

NEWS & VIEWS

June 2017

Unitarian
Universalist
Church
of Rutland



President's Letter

Please donate to the Chair Fund! The anonymous donor who got us off our duffs and onto new chairs is paying half of the \$4,647 cost and, if necessary, will loan us the other half. We have begun a campaign to raise half the cost, namely \$2,323.50, so we can avoid having to pay interest on a loan for that amount. Especially if you have been sitting in the old upholstered pews, your posterior will thank you for your donation, and so will posterity.

I'm happy, and surprised, to report that almost all the old upholstered pews have found new homes. The Loneliness Ministries took most of them and several people took one or two. Many thanks to Bill Harm for leading a crew that carried the pews out of the Sanctuary and for using his truck to drive them to storage. Thanks also to Kevin Kiefaber for giving up his lunch hour to help.

Now, from the local to the national: We can vote in this June's election of the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of the U.S.A. ("UUA") – and we should vote if we think one candidate is superior. Once you've read this, please tell me if you have a preference and want to participate.

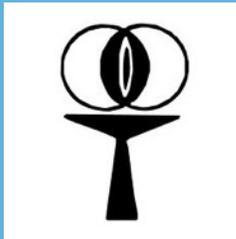
This election is particularly important, given the unprecedented resignation of UUA President Morales and the temporary tri-presidency that followed, trying to improve the UUA's treatment

of minority job applicants for important positions. All three candidates addressed the New England Regional Meeting that Rev. Barbara and I attended in April. We concluded that any of the three probably would do a good job, though we did have personal favorites.

Information about the three candidates is on the Sanctuary shelf next to the coffee service. More can be found at the candidates' websites.

Our church is entitled to two votes for President at the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans on 21-25 June. We can vote electronically now. Consequently, at their May meeting, our Trustees decided to publicize the election and see if our members had a preference among the three candidates. If we do, the Trustees will choose two delegates at our June 12th meeting. The church will pay the delegates' \$165 registration fees if they want to participate in General Assembly remotely, for example, by listening to proceedings (including the Ware Lecture) online. So, before June 12th, please tell me (1) if you have a preference among the three candidates, (2) if you would like to be one of our two delegates, and (3) if so, whether you would like not only to vote but also to participate remotely in General Assembly. If you would like attend in New Orleans in person, the church will pay your registration and perhaps more.

-Herb Ogden



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Rutland**

775-0850

<http://rutlanduu.org>
uuvt@myfairpoint.net

Minister:

Rev. Barbara Threet

President:

Herb Ogden 293-2510

Vice President:

Kapi Reith 773-9181

Moderator/Secretary:

Kevin Kiefaber 779-3637

Treasurer:

Diane Sander 459-2919

Past President:

Theresa Krieger 683-7794

Trustees:

Connie Green 747-1979

Rebecca Mattis 773-3535

Diana Hayes 855-8588

Church Secretary:

Tejal Dholakia

Available Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday from 10:30-1pm

**“All that
biology tells us
about the
nature of God
is that He has
an inordinate
fondness for
beetles.”
-J.B.S. Halford**

UUCR Call to Action

by your editor, Bela Francoeur-Schug

There is an absolutely overwhelming amount of news from Washington these days, and if you're like most people in this liberal religious faith, you're bound and determined to make your voice count in DC. Years ago, at a town meeting with Liz Daley Jeffords, she impressed upon us the impact of reaching out to your members of Congress, especially in writing, which has much more influence than phone calls, she told us.

To those who still write letters to DC the old fashioned way, I salute you! For those of us struggling to find the time, I want to teach you a new way: use ResistBot! Using your cellular phone, text "resist" to the number 50409. ResistBot will ask your name and your ZIP code, which it uses to identify your representatives and senators. Then it will ask you to compose your letter one sentence at a time. Don't worry, you will have a chance to edit too! Once you have your content complete, it generates properly formatted letters, which are then sent via FAX to your congresspeople in DC. If you have a "smart phone", you can even send a signature to include on your letters.

After that, any time you are ready to speak up, just text "resist" and ResistBot is ready to be your virtual secretary. You may be searching for the right words to express your outrage, of course, but apart from that, it only takes a few minutes to do your civic duty. I have been using ResistBot since March, and have received responses from my congresspeople. This application was created by Jason Putorti and Eric Ries in direct response to the results of the 2016 election, in order to encourage citizen participation in challenging the Trumpian agenda.



A member of the very fancy Phengodidae family, whose larvae are glowworms.

From Rev. Barbara's Desk....

“Sumer is icumen in, Lhude sing cucu”. So begins a mid-13th century song to celebrate this time of year.

Our hymnal celebrates the coming of summer with, “The sweet June days are come again; once more the glad earth yields/its golden wealth of rip’ning grain and breath of clover fields.”

It is that time of year, finally. Warmer days, longer evenings and earlier mornings, greener hills, and flowers abundant. It may mean vacations or visits or more time with family. For most UU churches, June is a time to reflect on the past year, plan for the next, and shift into summer mode, with fewer committee meetings, and worship services that are usually less formal or less frequent.

For me, this has been a year of settling in and learning – recognizing who you all are and learning some of your stories, discovering what the rhythm of this church is, figuring out where things are and who holds what bits of information or history. I know several routes to Rutland now, and where at least some of the towns in the area are located. One of the pleasures of this year has been sitting in as an ex officio member on so many committees, which have allowed me to better understand how UUCR works as well as getting to know many of you better. As I look back, a lot of what I’ve learned has happened over food, at Circle Suppers or the Indian feast, during coffee hour conversations or over

an informal meal. I am deeply appreciative of the many ways you’ve welcomed me to UUCR, and impressed by the life and diversity of this church: you are a truly warm and wonderful congregation, and I am delighted to be here!

And now we go our separate ways for a few months. I will be off adventuring with one of my daughters and her two sons for four weeks: some of the proceeds from selling my house in the Boston area a year ago have allowed me to take us for a camping trip in the southern part of Africa. Yes, real camping, as in setting up our own tents, cooking our own meals and washing our own laundry, along with a few other families on a small, low-budget families-only tour from Windhoek, Namibia to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Others of us will nourish gardens or relationships, or take long bike rides, visit family, or travel to Montpelier or Mumbai. Some of us will learn a new skill, practice taking naps, ponder coming changes in life, or read a book that will affect how we see the world. For some of us, this summer will hold unexpected joy or discovery, and for others, struggle or even sadness. For many of us, all of these and more will appear, often unexpectedly. All of us will bring something new back to our congregation next fall – and



to our congregation next fall – and all of our experiences will matter to all of us, because we matter to each other.

We'll hold our annual Flower Communion at the last service of this church year, on June 11th, and we'll share memories of some of the important moments of our church life this year. We'll end the year with an ice cream social after service. And when we gather on September 10th, we'll bring a bit of water or a stone along with memories of what we've discovered this summer, whether in our own back yard or far away.

Words from our hymnal:

Vernal clouds have turned the star wheel,
summer is upon us.

Gliding are the hawks, hovering above the
hot and yellow hillside.

Vernal clouds have turned the star wheel,
summer is upon us.

Crickets in the night, chirping in our ears
the sound of moonlit music.

Vernal clouds have turned the star wheel,
summer is upon us.



May the turning of the star wheel be for you a time of discovery and renewal, and may the warmth and love of this community be with you through the summer, and as we gather again next September.

Shalom and Salaam,
Rev. Barbara



Life cycle of the ladybug, all contained in a summer: adults (previous page) seek out a place with an abundant source of their favorite foods (aphids, mealybugs or scale), and lay eggs (top). They hatch into larvae that have been described as “the insect equivalent of a crocodile”, with the upside being that they eat up to 25 aphids per day. Then they go into the pupa stage (right) to transform into the adult beetle form. Medieval gardeners considered the beetle to be sent from the Virgin Mary to improve their crops, which is how they got the nickname “ladybug”.

Announcements

CALLING ALL UU FAMILIES!

All current and past UU families are welcome to come to our last event of the 2016-2017 year. On June 4th, starting at 10:30am, we will be hosting "Ice Cream Sunday" and also doing video interviews with the kids about their experiences in RE. We hope many of you can make it! Who doesn't want ice-cream for breakfast? If you think your child or children will be coming, it would be helpful to let me know so we have enough ice cream. Thanks!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On June 11th, Membership will provide ice cream sundaes with all the fixings at coffee hour. It's a way of thanking everyone who helped make coffee hour work well this past year and to enjoy some camaraderie.

SPRING GARDENING AT THE UU

Cathy Thomas, MaryAnne Reis and Ruth Gibbud have begun tackling the "face" of our church, the gardens in front of the building. We plan to remove the bed near the parking lot, turning it into grass but keeping the slight slope to prevent walk-through. We will prune the lilac, after blooming, to ease the pathway to the parking lot. We are working on getting shade plants for the wayside pulpit area. We welcome any ideas or physical assistance over the next weeks as well as



Head of a beetle. Photo by Susan Margolis, a science teacher in Danbury, Vermont.

possible help in setting up a watering schedule. Talk to Cathy or any of us.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS IN NEED

The best gift you can give someone is your time and warm thoughts! The Pastoral Care Committee gives you a great opportunity to visit, organize meals/assistance for our community members in need. Please let us know if we can assist you, or if you would be able to help meet particular needs such as transportation, meals, or visits. Please think about joining the Pastoral Care Committee or help us to visit home bound members and friends. For more information call Marsha Roy at [\(802\) 773-9014](tel:8027739014). Committee members are Connie Green, Marsha Roy, Diana Hayes, Sara Neller, and Yvonne Brunot. Meetings are also attended by Rev. Barbara.

ABOUT THE PHOTOS... In this issue, we celebrate the web of life, via Coleoptera (beetles!) the most abundant order of the class Insecta. It's summer now, the time when bugs rule, after all. Photos are borrowed liberally from the WorldWide Web, with credits maintained as available. We thank their creators for lending their beauty and visual concept of his photos to our humble newsletter.

June Birthdays

3rd: John Suddarth

6th: Erin Piotrowski

15th: Becky Eno

19th: Cathy Archer

**Best wishes to you...
and all other June Birthdays!**

Half-Plate Donations

June 4th: Project Vision

June 11th: Reserve for Ministry

Who are the People in Your (UUCR) Neighborhood? from the Church Change Task Force

by Lindra Moerdyk

The Finance Committee

I recently met with Church treasurer Diane Sander to discuss the range of activities which fall to the Finance Committee. Both Diane and Lindra serve on the Church Change Task Force, and their meeting was part of a project to become more familiar with the wide scope of committee work and other activities that support our church functions.

Asked about the tasks of the Finance Committee, Diane's response was almost overwhelming. It is a tribute to her ability to work with others who assist her that so much is accomplished. They include the Canvass Committee, Fund Raising, our administrator Tejal, and those who help count the plate donations on Sunday morning. Diane's tasks include devising and maintaining a system of financial records, depositing incoming funds, paying the bills, tracking donations, writing an annual budget, working with the Board and other committees to maintain our financial health, tax reporting, insurance reporting, providing financial information for various needs, determining the annual certification count for our donation to the UUA, and working with Tejal who assumes part of the financial duties and provides a system of internal control (the checks and balances of the financial world).

Diane is in awe of the energy the Canvass Committee and Fund Raising bring to our congregation. Her work also inspires awe! She



would like to find time to teach others to do part of this work. She feels that while she has a good organizing system, she needs to translate this to others so that a successor might readily be named when she chooses to move on. At present, she would appreciate professional help with the financial books and tax filings. And it would be helpful if our computer had scanning ability so she could easily transmit information to others.

Another need, shared by many other committees, is additional, accessible, secure storage place for church records and information. It would be a challenge for someone to determine how this might be possible in our building. And we have need for someone to periodically determine what should be saved and what culled from this space.

Besides our financial well-being, Diane shares her skills with several other UU committees as well as our Board. Her many contributions are invaluable, and deserve our humble, huge thanks.



UU board Meeting Minutes April 10, 2017

Board Members Present: Theresa Krieger, Rebecca Mattis, Herb Ogden, Kapi Reith, Diane Sander, Kevin Kiefaber, Rev. Barbara Threet
Committee on Ministry Liaison: Ruth Gibbud
Also Present: Sara Meling, Tim Abraham
Board Members Absent: Diana Hayes, Connie Green

Treasurer's Report:

Coffee House concerts are doing well and have brought in \$2800. The Annual Auction brought in \$5600. Diane outlined our options to for repaying our loan: We can either continue with our current payment of \$6900 for fewer years or pay \$4400 if we adjust to payments over the original time frame. Decided to go with the lower payment over more years. Discussion of proposed budget for next year: Motion Kapi Reith/Rebecca Mattis to present and recommend the budget proposal that increases ministry to 3/8ths time next year. Passed unanimously. Budget adjustments are coming. Diane will try to send out budget in time for notice of the meeting which is due 4/23.

President's Report:

No resignations or appointments. Discussed the upcoming New England Regional and Northern New England District meeting.

Minister's Comments:

Rev. Barbara gave some background and updates about the controversy over UUA hiring practices and the recent resignation of Rev. Peter Morales as UUA president.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Kitchen stove - Sara Meling is writing up instructions for the ovens. They work. Exhaust Fan - No update. Lighting - Herb briefly outlined the options as reported by JP Cass. JP has been researching lighting that would be easier to maintain, closer to the historically correct original lighting and aesthetically pleasing. Possibilities include a central chandelier for about \$5000, Sconces for about \$9000 and/or Pendant fixtures for about \$4000-\$6000. Herb will email this information to the trustees and put this on the agenda for May. Herb will email Tejal to get Ivan a key.

Old Business:

Calendar: No update

Chairs: Motion by Kapi Reith/Rebecca Mattis to authorize Herb to accept the quote we've received and order 80 chairs. Trustees discussed. Motion Diane Sander/Rebecca Mattis to amend original motion to 100 chairs. Amendment passed. Amended motion passed. Discussion of pew disposal: Kevin will email the congregation offering the pews if anyone wants a pew and will update Mike Nagel about this. Rebecca will follow up with Craigslist posting if we still have pews to discard.

Tee shirts: Won't be ready for Annual Meeting but will be in June.

Emergency Policy: deferred to May meeting.

New Business:

Bylaws: Motion Diane Sander/Rebecca Mattis to accept proposed changes, along with pronouns changed to be gender inclusive and any typos fixed that may be discovered before sending to congregation. Motion passed.

Lt Governor: Herb will email congregation a week in advance of his visit to our coffee hour.

Dismas House: Herb will request more information about what their requested sponsorship would mean.

Church Management Software: Tim reported that the "Powerchurch" system we've been using is too complicated and not working well for our needs. He recommended a return to our old system on Microsoft Access. That had been replaced because there was no documentation on how to use it. Tim will fix this by creating documentation using screenshots and will make a manual. Motion Kevin Kiefaber/ Kapi Reith to accept this proposal. Passed.

Church Computer and hardware: Sara Meling presented recommendations and quote from Silloway Networks for replacing our computer hardware. This had already been included in the budget proposal reviewed earlier in the meeting and passed by the trustees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Krieger

Upcoming Services: June

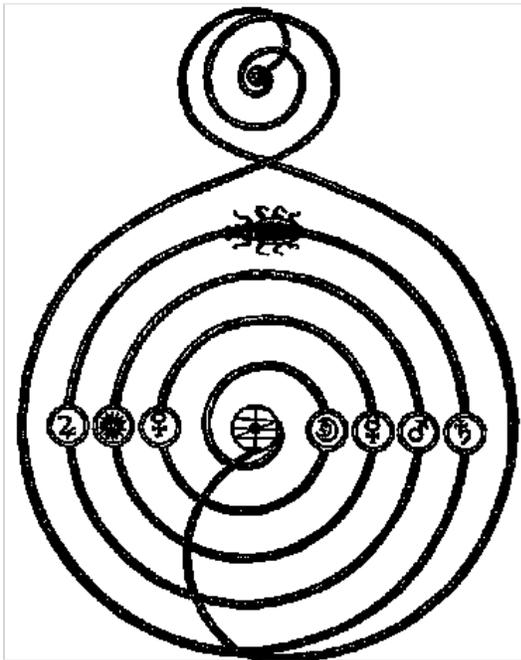
June 4th: Justin Classen "Holy Government!"

Justin follows up his Islam and Islamism talks with a talk on how the governments of Romania and Iran turned Eastern Orthodoxy and Islam to their own purposes. Might something like that happen here?

ALSO, RE Kids have Ice Cream Sunday! All RE Kids, past and present, are invited downstairs at 10:30am for ice cream. We're making a video about RE too, so this is your big chance to get internet famous.

June 11th: Rev. Barbara Threet "Flower Communion"

Our last regular service of this church year will include the Flower Communion, so do bring a flower of any kind to contribute. We'll also share our memories of moments



that have stayed with us from this church year and we'll end this 2016-17 church year with an ice cream social!

Ice Cream Social provided by Membership Committee

June 18th: Nancy Weis & Herb Ogden "Summer Solstice at Haroldhenge"

Our annual Summer Solstice Celebration will be held June at Haroldhenge, the stone circle. All are welcome. Bring drums and noisemakers. We will car pool from the church at 6:30pm. Bug repellent may be useful, though we will have citronella torches. If the weather is bad, we will begin at church at 6:30pm.

No services on June 25 or July 2. (Summer services will resume on July 9.)

The Egyptian scarab, or dung beetle, represents the rebirth of the soul in the afterlife, and is one of the most important religious symbols of that great ancient culture... but did you know that dung beetles have appeared in the creation myths of cultures from South America (where the dung beetle Aksak molded the first man and woman) to ancient Indo-Europeans, to Sumatra, to Taoist philosophy?

Upcoming Events

June 4th	RE Sunday: Ice Cream Sunday and Video Project
June 4th	Sunday Service Committee meeting
June 11th	Flower Communion and Ice Cream Social
June 12th	Board Meeting
June 18th	Summer Solstice Service at HaroldHenge
June 21-25th	UU General Assembly in New Orleans (and online)

NEWS&VIEWS
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF RUTLAND
117 West Street
Rutland VT 05701



The trilobite beetle, of Laos