



the
chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua Newsletter

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

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua
February 2017--- On a Theme of Prophecy
Sermon Schedule**

February 5

Dorothy Hoskins, "My UUCC Identity: The Warmth of Community, the Fire of Commitment " Lay Speaker

February 12

Rita Capezzi, "How Do We Become Who We Are?"
Intern Minister

February 19

Rita Capezzi, "Unleashing Ourselves into the World"
Intern Minister

February 26

Rev. Joel Miller, "A River Runs Through Us"

Coming up on March 5, 2017

The monthly worship theme is "Risk"

March 5, Rita Capezzi
"What Is Worth the Risk?"

❖ On Identity ❖



Rita Capezzi, Intern Minister

I remember being an angst-y teenager in the late 1970s, irritatedly proclaiming to my father that I needed to “Find myself!” Just as irritated but with a touch of amusement as well, he said “Whadda ya mean? You’re right here!”

To my father, the question of my identity was no mystery at all. I was his child, a Capezzi. I was a young Italian-identified girl who needed to watch her mouth; mind her mother; stay away from boys, booze, and cigarettes (as well as pierced ears and make up); and do her work—by which he meant my schoolwork. It was really quite simple, and he never did understand what I was going on about.

And I think for my father, his identity was completely self-evident to him and everyone around him—he was a hard worker, a laborer, who judged everyone by how hard they worked and used no other criteria. He was Italian and working class, and proud of both. He was a husband and a father—our well-being was his primary concern. Everything else was subordinate to that significant responsibility. It is understandable to me now that he was perplexed with my searching and seeking ways—my father was always “right there,” his identity exactly what it seemed to be.

But the books I read and the people I spent my time with—teachers and other students from a wide variety of backgrounds—suggested that “identity” was something that I had the power to craft. I thought a lot about the role I wanted—and didn’t want—as a woman. I thought about ethnicity and how I had been received because of it. I thought about class and whether education would “move me up” in the world. I went about the work of naming myself as I journeyed through college and graduate school—dropping my working-class Pittsburgh accent, playing down the Italian-ness, defining myself as an intellectual and a teacher and a feminist.

What it took me long time to see—and something that I continue to work through—is that much of my identity is truly out of my hands, no matter how I define myself as an individual. My identity, all our identities, are composed in part by elements of what you might call our social locations. These are not roles that I play—like that of mother or companion or writer or Unitarian Universalist. Rather, they are markers by which others know and receive me. Some of those markers are white, cis-female, heterosexual, currently able-bodied, and middle class. These identity markers show up even when I don’t think it is obvious—in talk of having born children, of having a husband, of driving a Volvo. It’s not just about the way I look, but that counts, too.

Intern Minister's Message cont'd



Until recently, I didn't have to think very much about social location, precisely because I am a white-skinned person. People of color have to think about it all the time. So do transgender people. So do bisexual, gay, and lesbian people. So do people with disabilities of one kind or another. So do impoverished people. And why is this – because nearly everything about my social locations is culturally perceived as “normal” and thus powerful, even when I don't “feel” powerful as an individual.

This issue of social location and why it is important has been something vexing and troubling me ever since I began my seminary studies. The concept and its real effects produces an instructive awareness about my current circumstances, and also causes me to reflect on the shape of my past – what I did and who I associated with as I set out on that journey to “find myself.” And how that journey makes me more or less open to people from whom I am “different.” What have I done in the past that makes me receptive to people whose social locations are different from mine? What makes me less receptive? What can I do to widen my circle of sympathy, acceptance, and understanding?

We begin our exploration of this theme with Dorothy Hoskins and her sermon on her UUC identity. Her service will lead us into the Congregational Meeting on February 12, where you will vote on the partnership with First Unitarian Rochester. On February 12, I will explore the theme more fully in the vein I outlined above – what goes into making us who we are. I'll follow up on February 19 with a call to the importance of showing as ourselves in a world where our presence and our work matters. And on February 26, we are fortunate again to have Rev. Joel Miller preaching on how we UUs, especially those of us with powerful social locations can partner with other groups around common values.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in church

RitaC



Sunday Potluck



2nd Sunday Potluck

February 12 2017

Every 2nd 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!)

From the Board



Hi all, we have just had today (Jan. 29th) a session led by Rev. Evin Carvil-Ziemer, our District Consultant on What's Next? for UUCC. This workshop focused on how our individual stories are brought into UUCC and both shape, and are shaped by, others here. The key process was using pairs and quartets of participants for conversation to find the underlying themes that resonate with us about UUCC's purpose and what we have been proud of over the years. From there we moved into an exercise of looking 5 years ahead to see what we would expect UUCC to be like if we concentrated on the success of the themes that we converge on. Rita Capezzi, in her role as our interim intern, has notes from the workshop. She will put those into a form that can help us with discussions of our future path.

As you know, we have a congregational meeting and a vote on February 12 at UUCC after the potluck. The main business of the meeting is to recap what the partnership agreement with First U was, and where we are with it now (basically, it no longer applies as the ministers in the partnership agreement now longer serve the churches). We'll begin to plan a process for getting the kind of relationships with other local congregations, and eventually the desired ministerial services, that UUCC members want. We will vote to formally dissolve the current partnership as it is no longer in effect. We will *not* vote on Feb. 12 regarding whether we will go into search for another part-time minister, a consulting minister, or other types of ministerial services for two reasons:

- we have interim intern ministry provided by Rita Capezzi under the supervision of senior interim minister Joel Miller until June 2018
- we need to talk with other congregations and ourselves about what can best serve all of our congregations locally

The Board of Trustees will be meeting Wed. Feb. 1 to develop the content of the Feb. 12 congregational meeting. We will use the congregational meeting to help us determine what questions the congregation has that we need to work on in the next months.

Meanwhile, we are enjoying our nice new windows and continuing meetings about the kitchen, floors, entryway, ceiling and lighting. We will distribute more information and propose next steps in February.

... Regards, Dorothy



Soul Matters



Soul Matters is a small group ministry curriculum inviting participants into a deeper and more personal exploration of the monthly worship themes. Because Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition which emphasizes connection, the aim of the small groups is to enable people to listen to their deepest selves, to open to life's gifts, and to serve needs greater than our own. Soul Matters groups create space in which people can tell their stories and be heard and know themselves better, where people can listen deeply and know better the lives and feelings of their companions. Soul Matters brings participants more clearly and more lovingly into a sense of self, both to themselves and to others. In times of social and cultural crisis, small group ministry reminds us, in the words of **Parker Palmer, that:**

Afraid that our inner light will be extinguished or our inner darkness exposed, we hide our true identities from each other. In the process, we become separated from our own souls. We end up living divided lives, so far removed from the truth we hold within that we cannot know the 'integrity that comes from being what you are.'

And Soul Matters reminds us that we, our full selves, are needed in and by the world. At Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua, we aspire to processes that transform us into the humans we want to be, working in the world on what needs to be done in order for life to be good and just for all.

Several groups are meeting in town and in neighboring communities. Several people have expressed interest in attending a group but have not found one of the established groups convenient. Don't worry, I am still collecting names. Groups can be organized to accommodate families with children. Seems like we have a need to expand the program. If you are interested in learning more about Soul Matters or in joining a group, please contact Interim Intern Minister Rita Capezzi by email (capezzir@gmail.com) or after Sunday



Thought for Today



One must walk the path of LOVE and PEACE to be one with it-----To share this----- is to be the higher of one's self.

Randy Pawley



Videos & YouTube



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

December 11, 2016.

Rev. Joel Miller's sermon, "You Are Present"

<https://youtu.be/mX5uNI84pFU>

January 15, 2017.

Dick Gilbert's sermon "What Would Martin Do?"

<https://youtu.be/OdQKji3E9BA>



Be In The Know!

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

UUCC online: Visit our website at www.CanandaiguaUU.org

UUCC newsletter: Send an email to 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) and let us know you are interested in joining the group. You can also join by visiting uucc_announcements_subscribe@yahoo.com

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

UUCC Twitter
[@CanandaiguaUU](https://twitter.com/CanandaiguaUU)

UUCC Google+
<https://plus.google.com/115313131260455061567?prsrc=5>



Contacts

Minister:

Rita Capezzi 716.903.7935
Interim Intern Minister
capezzir@gmail.com

Director of Music

Bill Mehls 585.396.1032
mehlsfamily@aol.com

Board President

Dorothy Hoskins 585.634.5349
dorothy.hoskins@gmail.com

Board Vice President

Pat Mehls 585.472.9094
mehlsfamily@aol.com

Lay Worship:

Kathy Keller 315.548.9059
wkemyo@zoom-dsl.com

Religious Education

Mary Beth Gamba 315.595.8899

The Chalice

Judy Cadle 315.719.4099
Send articles to this address only.
4chalice@gmail.com

**Unitarian Universalist of Canandaigua
The Chalice
February, 2017**

