

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

April showers bring May flowers, but they also will bring more leaks in our flat roof if we don't get the membrane replaced before the spring rains begin. Luckily, we have enough money in our Church contingency fund to get the work done and prevent the water leaking through the hallway and sanctuary ceilings. We still need everyone's help to pay bill!

Every member and friend of the Congregation received a letter recently asking for your help with our Rai\$e the Roof Campaign. A gift of any amount, or a pledge to give a certain amount over the next 2-3 years, will help get us to our goal of raising \$15,000 to pay for the new roof. We need to complete the campaign by March 31 – Easter Sunday– when we plan to celebrate our new roof.

If you have already made a gift to the Rai\$e the Roof Campaign, thank you. If not, please send a check, payable to UUCRV and send it to P.O. Box 256, Rockton, Illinois 61072, or go to our website, www.uucrv.org, and clicking on the “Donate” button in the lower left corner of the home page. Please indicate that the gift is for the “Rai\$e the Roof” campaign.

Come April we can welcome the April Showers
Though April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May,
So if it's raining have no regrets,
Because it isn't raining rain you know, it's raining violets.
And where you see clouds upon the hills,
You soon will see crowds of daffodils,
So, keep on looking for a bluebird,
And listening for his song,
Whenever April showers come along.

Lyrics by Al Jolson

And a musical interlude of the “April Showers” from the “Al Jolson Story”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TdqFQQu6Gw>

Jerry Paulson



CHILI COOKOFF PARTY AND ROOF CAMPAIGN KICKOFF -SATURDAY, MARCH 2 NOON TO 2 P.M.

This is a UUCRV event that warms the tastebuds rather than the soul. Members will face off with their best chili recipes in the hope of winning votes and “fabulous prizes” for their entries.

In addition to the chili garnishes of cheeses, sour cream, peppers (just in case the offerings aren't hot enough), corn bread and desserts will round out the meal.

You will have the chance to sample all the chili entries and to vote for your favorites as well as contributing to the Rai\$e the Roof campaign. Ballot box stuffing is allowed. Donations to pay for the cost of the new roof will be welcomed as we kickoff our capital campaign.



MARLENE'S MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

After a well-deserved staycation break, Marlene's Musings will return in April. We are glad she paused to take care of herself and also to enrich her understanding of the Israel/Palestine crisis from a "Peacebuilding" workshop she participated in while on vacation. Details about this workshop are in the description of her March 10 sermon in the newsletter.

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.

MARCH 9 & 12 *ONE HUNDRED DAYS WITH TATA*

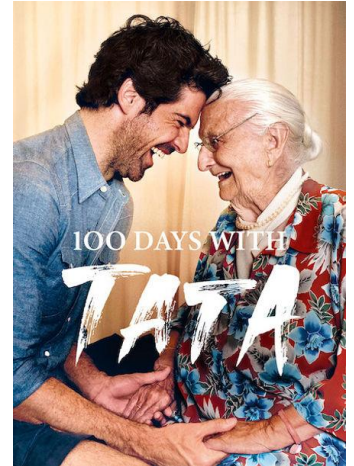
Four years ago, we went into lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid 19. The experience shifted our lives and culture. I refer to Covid times as "The Great Disorientation". How do we remember, mourn (both lives and social losses) and celebrate our surviving as well as resilience. Jodell Gabriel

Spanish actor Miguel Angel Muñoz, moves in with his beloved, 95-year-old relative Tata whose in-home caretakers have to quit because of the pandemic. So, not knowing how long COVID would last, Muñoz packs up his things and moves into her 35-square-meter apartment.

The days that follow are full of surprises, joy, fears, hopes and existential crises.

100 Days with Tata is a love letter to a unique and inspiring relationship between two people separated by a 60-year age difference. In his directorial debut, Muñoz has crafted a testament to the power of love, the difficulty of aging, the reality of death and the importance of family.

Barring any weather events, all movies will be in person. Notice of venue change to virtual will be posted in UUCRV media and emailed to our members and friends list the morning of.



THE TOUCHSTONES JOURNAL MARCH TOPIC IS TRANSFORMATION

The Touchstones Discussion Group meets on March 20 at the church. For more information, Connie Matusiak @ 608-361-9669. The Touchstones Journal is available to all members.

https://www.touchstonesproject.com/_files/ugd/552cc1_93595c7606f64d9aa92798ccdecf214b.pdf

SOUL MATTERS

Make a bit of room. Leave a little space. It is one of Life's favorite ways to make us into something new.

Watch out for all the heroic talk about striving and perfecting, struggle and control. Much of the time, transformation is a much subtler art. It's about stillness, listening and waiting to be led, not fighting with yourself and others to make sure you are in the lead.

In short, when it comes to transformation, the message of spirituality is "Be careful with what you've been taught and told about transformation because much of it takes us in exactly the wrong direction." Our challenge as communities of transformation is to remind each other to take those different tacks. Such as:

It's about breathing rather than becoming better.

It's about patience not perfection

It's about depth not dominance.

It's about attention not improvement.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGxRxBHTWfKtsQpgSKnPSPsLqCW?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

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.

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES



MARCH 3 WOMEN'S VOICES LAY LEADERS: DONNA BEAUMONT AND NINA HERZER

March is Women's History Month. This year's theme as designated by the National Women's History Alliance is "Women who advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion." Women's Voices will take us through the four waves of feminism and introduce us to brave and outspoken women who have advanced the cause of social justice, affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

SUNDAY MARCH 10 "THE IMPOSSIBILITY AND NECESSITY OF PEACE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE" REV. DR. MARLENE WALKER

One of the things I did while on vacation last month was to take a five-week course on Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine taught by a diverse faculty from Hartford University. It had a profound effect on me and helped me be ready to talk about what is happening in the Holy Land. It's complex and deep and also necessary to address.

MARCH 17 – SAINT PATRICK LAY LEADER: DENNY BRODERICK

A musical medley celebrating St. Patrick and other things Irish. Some factual, some blarney. Determining which is which will be up to the congregation. And hopefully a involve some spirited Irish style discussions during and after the service. Looking for some volunteers to be bouncers if verbal exchanges become to lively.

MARCH 24 – VERNAL EQUINOX LAY LEADER: CAROL KLAGER

The word equinox literally means 'equal night'. It is a point in our Earth's revolution when the sun's rays cross directly over the Earth's equator and provides nearly equal periods of day and night in both hemispheres. During this time we are reminded to celebrate balance in our lives. The world around us can be stressful to our body, mind and spirit. A way to regain that balance is to breathe deeply and take in the rebirth that comes with Spring's awakening.



SUNDAY MARCH 31 "AND WE RISE" REV. DR. MARLENE WALKER

On this Easter Sunday we will explore what resurrection and to rise means from a UU perspective. We will also be celebrating the end of the "Rai\$e The Roof Campaign" to raise a new roof on our budling. And. There will be an Easter brunch following the service. Come ready to celebrate new things!

GREET OR TREAT?

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.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March is Women's History Month , a time to reflect on the incredible and often overlooked contributions women have made throughout history. Many Unitarian Universalist women have not only shaped and led the UU faith, but they've also left an undeniable impact on history in general. Read about ten influential women who changed the world for the better: https://www.uua.org/pressroom/stories/celebrating-u-u-women-history					1	2
3 *** 10:30 am Worship: Women's Voices Lay Leaders: Donna Beaumont & Nina Herzer	4	5 1:00-3:00 pm Faith Formation Committee Zoom Meeting	6	7 2:00-3:00 pm Finance Committee Zoom meeting	8 2-4 pm Board Zoom Meeting	9
10 *** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS 10:30 am Worship: The Impossibility and Necessity of Peace in Israel/Palestine Rev. Marlene Walker	11	12 <i>Nina Herzer's birthday</i>	13 <i>Carol Klager's birthday</i>	14 2-3:30 pm Building Task Force meeting	15	16
17 *** 10:30 am Worship: St. Patrick Lay Leader: Denny Broderick	18	19 <i>Ray Herzer's birthday</i>	20 10:30 am Touchstones Small Group Discussion	21 <i>Jodell Gabriel's birthday</i>	22 Please send in dates and articles for the April Newsletter!	23
24 *** 10:30 am Worship: Vernal Equinox Lay Leader: Carol Klager	25	26 <i>Marlene Walker's birthday</i>	27	28	29	30
31 *** 10:30 am Worship: And We Rise Rev. Marlene Walker	Come with me into the woods. Where spring is advancing, as it does, no matter what, not being singular or particular, but one of the forever gifts, and certainly visible. ~ Mary Oliver					

*** 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)

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2022-2023 OFFICERS

President	Jerry Paulson	815-222-4414
Vice-President	Cher Zimmerman	608-365-2343
Secretary	Denny Broderick	
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

PRAYER FROM BRAVER/WISER

Prayer

Spirit of Understanding, kindle the flames of our curiosity, opening our hearts and minds to the untold stories that ground us and shape this faith. Show us the depth and breadth of our spiritual roots. Give us the wisdom to value these stories for the gifts they are.

Rev. Connie Simon (she/her) serves as Interim Minister of the UU Church of Davis in Davis, California.



The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, then having the two as close together as possible.

— George Burns —

AZ QUOTES

Thanks to Denny Broderick for suggesting this quote.

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (OR CO-CHAIRS)

Finance: Cher Zimmerman

Faith Formations: Collaborative

Membership: Diana Kevari

Building & Grounds: Denny Broderick & Brock Heckel

Technology Advancements: Denny Broderick

Music: Wendy Edgington, Denny Broderick & Amy Phelps

TASK GROUPS

Building Task Force: Cher Zimmerman

Spruce up: Paulette Lucas

Newsletter: Editor Jodell Gabriel; Calendar Susan Busker



A 501(c)(3) organization

January 29, 2024

Dear Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley Members,

Your charitable donation of \$175.00 dated January 2, 2024 is appreciated.

Thank you for having such confidence in the mission of Caritas and the manner in which that mission is met.

Caritas accomplished much in 2023.

We served 1,976 unduplicated households (1,548 served in 2022, a 27.6% increase) meeting the needs of 4,843 people (3,936 served in 2022, a 23% increase). This is a bittersweet record for Caritas. It is good that we have the ability to meet needs. Sad that so many are in need.

We needed to create new food donation relationships due to a significant decline in food donations from traditional sources. We have been successful in developing those new sources.

Challenges do come with answers. Your support allows us to continue to serve our community.

This letter is your official 2024 tax receipt and certifies that no goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation. Please retain this letter for your records.

With profound gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max P. Dodson'.

Max P. Dodson

Executive Director