

UU News

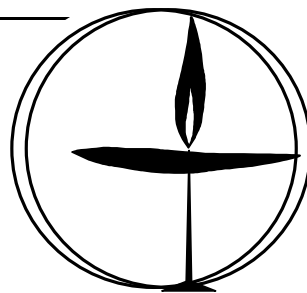
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

February 3, 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—FERGUSON AND BEYOND

Rev. Julie Taylor/St. Louis, MO—Saturday, February 6, 7 pm, Chapin Memorial Sanctuary

Save the date and join us in welcoming UU minister, the Rev. Julie Taylor, to the UUSO. Rev. Julie will share with us her experiences in Ferguson, MO, in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, her ongoing work for racial equality, and the UU response to the Black Lives Matter movement. There will be time for questions and discussion. Rev. Julie, a dynamic speaker and a passionate advocate for racial equality, is not to be missed. Refreshments will be served. If you will need childcare, please contact Robin by Wednesday, February 3, at 432-3491 or uuso@uuso.org.

—Patricia Engel LaFata

SHORT & SWEET

An evening of Dessert Theater—featuring short stories, sung and spoken

Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, 7:30 pm. Advance tickets: \$15/adult, \$8/student; at the door: \$18/adult, \$10/student. Call 441-3206 for more information.

—Rosemary Summers

AUCTION 2016!

The annual UUSO Goods & Services Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 2! Please be sure to **mark your calendars now and tell your friends and family**. It's always a very fun evening!

We need everyone's participation to make this important fundraiser a success, so please keep these ideas in mind:

- If you're planning to downsize, think of the auction! Remember, one person's gently used extraneous items are another person's treasure.
- What foods/crafts/services are your 'specialties' and would be a great addition to the auction?

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Finding Our Path...

Our ministry theme for this quarter is “Finding Our Path.” I'll be delving into that theme during this Sunday's worship service (February 7) and there are several opportunities for the congregation to explore the theme being planned in the next couple of months. (If you have ideas, we are still happy to add them to the list.) While the theme may seem to be purely an individual one, I think it applies to our congregation as well. While we are a collection of folks all seeking our own spiritual paths, we, as a group, are also finding our path as a religious community. What do we believe? What do we value? What are our hopes for the world and for one another? Our mission and vision statements are part of the answers to these questions. Our Long Range Plan is another part, a path we hope to walk together. There are a lot of exciting things happening at UUSO this year and they all stem from our search for the most meaningful, most rewarding, most transformational path we can find together.

I'm not entirely sure where the path will take us or which one we will choose. Actually, I'm pretty sure we'll change our minds at every step of the way, but that is the way of paths and charting a course. I know we will do the work with love and with commitment. With our mission and vision statements and our Long Range Plan guiding our way, we will find the best way to make a difference and build beloved community.

How about you? How goes your personal quest to find your path? How did you get here? And where are you headed next?

Let's explore the answers together.

—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

PHOTOS AND PICTURE DIRECTORY DETAILS

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came in to have their photo taken for the Picture Directory. We had a good turnout of more than 90 families over the four days that the portraits were taken.

For those of you who were not able to come during the recent sitting dates and times, please send by email to Robin (UUSO@uuso.org) a digital photo (JPG) to be included in the Directory, or contact Rev. Craig to schedule a time for him to take your picture. You can also give a hard copy photo to Robin and we will scan it and return it to you. Some of you have already done these things, so thank you too.

We are also collecting business cards to put on the U-Use-It page. The cost is \$25 to have your card in the Directory. We can take either an actual business card or a digital version of it, so send either.

One part of the Picture Directory will be a few pages of photos of the activities and the life of our society. If you have any good photos of church events, please send them along by email or snail mail to be considered for inclusion in these activity pages.

I think this will be a great Directory—a wonderful picture of our UUSO as it is in 2016!

—Kathy Paranya for the Picture Directory

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SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

Today, three of us attended the Utica UU Congregation's service and stayed for the presentation on the plan for regionalization of UUA services. Regionalization means that the four districts in our region, including the St. Lawrence District, would be dissolved in favor of joining resources within a larger geographical area including UU Congregations located in all of New York, most of Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The many ways this would increase services to congregations were discussed in the presentation. A vote of our District to dissolve and go forward with a regional structure will be held during the St. Lawrence District Assembly at their annual meeting on April 2 in Syracuse. Here's a link to several resources on regionalization:

<http://www.cerguaa.org/aboutus/regionalization.html?highlight=WyJyZWdpb25hbGl6YXRpb24iXQ==>

In January, the UUSO Board took the following actions:

1. Appointed Keith Willcox to fill the vacant board position left by Virgil Brigg's resignation.
2. Received a report by Lynn Beken on budget requests and the Finance Committee's suggested Stewardship goal if we were to meet all requests. This will be considered by the Stewardship Committee. The Board was pleased that increases are clearly related to our Mission, Vision, and Long Range Plan.
3. Voted to authorize Rev. Craig Schwalenberg's signature on the UUSO bank account.
4. Accepted Beth Rafter's resignation as treasurer, expressing appreciation for her service.
5. Appointed Lynn Beken as UUSO Treasurer. She will also continue to be the Accountant for UUSO.
6. Requested that Rev. Craig consider a way to make public UUSO's support of Muslims in our community and beyond.
7. Reviewed the Fundraising Policy Draft and agreed to obtain input from all committees.
8. Began planning for the upcoming Board Retreat.
9. Considered ways to acknowledge our volunteers and leaders.
10. Heard sounding board comments and staff/liaison reports.
11. Considered names for Property Committee chair position in lieu of Spike Paranya's resignation (very tough shoes to fill!). *UPDATE:* Paul Robinson and Duncan Smith have been approved by the Board as the new Property Co-Chairs!

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, February 24, 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 February 21.

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

Policy on Pay for Officer Duties

Revision approved by BOT 12/21/15 and replaces 5/19/04 policy entitled "No Pay for Officer Duties"
The Board President, Vice President, Clerk, and Assistant Treasurer of the UUSO may not be paid for their specific duties as delineated in the UUSO Bylaws. The Treasurer may receive a stipend for his or her specific duties.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The January Session in UUSO Religious Education centered on the theme: “Our Flaming Chalice.” We presented an Intergenerational Service on Sunday, January 31, that shared some of our experiences and some of the things we learned. It was joyful to be in community with all ages celebrating our Unitarian Universalist symbol. Our UU Chalice means so much more to us now.

During the service, RE participants each lit a chalice that they had made during the January sessions. What follows is most of what they shared (there are a couple of people who didn’t give me a copy of what they had written to say):

- I light this chalice to help people in the hospital.
- I light this chalice for food.
- We light this chalice to remember people who have died.
- I light this chalice to help people in need, like if they have Ebola.
- I light this chalice for animals to be treated with kindness.
- I light this chalice for girls to be treated fairly.
- I light this chalice to protect the whales of the Earth.
- I light this chalice so that everyone can find their inner peace.
- We light this chalice so all people can have clean drinking water.
- I light this chalice to bring light in times of darkness.



We made many chalices during our January Sessions and it is our hope that they will be used at home.

We finished our Sunday service with an opportunity for everyone to make their own chalice. If you missed this, please see the last two newsletters for some ideas for making and using your own chalice at home. You will also find this information on pink Chalice information sheets I will leave on the hall table as you enter Chapin Memorial.

All RE Classes resume February 7. OWL (Our Whole Lives), seventh through eighth grade with parental permission only, will meet each Sunday in February at 10:30, in their classroom. Here is the February schedule for those in K-6th grade:

February 7 (begin in classrooms at 10:30): Explorers (kindergarten through third grade) will be learning about UU “Father of the World Wide Web” Tim Berners-Lee. They will celebrate his inventiveness and curiosity with a take-apart party where appliances will be dismantled. Seekers (fourth through sixth grade) will look at the concept of a “soul” and watch clips from the film *Heaven Can Wait*.

February 14 (begin in the sanctuary for Time for All Ages): Explorers will learn about Unitarian Martha Mitchell, “First Woman Astronomer,” in a class called *Comets and Constellations*. Seekers will look at the idea of conflict between Faith and Science while watching clips from the film *Contact*.

February 21 (all classes begin at 10:30): Explorers will learn about Unitarian inventor Alexander Graham Bell. Seekers will look at the topic of fear and violence in our society and watch clips from the film *Bowling for Columbine*.

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February 28 (all classes begin at 10:30 at the nearby Olympia Brown House, 16 Ford Avenue): I will lead a Children's Worship Service about *Mindfulness*.

I am grateful for all we shared this January. I look forward to the RE Classes ahead!

Go in peace, embraced by the light and warmth of our gathering.

Go in love, ready again to struggle on.

Go in beauty, shining forth like a lamp for freedom.

—Sarah Lammert

—Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education, dre@uusoo.org

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS TO GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROJECT & UUSC

We collected \$700 in donations through the Guest at Your Table project in support of the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/UUSC. Thanks to all of you who participated by putting coins, dollars, and checks in your boxes to support UUSC partner organizations at home and around the world. Go to the website: www.uusc.org to learn more about UUSC's work in more than a dozen countries in such ways as defending the human right to water and teaching trauma resiliency in times of disasters. The "action center" has various campaigns on social justice issues such as no religious discrimination against Syrian refugees, stopping the raids on Central American families seeking asylum, and telling Wendy's to treat farm workers fairly, to name a few. Thank you again for UUSO's support!! People who donated \$40 or more will become members of UUSC.

—Suzanne Miller for the Social Action Committee

BLACK LIVES MATTER DISCUSSIONS

The Black Lives Matter Task Force invites you to its continuing series of conversations held each Sunday at noon in the living room of Olympia Brown House. On February 7, Kay Stuligross will facilitate a conversation in response to Rev Julie Taylor's presentation. On February 14, Spike Paranya and Zanna McKay will facilitate a conversation about the experiences of non-white people in Oneonta. On February 21, Cindy Squires will facilitate an open conversation on where we are now in our work for racial equity. Join the conversation. All are welcome. If you need childcare please contact Robin at 432-3491 or uusoo@uusoo.org by the Thursday before the conversation.

—Patricia Engel LaFata

YOGA CLASSES!

Yoga classes at UUSO: Beginning in February, three classes will be offered. No charge for UUSO members; all others, \$8 per class. Bring a friend!

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30-11:30 am: Slow Flow Yoga. Chapin Memorial Loft. Using chairs and other props, this class is good for people just getting into yoga and for those with mobility issues.

Tuesday, 5:45-7 pm: Vinyasa Flow Yoga. Chapin Memorial Sanctuary. For beginning and intermediate practitioners, this class will offer moderate exercise, strength conditioning and flexibility through breath and movement exercises.

—Arlana Young

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FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES?

You betcha! There are several UUSO fundraising opportunities hoping to entice new event chairs. Consider stepping up to lead for a “limited term”...2 or 3 years. No lifetime commitment required.

- The Annual Rummage Sale: Anne Ray and Julia Gregory are eager to see this traditional fall sale continue under a new leadership team. It seems to be an event that works well with a two-person team who can rely on other volunteers to staff and manage the actual event. Anne and Julia will continue to volunteer, but after 25+ years, they deserve our heartfelt gratitude and a break. Please consider stepping up for a few years.
- The newly formatted March Madness event “Shorts and Sweets” will again be looking for bakers. This year’s sweets will be available at each table and will feature finger treats such as cookies, bars, candies, which will require less time from our loyal kitchen-apron volunteers. Still loads of delicious calories, but fewer dishes to wash. Rosemary Summers is producing this event.
- Could UUSO provide a few bedrooms (no breakfast required) for Hall of Fame weekend? If by some miracle our congregation could offer ten bedrooms @ \$100/night, we could raise \$1,500 to \$2,000. I am told that all local hotel and B&B accommodations are already booked. I’d be glad to discuss this new idea with anyone. It’s a pure money-raiser rather than our more traditional social/fundraiser combination.
- And certainly not least (actually our biggest financial producer) is the spring Auction, once again under the leadership of Jane Bachman, who always loves to have new folks with new ideas join the committee.

—Grace Smith, Fundraising Chair

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE LIVING WAGE ACT

The Social Action Committee has been collecting signatures on a petition supporting the Living Wage Act to send to our members of Congress. A big thank you to all of you who have signed. It is an easy and effective way to show your support for American workers.

Senate bill S.1832, Pay Workers a Living Wage Act, remains currently in committee (congress.com) and its future is uncertain. Supporters of this act need to continue to pressure senators to move this bill along. A raise in minimum wage needs to be enacted on a federal level. While movement has been seen in 14 states this January according to <http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx>, five states continue to have no minimum wage. In addition, Kentucky’s new governor, Matt Bevin, reversed the previously approved increased minimum wage and has indicated he would like to move toward no minimum wage. While the minimum wage remains at the whim of individual states and partisan politics, a living wage for everyone will not be possible and large numbers of workers will continue at poverty level. No minimum wage advocates usually want wages to be driven by the labor market, a strategy commonly seen in developing countries with dollar-a-day wages.

(Continued on the following page)

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According to Social Security Administration data of October 2015, 40% of American workers earn less than \$20,000. This puts them significantly below the Federal poverty line of \$24,000 for a family of four. An amazing quarter of all workers earn \$10,000 with the poverty level for an individual at \$11,000. We are a poverty stricken country. This cripples all corners of our national welfare such as health, education, environmental safety, and public safety. This doesn't even consider the damage done to the individuals.

What can we do? Some actions are obvious—petition lawmakers, writing letters. Others are less so—support groups such as Raisetheminimumwage.org, pay our own workers such as babysitters, yard workers, and cleaning people \$15 an hour, attend rallies, support unions, and get people out to vote. Surveys say 75% of Americans support an increased minimum wage. If all them vote...?
 —Dawn F. Kilts for the Social Action Committee

AUCTION 2016!

(Continued from Page 1)

- What fresh ideas do you have for this year's auction?

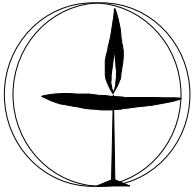
If you'd like to become more involved in the UUSO community, the Auction Committee is a great way to get your feet wet. Plan to attend our first meeting on Sunday, February 7, 9:30 am at OBH, or contact me at 431-9509 if you'd like to become involved.
 —Jane Bachman

CALENDAR FEBRUARY

Feb 4	Thu	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
		SGM Facilitators Mtg/OBH Living Rm
		7 P/Membership Cmte/OBH Living Rm
		7 - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Feb 5	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Feb 6	Sat	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		5:30 - 7:00 PM/Building Use/Set-up/CM
		7 - 9:00 PM/Black Lives Matter Event--Ferguson & Beyond/CM
Feb 7	Sun	Secret Valentine Gift Giving/CM
		9:30 AMAuction Cmte/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM/Service: "Finding Our Path"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12/Black Lives Matter Discussion/Kay Stuligross/OBH Living Rm
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		12 - 2:00 PM/Play Rehearsal/CM Loft

Feb 8	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
Feb 9	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		3:30/Cmte on Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
		Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		5:45 PM - 7:00 PM/Yoga/CM
Feb 10	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
		Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Feb 11	Thu	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
		Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		5:30 - 8 PM/NAACP/OBH Living Rm
		7 - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Feb 12	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Feb 13	Sat	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House
 Rev. Craig's Office Hrs: Tues, Wed, and Thurs, 10-2
 Office Administrator's Hrs: Monday-Thursday, 9-2



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

February 7, 2016

"Finding Our Path"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

Unitarian Universalists believe we each have a right to our own spiritual path and a responsibility to help each other find that path and walk it authentically.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
the UUSO Choir and
Music Director Tim Horne**

Ushers: Suzanne Miller & Walter vom Saal

Coffee Hosts: Clarissa Arnold &

Cathi Wiltsey

Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz

(Please submit announcements to

Kevin via email by 2/5.)

February 14, 2016

"Love is..."

Start Together Sunday

"Go in Love," the minister says.
"Love one another," the scriptures say. "What is Love?" the musician sings. Indeed, what is this Love thing, anyway?.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
Matt Downey and Kathy Shimberg**

Ushers: Antone Bonafini &

Liz Jacob-Carter

Coffee Hosts: Carol Malz & John Nader

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

(Please submit announcements to

Cathi via email by 2/12.)