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Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua Newsletter

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3024 Cooley Road | Canandaigua, NY 14424 | 585-396-1370 | <http://canandaiguauu.org>

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua  
October 2017---**

**What Does It Mean to be a Community of Courage?**

October 1: Rita Capezzi  
"Moving In, Moving Out"

October 8: Rev. Lynn Acquafondata  
"Surrendering to the Shadow"

October 15: Rev. Richard Gilbert  
"Kneeling, Knowing, and Doing: Race Matters  
among U(U)S"

October 22: Rev. Joel Miller  
"Touchstones"

October 29: Rev. Libby Moore  
"Wake Up, Show Up, Listen Up"

**Coming up in November:  
What does it mean to be a community of  
Abundance?**

November 1, 2017: Rita Capezzi  
"Cloud of Witnesses"  
A Mutli-Generational Remembrance Service

## ❖ Courage ❖



Rita Capezzi, Interim  
Intern Minister

*“Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are princesses who are only waiting to see us act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its deepest essence, something helpless that wants our love.” –Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet*

When I was five years old, I learned to swim. I learned because I had to. My father tossed me into the deep end. He was right there, making sure I didn’t drown, but he had a strong conviction that life is harsh and the sooner you learned that lesson, the better off you’d be. Sink or swim, even as a child. Needless to say, I swam.

On my part, there wasn’t much of courage in the event. There was no specific consciousness of what I was doing. Courage requires knowing what you are doing, doing something especially when you are reluctant or fearful. Perhaps there was courage for my father in the act. Certainly, there was faith – in himself and in me – and not a little drama.

But I have acted courageously, though at the time it felt more fool-hardy than gratifying. Each time, I had to speak an unpopular position in a hostile crowd. I didn’t like doing it, and I still don’t look forward to it. The hot flush all over my skin, face beet red, flop sweat running down my armpits and back. And my voice – higher, sharper, and shakier than normal, like someone else is doing the talking.

One time, I spoke at a neighborhood meeting on behalf of an agency serving the needs of former drug addicts. The agency had bought a building on the edge of my affluent city neighborhood, for their main offices and to build apartments as a way to secure a steady income stream. No clients would be served at this office, but the neighbors were vehemently against it. The flush, the beet red, the sweat, and shaky voice – they all made their appearance. I was booed. When I went out to my car, there was a ticket on it. It was parked illegally, but so were all the other cars in the row. No tickets there. A neighbor had identified my ride to an off-duty police officer also attending the meeting. Ultimately, the neighborhood association couldn’t stop the building purchase.

Another time, I spoke out at a meeting held by the president of the college I worked at, a meeting where he was defending a decision to raise the amount of our individual health care costs by the same amount for those

## ***Interim Minister's Message cont'd***



making \$31,000 as those making over \$60,000 a year. This was a plan that the Faculty Senate supported. All the physical signs of fear and stress made their appearance. And still I spoke. I pointed out the proportionality problem--\$2000 a year is a lot more for those making \$31,000 than those making over \$60,000. I recalled our requirement to teach students ethics and justice, and the gap with this new cost. I revealed my own salary in public, a cardinal sin in most professions. My faculty colleagues leaned away when I sat back down. The administrative assistants, carpenters, and painters thanked me for days after.

Courage takes a toll, I think. Neither of these events was free of consequences and estrangement from neighbors and friends. And yet in the moment there seems to be nothing else to do. We know what is right, and we know what is required. The real question, it seems to me, is how often do we put ourselves in the position to have to do the right thing? Do we avoid those situations when we will be called to act courageously? To call out racism? To call out injustice? To defend a person with less status, less privilege?

Yet every day, we act courageously. We get out of bed and go to work at thankless jobs, because we must. We resist the drink or the drug, because we must. We cultivate beauty in gardens, pictures, and words in the face of political vitriol, because the creation of beauty is the only remedy to evil. Every day, you act with courage. And so, go ahead, jump into the deep end of the pool. Stand for justice and right, even if you turn beet red, even if your voice shakes.

Very much looking forward to seeing you at church!



Interim Intern Minister Rita Capezzi is available for regular pastoral care. You can reach her by email [capezzir@gmail.com](mailto:capezzir@gmail.com) and phone at 716-903-7935 (be sure to leave a message if she doesn't pick up). She holds hours at the church on the following days and also by appointment:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays: 3:00-5:00 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays: 3:30-5:30pm

Rita will make an announcement whenever her schedule changes for travel or other reasons.

## ***Pastoral Care***

## ***Soul Matters Looks at Courage***



We are a Soul Matters congregation, and we use the monthly theme in small group ministry and in sermons. More than a third of our congregation is entering a deeper spiritual relationship with the monthly theme using the Soul Matters materials individually and in groups. There are some hard copies of the October packet on the table near the sanctuary entrance. Email Rita Capezzi to receive a copy electronically if you are not already in a Soul Matters group ([capezzir@gmail.com](mailto:capezzir@gmail.com)).

### **Soul Matters Groups Meeting Monthly**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays,**

7:00-8:30 pm at 3024 Cooley Road,  
facilitated by Rita Capezzi

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays,**

7:00-8:30 pm in Canandaigua,  
facilitated by Kerry Graff

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays**

4:00-5:30 pm at 3024 Cooley Road,  
facilitated by Rita Capezzi

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays**

7:00-8:30 pm in Canandaigua,  
facilitated by Bob Gordon and Lynn Overgaard

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays,**

10:30 am-12:30 pm in Canandaigua,  
facilitated by Nancy Reed at Ferris Hills  
(optional potluck on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays at same location)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays,**

4:00-6:00 (with potluck) in Livonia,  
facilitated by Mary Drake

Please contact Rita by phone (716-903-7935) or email ([capezzir@gmail.com](mailto:capezzir@gmail.com)) if you would like to join a Soul Matters small group.



## ***Hospitality Schedule***



UCC groups and individuals are what keep Sunday Hospitality so inviting. During the next four months several Soul Matters groups have committed to sponsoring a Sunday as follows.

October	Lynn Overgaard & Bob Gordon's SM
November	Rita Capezzi's SM Groups
December	Nancy Reed's SM
January	Kerry Graff's SM

If you would also like to sponsor a Sunday look for the sign-up sheet in the kitchen area and/or mention your interest to Jeannie Smith. You can sponsor as individuals or with your Ministry Group, everyone is welcome.

. . . from Jeannie Smith  
Hospitality Ministry



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck

**October 8, 2017**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, following the service, UUs can enjoy delicious food and great conversation. Bring one of your favorite dishes to share.

*(Bring canned goods for Gleaners too!)*

## Homecoming



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua is back home on Cooley Road! Doesn't our newly renovated church look great!!!

And the improvements aren't limited to what you can see. There have been many upgrades to the building that aren't visible! We have a new septic alarm float, a swale channeling water away from the building, a new dehumidifier and rerouting of air circulation in the basement. The heat-sucking duct work in the ceiling has been removed and a blanket of insulation has been blown in. Don't forget the new energy efficient windows that have been installed...as well as up-to-date smoke detectors. And, as predicted, work on the building has revealed more projects that need to be tackled. Take a look at the south side of the building!

As I reflect on the project so far, there is something even more impressive than the renovations to the building. And that is the way that people, both members and friends, pitched in to make these changes happen. Just think about the effort that went into making this project a success...So whether you worked on plans for a building addition, shared improvement ideas at the Charrette held almost two years ago, joined a building project committee and researched lighting, kitchen appliances, building codes, flooring options, paint colors, etc., waited at this deserted church for deliveries or workmen, served as a gofer to fetch materials for the contractors, joined the swale-digging team, the garden crew, the investigators of mysteries like vermin entry points and reasons for leaks in the stairwell, or if you helped move everything that was upstairs in June to the basement or to the Congregational Church and moved everything back to Cooley Road last weekend, babysat giant Christmas cactus plants, organized kitchen stuff, donated or created objects d'art, or made a contribution to the Building Project Fund...this project could not have been done without your involvement in this incredible team. Thank you all!!

All that having been said, there are two people who stepped forward and did a tremendous amount of vital work during the project. Both Lynn Cronise and Scoby Beer were pivotal in dealing with contractors, coordinating our efforts, and bringing our ideas to fruition. Thank you Lynn! Thank you Scoby!



## **Homecoming Cont'd**

## **Discernment Workshop September 17th**



The hope is that we can ride this wave of teamwork and sustain this level of energy in order to strengthen our church ministries as we strive to make a difference in the world.

... from Pat Mehls, President  
UUCC Board of Trustees



Reverend Evin, our consultant on the Congregational Life Staff of the Central East Regional Office, was at UUCC on September 17th to preach and to lead a workshop as part of our discernment process as we prepare to hire a part-time minister for the 2018-2019 church year. They divided congregants into small groups in order to discuss several revealing questions. The first two asked us, based on our experience at UUCC, to share what specifically we would like a new minister to do and what we would definitely not like to have them do. Lively group discussions followed, with notes taken in each group.

Next Reverend Evin listed the duties of a full time minister:

- Administration
- Adult Faith Development
- Children/Youth Programs
- Pastoral Care
- Worship
- Leadership
- Justice
- Outreach/Interfaith

With the understanding that we are looking for a 1/3rd time minister (60 hours per month) and that sermons require approximately 20 hours to prepare, groups were asked to decide which of these tasks we would like a minister to be responsible for, which the congregants can handle themselves, and which tasks we would be willing to share with the minister.

It was quickly evident that UUCC could benefit from a bigger fraction of professional ministerial service. That will be an issue to consider during the canvass.

Notes taken by the small groups will provide valuable data as the Ministerial Search Committee does its work. If you were not able to attend and would like to share your thoughts, look for a list of Ministerial Search Committee members coming out in October.



## Nametags



## Designated Offerings 2016-2017



## Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) Update



I am collecting names of individuals who would like blue church nametags. Please send me your name the way you would like it to appear on the name tag.

We will have the nametags manufactured and they will be at church.

You can e-mail me: [rickyurick@gmail.com](mailto:rickyurick@gmail.com)

... from Rick Yurick  
Membership Ministry



September	Doctors Without Borders	\$210
October	Unitarian Uni'list Serv Cm't (special) - Haiti Relief	\$227 \$375
November	WASL (We Are Seneca Lake)	\$187
December -	UUSC (Special) Standing Rock YUUrT	\$214 \$415
January -	Gleaners	\$80
February	UUSC	\$163
March -	Alternatives to Violence in Prisons)	\$160
April -	UUSC	\$176
May	LightHill Â Comfort Home	\$170
June	UUSC	\$184

... from Geof Gretton  
UUSC Treassurer



Republicans in Congress are starting to influence climate policy - in the right direction. In July, dozens of House Republicans joined Democrats to vote down an anti-climate amendment and sent a strong message that the military should prepare for and fight climate change.

There are now 58 members of the House BiPartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, including local legislators Tom Reed and Chris Collins.

Recently, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) called for a price on carbon as the best approach to dealing with global warming. Graham said he would take the idea to the White House and that he is working with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) on legislation.

## ***VCEI Update cont'd***

### ***Videos & YouTube***



Secretary of Defense James Mattis understands that the effects of a changing climate impact our security situation. He told the Senate Armed Services Committee, "I will ensure that the Department will be prepared to address the effects of a changing climate on our threat assessments, resources, and readiness."

... from Ellie Syverud  
Environment & Social Justice Ministry



During the church year Dan and his crew video tape UUCS sermons and post them on YouTube. Here is a list of sermons most recently posted. Just click on the web address to view

Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World)  
by Ellie Syverud  
July 16, 2017  
<https://youtu.be/goImOBZ80aA>

What can the General Assembly teach us about Proximity?  
by Rita Capezzi  
August 20, 2017  
<https://youtu.be/SNr9FAHLozc>

What General Assembly teaches us about Impact  
by Rita Capezzi  
August 27, 2017  
[https://youtu.be/\\_YuTZ2Bg\\_hw](https://youtu.be/_YuTZ2Bg_hw)

The Spiritual Side of the Beatles  
by Ken Hutton  
September 3, 2017  
<https://youtu.be/zYQZVSeLLtE> . . .

Waters That Bridge Us  
September 10, 2017, ,  
<https://youtu.be/vVXLmGt43Uc>

... from Dan Brigham







## **Be In The Know!**

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There are many ways to connect with UUCC to learn about our news and events:

**UUCC online:** Visit our website at [www.CanandaiguaUU.org](http://www.CanandaiguaUU.org)

**UUCC newsletter:** Send an email to [uucc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:uucc@rochester.rr.com) to be added to the mailing list, or read the newsletters online at <http://canandaiguauu.org/newsletter/>

**UUCC on Yahoo Groups:** Send an email to ([CanandaiguaUU@gmail.com](mailto:CanandaiguaUU@gmail.com)) and let us know you are interested in joining the group. You can also join by visiting [uucc\\_announcements\\_subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uucc_announcements_subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**UUCC on Facebook:** *Like* our page <http://www.facebook.com/canandaiguauu>



## **Contacts**

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### **The Chalice**

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