev. Matthew will lead this fairly traditional Seder with some UU twists to the Haggadah. Traditional Passover Seder foods will be served. Cost is \$12 for adults and children under 12 are free. Watch for more information.

BAYSIDE UU FAMILY CAMP

Looking for a great summer experience? Join us at Bayside UU Family Camp held at Lutherdale Camp on the shores of Lauderdale Lakes in Elkhorn, WI. This year, camp will take place June 30th - July 6th. This special week includes adult workshops, activities for children, free time for family fun and relaxation, and intergenerational activities. For more information visit our website at baysideuu.wixsite.com/baysideuu or contact baysideuu@gmail.com.

SIGN UP FOR GREETING OR TREATING?

Greeters extend a warm welcome to people as they arrive for worship. All that is required is your presence and a smile. Oh, AND arrival 15 minutes before the service begins.

Host Fellowship after the service

Share a personal celebration or a your most recent baking experiment.

Social time discussions after the service enrich our UUCRV community. Consider signing up to bring snacks for the congregation.

Carol Klager is coordinating sign up for these support activities. Please contact her via email at: carolklager@gmail.com to save your date for either of these activities.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:30-3:30 pm Faith Formation Committee Zoom Meeting	3	4	5 2:00-3:00 pm Finance Committee Zoom meeting	6
7 *** 10:30 am Worship: Communication: The Third "C" Rev. Marlene Walker	8	9 1:30 Meaningful Movie: <i>Praises to the World</i>	10	11	12 2-4 pm Board Zoom Meeting	13 6:30 Meaningful Movie: <i>Praises to the World</i>
14 *** 10:30 am Worship: Spiritual Imagination Guest Virtual Minister: Rev. Derek Jackson Lay Leaders: Donna Beaumont & Nina Herzer	15 2-3:30 pm Building Task Force meeting	16	17 10:30 am Touchstones Small Group Discussion	18	19 <i>Please send in dates and articles for the May Newsletter!</i>	20 8:00-11:00 am UUCRV @ Beloit Winter Market
21 *** 10:30 am Worship: "Rowing Together" Annual Budget Kickoff Rev. Marlene Walker	22 	23 <i>Pete Busker's 95th birthday</i>	24 10-11 am Community Office Hours Rev. Walker Bushel & Peck <i>Vesta's birthday</i>	25	26	27
28 *** 10:30 am Worship: Poetry Lay Leader: Connie Matusiak and Judy Pickle	29	30				

*** WORSHIP SERVICES ARE MULTIPLATFORM INCLUDING ON ZOOM

(The ZOOM link is in the "Service Information" email sent to members & friend prior to the service. Request service information by emailing uucrockvalley@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR OPENING

Beginning in July 2024. Will train in May and June.

Duties: collecting UUCRV news, information, and resources to keep congregants informed of upcoming events, worship services, and UUA information to support community interaction and spiritual exploration. Format the information for readability and easy access to activities. Total time commitment 7 to 10 hours per month. Contact church sources to gather information & as a reminder to meet the deadline on the 20th of each month. Jodell will share tips & tricks with the new editor with hands on training for the May and June newsletters.



To learn more, contact Jodell Gabriel



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF ROCK VALLEY
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2022-2023 OFFICERS

President	Jerry Paulson	815-222-4414
Vice-President	Cher Zimmerman	608-365-2343
Secretary	Denny Broderick	608-751-0630
Treasurer	Paulette Lucas	815-601-3225
At Large	Carol Klager	815-298-0477

Members are welcome at all UUCRV committee meetings.
Check the calendar in this newsletter for meeting times.

If you have questions or comments to share, contact board members or the appropriate committee chair.

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Email: revmwalker@mac.com

Phone: 970-640-5444



We'MOON SPRINGTIME BLESSINGS

We'Moon is a lunar calendar, a handbook in natural rhythms, and a collaboration of international women's cultures. We'Moon is dedicated to amplifying the images and voices of women from many perspectives and cultures. More @ <https://wemoon.ws/>

A 2-Part Film Screening & Discussion of:

WHO WE ARE

**A Chronicle of Racism
in America**

**April 9: 6-8 pm and
April 18: 6-8 pm
Craig High School
Small Auditorium**

401 S Randall Ave Janesville

Co-sponsored by:

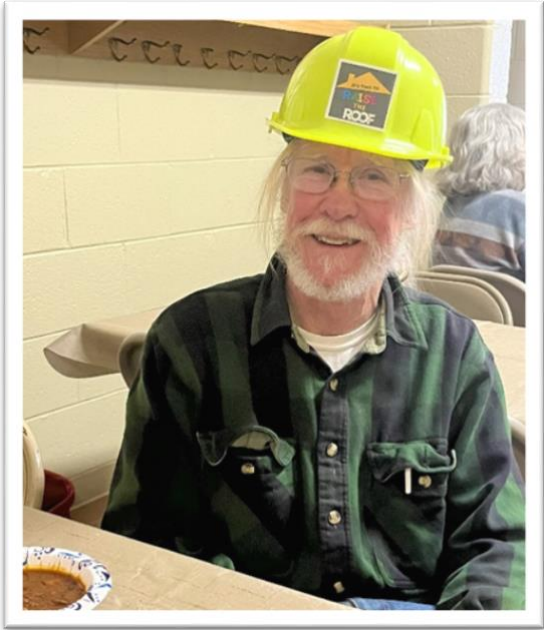
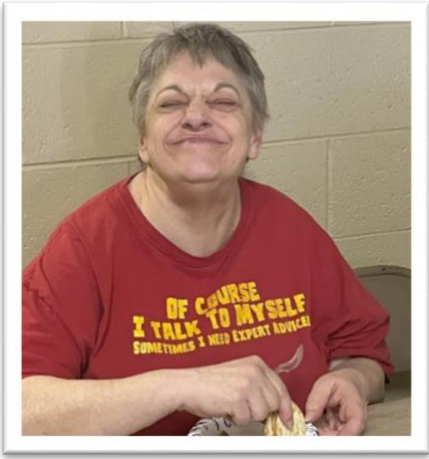
Diversity Action Team of Rock County
Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB) and

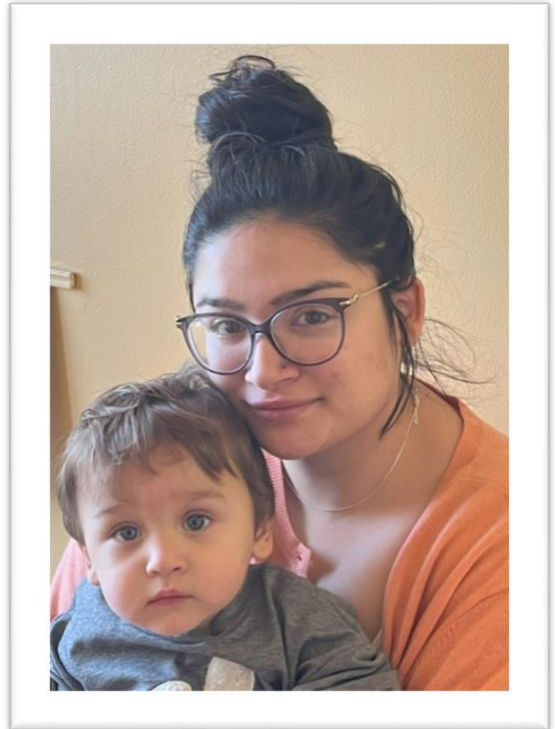
AAUW, Community Action of Rock and Walworth Counties
Community Health Systems, Concerned Black Citizens of Beloit
Good Trouble Beloit, Janesville Muslim Dawa Circle
NAACP Beloit Branch, School District of Janesville
S&J Consulting and YWCA Rock County

Dandelions by Frances Watkins Harper

Welcome children of the Spring,
In your garbs of green and gold,
Lifting up your sun-crowned heads
On the verdant plain and wold...
...Dewdrops and the morning sun,
Weave your garments fair and bright,
And we welcome you to-day
As the children of the light.







*Chil Cook-off
to
Raise the Roof*







And the winners are....