

UU News

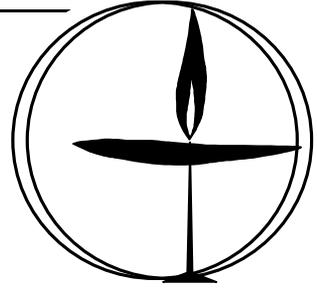
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

www.uuso.org uuso@uuso.org

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer

January 6, 2016



Minister: Rev. Craig Schwalenberg—432-3491 or 287-7906
revcraig@uuso.org

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Home—432-7323

UUSO Church Building—433-7329

Director of Religious Education:

Susan Ryder—643-1927—dre@uuso.org

Editor & Office Administrator: Robin Ahearn—432-3491

uuso@uuso.org

BLACK LIVES MATTER TASK FORCE FILM

The Black Lives Matter Task Force invites you to a screening of "Light in the Shadows" on Sunday, January 10, at 12:15 pm in the Chapin Memorial sanctuary.

"Light in the Shadows" is a frank conversation about race among ten American women of various racial and ethnic descents. Their authentic dialogue opens the door on a perspective on race that is often unseen or unnoticed within the dominant culture. These women demonstrate why valuable discourse on race is so laden with emotions, distrust and misunderstanding. "Light in the Shadows" is a springboard for critical self-inquiry and inter-ethnic dialogue.

A light lunch will be served before the film. Conversation will follow. If you need childcare, please contact Robin in the UUSO office at 432-3491 or uuso@uuso.org by Thursday, January 7. We look forward to your joining us at the film and conversation. —Patricia Engel LaFata

PIZZA & GAMES!!

Friday January 8, starting at 5:30 pm all UUSO Members and Friends are invited to Pizza and Games! Please bring \$1.50 per person for pizza, a dish to share (like veggies & dip, salad, hummus, salsa and chips, dessert, etc.) and games to play. This fun event has been enjoyed by folks of all ages at UUSO for many years. Fun is guaranteed for all, whether you come alone or with your whole family. We'll hang out, enjoy company and conversation, eat a casual dinner together, and maybe even learn a new game or play an old one you've always loved. We hope you'll join us! Also check out the event on Facebook.

—Elayne Mosher Campoli, Membership Committee

FROM THE OFFICE

Be sure to check out the Coffee Hosting & Ushering Assignment insert in today's newsletter.

Please note the dates you're assigned on your 2016 calendar—thank you!

—Robin Ahearn

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2016! In our tradition of choosing a word for the upcoming year (introduced to us by Adrienne Martini some years ago), I am choosing the word “Change” for 2016. Cheryl and I have some exciting changes planned for the year (more on that when the plans are more finalized—but trust me, you'll find them exciting, too). I am committed to reaching my weight loss goal this year, which means I'm making some changes to my daily routine. (I'm going to lose another 10% by July—and I'm stating it publicly here so you can all help me stay accountable to the goal.) And there will be changes taking place at UUSO, too. The Committee on Ministry has been working hard to become a TRUE committee on the WHOLE ministry of the congregation. In May, they will be making these changes official by proposing changes to the by-laws regarding their purpose and procedures. In the meantime, they will continue to make suggestions about how we can work better together on our shared ministries. Some of those suggestions will lead to experiments. Some of those experiments will work—others will not. The best way to grow (in wisdom, and possibly in size) is to keep trying new things and learning from those experiments. So, let's greet these experiments, these changes, with an openness and eagerness. It's going to be an exciting year!

Theme-Based Ministry

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country have successfully moved to a practice of Theme-Based Ministry. Throughout the year, they choose themes to focus on throughout the church. The themes are addressed in the worship services, in Religious Education, in adult programming, in newsletter articles, and in whatever other shared ministries that are appropriate. Congregations have found that theme-based ministry increases participation in church activities across the generations and encourages people to engage with the topic in a deeper, meaningful way. Our Committee on Ministry has strongly urged us to try Theme-Based Ministry here at UUSO. So, we'll be experimenting with the concept in the coming year.

Every quarter, we'll choose a theme to explore and engage in. This first quarter, I've chosen the theme, “Finding Our Path.” I'll be preaching on that theme on February 7 (and it might show up in other worship services along the way). Director of Religious Education Susan Ryder will be incorporating the theme into some of the Religious Education classes this quarter. I'm hoping the Small Group Ministry groups will take the theme as a topic for their groups some time during the next few months. But—there are more ways to engage the theme—and for that we need YOUR help. If you have an idea of how the congregation could explore and engage with the theme of “Finding Our Path,” I want to hear from you. Perhaps you could host a discussion or arrange for a particular movie that fits the theme. Maybe a series of presentations from members of the congregation about how they found their particular path. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity and your willingness to help us with this ministry. Ideally, I'd love to have 2-3 people volunteer to help coordinate programs for this theme for this quarter. (With new volunteers each quarter.)

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Since this is a shared ministry, I won't be choosing the next theme—WE will. If you have a suggestion for a theme for the next quarter, let me know. Suggestions that come with ideas on how the congregation could engage the topic will be given greater weight. Suggestions from people planning to volunteer to coordinate will be given the greatest preference. Let's see what UUSO can do with Theme-Based Ministry in the coming year.

—Cooperatively (and with Excitement), Rev. Craig

Sawdust from the Board

Happy New Year UUSO! On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we wish for all of our members and friends the growth that comes from building, seeking, and reaching (the three active verbs in our Mission).

In December, the Board took the following actions:

1. We approved a charge for the Endowment Committee to start a new Endowment for the sustainability of UUSO into perpetuity.
2. We approved a proposal of a new model for re-establishing the Personnel Committee. We modified the Board's "no officers are paid" policy to allow for a stipend to be paid to the Treasurer.
3. We thanked Paul Carter (appointed temporarily for John Bagby) and Virgil Briggs (resigned) for their board service and welcomed Sandy Smith (elected but unavailable until now).
4. We reviewed the first draft of a Fundraising Policy and agreed to further discuss it at the January board meeting.
5. We are seeking two more people to appoint to the Finance Committee.
6. We reviewed two items from the Sounding Board.
7. We decided two building rental requests.
8. We reviewed and support the grant application to NYSCU by the Social Action Committee to have an anti-war speaker come to UUSO.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions and two board members will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service on January 17.

—Karen Palmer, President, UUSO Board of Trustees, 267-4793, kpalmer14@hughes.net

A NEW AND IMPROVED U-USE-IT FOR the 2016 DIRECTORY!

This year's new and improved UU-Use-It section of the 2016 Directory will include an actual **copy** of your business card! If you'd like to have your business card featured, please contact Anne Ray at 432-8575 by January 13. The cost is \$25 per card. It's a great way to spread the word about your business to all your UUSO friends!

—Robin Ahearn

SIGN UP NOW FOR YOUR PHOTO SITTING FOR THE PICTURE DIRECTORY!

The photo sittings are filling up, so if you haven't yet signed up to have your photo taken, please do it now. We want as many members and friends as possible to be pictured in our Picture Directory this year.

The Lifetouch photographer will be here on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 27 2 to 9 pm
- Thursday, January 28 2 to 9 pm
- Friday, January 28 2 to 9 pm
- Saturday, January 30 9 am to 4 pm

You can sign up online by going to our web page (www.UUSO.org) and clicking on the link in the "Upcoming Events" area of the home page. You can also sign up during coffee hours in January.

Each family photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 photograph as well as a copy of the new picture directory as soon as it is published. Lifetouch will also donate \$5 to the UUSO for each family that is photographed. There is no requirement to purchase any of the portraits that are taken by Lifetouch, but if you do want to buy some, there are a number of packages available. Senior Citizens, Active Military, and First Responders (fire, ambulance, etc.) can receive a 20% discount on any photo packages they purchase.

If the portrait dates aren't possible for you, please contact Robin in the UUSO Office at 432-3491 or uuso@uuso.org so that we can find another way to include a photo of you in the Directory.

Please sign up NOW to have your portrait taken! —Kathy Paranya for the Picture Directory

NOTE OF THANKS...

December 18, 2015

Dear Rev. Schwalenberg,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$3,803 to Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties Caring Connections Program. Your support is greatly appreciated and will help us to achieve our mission of serving the poor and vulnerable in our local communities.

—With gratitude, Lynn Glueckert, Executive Director, Catholic Charities

ATTENDANCE:

9/27	90	11/29	73
10/4	76	12/6	76
10/11	57	12/13	64
10/18	66	12/20	N/A
10/25	88	12/24	61 (6:30 Christmas Eve)
11/1	104	12/24	N/A
11/8	80	12/27	47
11/15	81	1/3/16	72
11/22	94		

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 2016 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 17, 2 to 4 pm, at the UUSO

The event is sponsored by the Oneonta Branch of the NAACP and the City of Oneonta Commission on Community Relations and Human Rights. It will feature entertainment and readings from Dr. King, a Jazz Ensemble and the Oneonta MLK Choir, spirituals and poetry, etc. The celebration will end with the sharing of a birthday cake and other desserts.

Please note: Robin Seletsky, leader of the Oneonta MLK Choir, will welcome everyone in the community to join in the singing that afternoon. No experience is necessary and all that will be required is to arrive at the church at 1:00 pm on that day for a rehearsal.

For additional information contact Regina Betts, VP Oneonta Branch of the NAACP, at 435-0248 or bettsrw@aol.com.

SECRET VALENTINE TIME IS HERE!

This is a wonderful chance to get to know someone in our community from a different generation—and have fun too! Secret Valentines give and receive gifts for three weeks.

Here's how it works: On January 17 & 24 sign up to be a Secret Valentine at the back of the sanctuary. Complete one of the forms with your information and the Membership Committee will match Secret Valentines. You will be notified that week with the identity of your Secret Valentine. For the next two weeks, 1/31 & 2/7, you bring your Secret Valentine a gift and leave it at the Secret Valentine table in the back of the sanctuary. The gifts are intended to be small, personal gifts—it's not about spending a bunch of money. On the last week, 2/14 (Valentine's Day!), we will gather after the service to exchange final gifts and reveal the Secret Valentine identities!

For more information please contact Elayne Mosher Campoli at 431-2345 (text or call) or ms.elayneous@yahoo.com. —The Membership Committee

BLACK LIVES MATTER CONVERSATION

The Black Lives Matter Task Force invites you to a conversation with the Rev. Douglas Taylor, minister of the UU congregation in Binghamton, and the Rev. Sam Trumbore, minister of the UU congregation in Albany, on Sunday, January 24, at 2:00 pm in the Chapin Memorial sanctuary. UU churches in both Binghamton and Albany are displaying Black Lives Matter banners. Rev. Doug and Rev. Sam will share their experiences and insights in relation to the Black Lives Matter movement and hanging the banners on their churches. Come and learn how Black Lives Matter is influencing other local communities. Bring your questions and educate yourself before we bring the matter of hanging the banner to a vote here at UUSO. Childcare can be arranged by contacting Robin in the office at 432-3491 or uuso@uuso.org by January 20. We are looking forward to your presence and participation.

—Patricia Engel LaFata

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Flaming Chalice



A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot) is a primary symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Many of our congregations kindle a flaming chalice in gatherings and worships and feature the chalice symbol prominently.

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope.

From the UUA Pamphlet, *The Flaming Chalice*, by Dan Hotchkiss

January Sessions have begun in Religious Education at the UUSO. Each year at this time, all ages from grades K-12 join together with guests from our congregation and community to share in workshops around a common theme. Rev. Craig also interweaves this theme into adult worship services. As you may have already guessed, this year's theme is: "Our Flaming Chalice."



We'll learn about the history of the UU Chalice and explore what the light of a chalice means to each of us. We'll have many opportunities for activities, conversations, games, projects, delicious snacks, and time together with new and old friends of all ages. This is a great time to bring new friends to the RE Program. As always, be sure to check out "Next Week's Classes" online at uusoo.org for more information about each Sunday's activities.

The workshops will all be held at the Olympia Brown House, 16 Ford Avenue. All will begin right at 10:30 with the exception of Sunday, January 10, when we will start the day in the Sanctuary at Chapin Memorial for a brief "Time for All Ages" before beginning workshops at the Olympia Brown House.

Here is the schedule for January:

- **January 10: The Light of Truth:** (Start out at Chapin Memorial for "Time for All Ages.") What is the light of truth? Suzanne Miller will join us to make our own little chalices to eventually take home and to explore how we can make our own light shine in the lives around us.

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- **January 17: The Warmth of Community:** TBA (Check webpage and next newsletter.)
- **January 24: The Fire of Commitment:** TBA (Check webpage and next newsletter.)
- **January 30 (Saturday 5:30-7 pm at Chapin Memorial):** Pizza party and service practice
- **January 31: Intergenerational Service at Chapin Memorial, “Our Flaming Chalice: What Truth, Community, and Commitment Mean to Us,”** presented by the UUSO Religious Education Program. We plan to bring all of the chalices we’ve made as well as examples of our ideas, sayings for chalice lighting and extinguishing, and some of the highlights of our January sessions.

Your Homework Challenge: The children and youth will have many opportunities to create chalices over the coming weeks. We hope to bring them all to the January 31 Intergenerational Service for an amazing display. You are invited to create a chalice to join this display.

There are many ways to make a chalice. You will need two parts to glue together and a candle to put inside. You will need a cup or curved piece to hold the candle at the top and a stand upon which to glue the top part (see illustration).

There are many items that can be used for these parts or you can create the entire shape from one material such as clay.

Some beautiful chalices have been made by finding just the right two things to glue together when wandering the aisles at a second-hand store. You may have two perfect things already somewhere in your home. Of course there are many other materials that can be used: glass, tiles and grout, flowerpots, carved wood, found wood, stones... Once assembled, the chalice is then decorated any way you like or left as is.

A candle is added. We use battery operated candles in the younger children’s classes at UUSO for safety reasons. You may also prefer this option if you happen to use flammable materials for your chalice creation. There are rechargeable non-fire candles for sale online. You can also use any candle you find or make one yourself.

We look forward to celebrating all of our chalices, as well as the purpose and meaning of our Unitarian Universalist Chalice, together on January 31!

In times of light and times of darkness

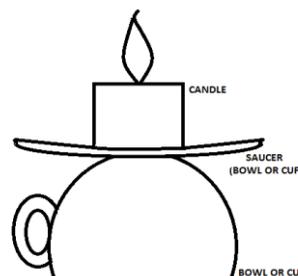
May this small flame

Kindle what is good

In us and in the world.

—Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

—Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education



JANUARY DINING FOR WOMEN

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, January 10, at 2:00 pm at the UUSO. The featured organization this month is Punte a La Salud Comunitaria in Oaxaca, Mexico. This program promotes the farming of amaranth by indigenous people. Amaranth is a wonderful food source that will help improve the nutrition and economic prospects for families.

Sustained funding will be provided to Anchal in India. This program teaches textile and design skills to commercial sex workers and gives them the opportunity to leave their demeaning and dangerous way of life.

All are welcome to come to the monthly meetings. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. For more information, call Linda at 433-2985. —Linda Wilcox

MARCH MADNESS RETURNS

An organizational meeting for the annual "March Madness" theatrical fundraiser will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 10, from 12:30-1:30 pm. We're trying out a new format which I hope will appeal to some of our more flamboyant members who might be hesitant about memorizing lines: our production will be entitled "Short & Sweet: An evening of stories, sung and spoken." Those of you who follow NPR are no doubt familiar with the popular series "Selected Shorts," which is a weekly collection of short stories read by actors. Thinking that this format would be wayyyy simpler to put together than our usual presentation of plays and scenes, we're hoping to make life easier for all of us by giving this a try (no sets, no costumes, and no one will need to actually memorize anything—except, of course, for the songs)!

Please contact Rosemary Summers at rosemarysummers@verizon.net if you have any questions. See you then! —Rosemary Summers

The following policy is to be made available at the church office with the Minister and Office Administrator, and is to be posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. It will also be posted on the website and quarterly in the newsletter.

Membership Affirmation Process Policy

Approved by UUSO Board of Trustees 8/19/15

Membership in the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta must be affirmed every year.

Membership may be affirmed by any one of the following:

- Signing in at a congregational meeting;
- Making a pledge of record;
- Notifying the Minister, Office Administrator, or the Board of Trustees, indicating a desire to affirm membership.

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GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES...

It's time to return Guest at Your Table boxes to contribute to the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/UUSC.

Since Thanksgiving, people have been getting Guest at Your Table boxes from church to contribute to the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee—UUSC—worldwide. This includes work with refugees and those affected by natural disasters. We will be collecting the Guest at Your Table boxes at the Social Action table during Sundays in January. If you would like to write a check, make it payable to UUSO and put Guest at Your Table in the subject line. For those who donate \$40 or more, you can become members of UUSC if you would like. Let us know if you want to become a member and we will include your name and contact info in a list we send to UUSC when we send in the donations from our church.

The Social Action Committee thanks you for your contributions to UUSC!! They are much appreciated!
 —Suzanne Miller for the Social Action Committee

CALENDAR JANUARY

Jan 8	Fri	5:30 PM/Pizza & Games/CM
Jan 9	Sat	9AM - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		6:00 PM/RE OWL Retreat begins/OBH RE OWL Retreat ends/OBH
Jan 10	Sun	9:30 AM-1 PM/Building Use/RE/OBH
		10:30 AM/Service: "The Light of Truth"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM/Black Lives Matter Film & Film & Discussion/OBH Living Rm
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		12:30/Building Use/Play Auditions/CM
		1:30 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/CM
		2 - 4:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM
Jan 11	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM/RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Jan 12	Tue	5:30/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Jan 13	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
		6 PM/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm

Jan 14	Thu	10/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		5:30 PM/NAACP/OBH Living Rm
		7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Jan 15	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Jan 16	Sat	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
Jan 17	Sun	Secret Valentine Sign-up/CM
		9:30 AM-1 PM/Building Use/RE/OBH
		10:30 AM/Service: "The Fire of Commitment"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM/Black Lives Matter Discussion/CM Loft
		12/Finance Cmte/OBH Upstrs Front Rm
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		12-2P/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm
1-5PM/NAACP MLK Celebration/CM		
Jan 18	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline
		10:00 AM/Office Cmte/OBH
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
		7-8:30/Endowment Cmte/OBH Lvng Rm

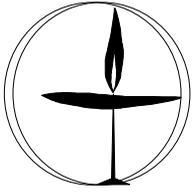
CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

Rev. Craig's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10-2

Office Administrator's Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 9-2



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

January 10, 2016

"The Light of Truth"

Start Together Sunday

The Truth will set you free—or make you mad—or both, perhaps.
Is there truth, many truths, or THE TRUTH? Every week we kindle and extinguish our chalice, but what of the Light of Truth we hold so dear?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Music provided by
the UUSO Choir and
Music Director Tim Horne

Ushers: Cindy Miller and Bernadette Ryan
*Coffee Hosts: **Volunteers Needed!***
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey
(Please submit announcements to Cathi via email by 1/8.)

January 17, 2016

"The Fire of Commitment"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

Our chalice holds the "Fire of Commitment." Commitment to what, exactly? To whom?
What promises have we made to each other and to the world?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Music provided by
Kathy Shimberg and Matt Downey

Ushers: Clark Rhoades and Kathy Shimberg
Coffee Hosts: Karin and Thomas Russell
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
(Please submit announcements to Kevin via email by 1/15.)