

# UU News

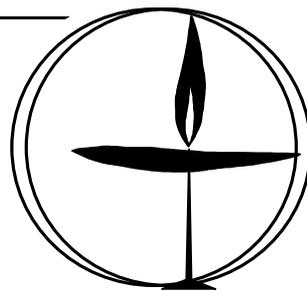
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA  
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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*

March 16, 2016



Minister: Rev. Craig Schwalenberg—432-3491 or 287-7906  
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## COME TO OUR MOROCCAN DINNER TO HELP FUND THE LIBRARY IN YOUCHAOU'S SCHOOL IN MALI—SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Shop for Malian jewelry and handicrafts, eat a delicious Moroccan dinner, and see a free showing of “Timbuktu,” all while helping to buy books for the library at Youchaou’s School in Mali. “A

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## AUCTION 2016

Our Goods & Services Auction is fast approaching on April 2! Doors will open at 5:30 pm, when the silent auction begins. The live auction will start at 6:30.

**Be sure that this event is on your calendar, and invite your friends and neighbors!** As usual, there will be complementary snacks and beverages available, as well as free childcare! If you aren’t able to make it that night, feel free to contact me with an absentee bid; a preliminary list will be available the week before.

Here’s a sample of what will be available at the auction:

- Art by Joe Story, Betty Kratzenstein, Ron Wilcox and many others;
- A total of 16 hours of house/yard work and home repair, chocolate & wine box, gift certificates;
- Victorian urns and other antiques, rug from Kazakhstan, a violin;
- A steak barbecue; garden lunch with asparagus, raspberries & chocolate; high tea with lawn games; an African dinner; the ever-popular Dinner & a Movie, and more!
- And—just added—an insider’s tour of Italy over 10 days in September, lead by a guide who lived there for many years.

If you haven’t already, contact Jane at 431-9509 with your donations of items or services, snacks for the evening, or if you can help for a few hours the night of the auction. We need everyone to pitch in to make this a successful auction!

—Jane Bachman

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### **A Time of Transition**

Change, though inevitable, is rarely welcome. We are in the midst of one of those unwelcome changes in the UUSO office. Robin Ahearn, our Office Administrator for almost 14 years, has resigned and accepted an offer for a full-time position with Hartwick. Her last official day in the office will be March 21, though she has kindly agreed to help us with the transition for a couple of weeks after that date. And, this is not a true goodbye, as Robin intends to remain a member of the UUSO community. I hope everyone will join me in giving our thanks to Robin for her many years of service to UUSO. In her position as Office Administrator, she helped keep us all informed and organized—an almost endless task, truly. She also represented our congregation with her friendly demeanor on the phone and in person. Robin was a supportive member of our staff team and was always willing to put in extra time and effort when others needed a hand or had a last-minute project that needed to get done. On top of all that, she did her best to help me in my role as minister—editing my writings, informing me of pastoral needs, and keeping track of the many people, projects, and activities that make up our shared ministries every day. She will be a hard act to follow.

In order to find that person, the Search Committee has been hard at work. An ad for the position has been posted on our website and will be posted in the local papers this week (it is also in this newsletter for those interested in applying or those who know someone who might be a good fit for the position). An updated job description for the position has also been posted on our website ([uusoo.org/job-search/](http://uusoo.org/job-search/)). All interested parties are encouraged to apply by submitting a resume with a cover letter and three references to me at [revcraig@uusoo.org](mailto:revcraig@uusoo.org).

### **District Assembly**

District Assembly is right around the corner! It is being held in Syracuse on April 2 (with the traditional Gould lecture and dinner taking place Friday night, April 1). This year's theme is Covenant. The Gould discourse will be delivered by the Rev. Margret O'Neill, who is currently serving as the Interim Minister at the UU Society of Schenectady. (I had the pleasure of co-preaching with her this past Sunday.) Her speech is titled "Transformers." I'm assuming it has nothing to do with giant robots and will instead focus on the powerful transformations we go through as individuals and institutions. The keynote speaker on Saturday is the Rev. Sue Phillips, a UUA staff leader in the New England Region. Her presentation, "Heresy, Hubris, and the Future of Our Faith," will focus on our interdependence and our covenant with one another. Workshops that afternoon include presentations on covenant and congregational polity, welcoming visitors, recruiting lay leaders, storytelling for all ages, congregational collaboration and partnerships, youth and the digital/on-line world, and several more.

At the business meeting, delegates will be voting on whether or not to dissolve the St. Lawrence District. This is the final step required before our district staff and resources can be joined with the Ohio-Meadville District to create the regional organizational structure the UUA has been moving towards across the country. Several of our UUSO leaders have attended presentations on this proposal and are cautiously optimistic about the new plan. UUSO still has some delegate

slots open. If you would like to attend District Assembly as a UUSO delegate, please contact me or our Board President, Karen Palmer. —Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

**Office Administrator needed at UUSO:**

20-25 hours/week September-June, 10-15 hours/week July & August, \$13-\$15/hour based on experience and skills. Duties include managing day-to-day operations, providing a friendly presence in the church office, producing bi-weekly newsletters, and maintaining the society's database. Strong interpersonal, computer, and written and verbal communication skills required. See [uuso.org/job-search/](http://uuso.org/job-search/) for full job description and requirements. Please submit resume with cover letter and three references to [revcraig@uuso.org](mailto:revcraig@uuso.org). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled.

**ANSWER THE MUSE—IN CONCERT AT THE UU SOCIETY OF ONEONTA**

**Wake up Oneonta... Answer the muse is headed your way...**

**For a concert experience unlike any other!**

Answer the Muse is more than music—more than theatre—it's a group that you will want to see over and over again, as they take you on a journey of transformation and real joy! Out of Ithaca, the group defines itself as "Indie Rock with Yogic Soul." Performances sparkle with original songs, rock covers/songs remade—fused with yogic chant and audience participation that includes breath work, movement, dance, and meditation in theme-based sets. Shows are packed full of audience participation! You are breathing with us, chanting with us, dancing with us, laughing with us, maybe crying with us, then on your feet celebrating life with us!!!

Think of us as performing "Spiritual/Yogic Rock Musicals." Our audiences are asked to be interactive... We do not think of performance as a passive activity; rather, performance is the opportunity to create joy, bliss, healing, and community! This is one concert you want to be a part of! Kick off the spring with answer the muse!

**COMING TO:** UU society of Oneonta on Sunday, April 3, at 2 pm; \$15/adult; kids free.

—Diana Friedell

**COME TO OUR MOROCCAN DINNER TO HELP FUND THE LIBRARY IN  
YOUCHAOU'S SCHOOL IN MALI—SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

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thoroughly remarkable and disquieting film... Timbuktu is also a work of almost breathtaking visual beauty..." according to film critic Roger Ebert. Doors open at 5:30 for the Mali Market followed by dinner at 6:00. Free childcare is available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Family rates are available. If you haven't made your reservations yet, contact Carolyn Wolf-Gould at 434-3303 or [cswolfgould@gmail.com](mailto:cswolfgould@gmail.com). We hope you will join us for this very special evening!  
—Suzanne Miller, Mali Task Force

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to springtime in UUSO Religious Education! We have finalized the schedule for the rest of the church year. In this newsletter I will outline the Children's RE program. The Youth will be featured in the next newsletter. There are many fun, spirited, and engaging UU opportunities for children in the weeks ahead!

**March 27: Annual Easter Can Hunt!** We will hunt for deviously hidden cans of food that we'll package up to donate to local food pantries. I will also host a short Children's Worship Service about mindfulness. Last month we practiced the stillness of a frog and created snow globes. This will be another short mindfulness lesson and there will be another kind of frog to take home to help while practicing mindfulness skills. We'll meet at 10:30 at the Olympia Brown House.

**April 3:** RE classes will rehearse the Religious Education Intergenerational Service to be held on April 10. This year we will be presenting an adaptation of Erika Hewett's service, *The Creator's Workshop*, from her book, *Story, Song and Spirit*. She describes this worship service as: "...one story of our planet's birth, in which humans are given the precious gift of freedom." This service asks the question: "How do we use our freedom wisely?" There will also be a pizza party and service practice on Saturday, **April 9**, from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

**April 10:** Religious Education Presents: *The Creator's Workshop*, an Intergenerational Service.

**April 17:** A Start-Together Sunday (all children begin in the sanctuary at 10:30 with their families until after Time for All Ages). The Explorers (K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade) will then look at the spirit of adventure. They will learn about some real world explorers and do some of their own adventuring. The Seekers (5-6<sup>th</sup> grade) will examine how they make choices and watch clips from the movie, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*.

**April 24:** A Start-Together Sunday after which the Explorers will learn about Unitarian Illustrator N.C. Wyeth and his paintings of fantastic adventures. They'll look at treasure maps and see where they might lead! The Seekers will watch clips from the movie, *Hoosiers*, and talk about forgiveness and second chances.

**May 1:** Classes will begin at 10:30. Explorers will welcome a visitor from our congregation who will share travel adventure stories. The Seekers lesson is called, "The Way of Truth and Love," and will include a clip from the movie, *Ghandi*.

**May 8:** Classes will begin at 10:30. Explorers will learn about Henry David Thoreau and the interconnected web of life. Seekers will talk about the concepts "build it and they will come" and dreams coming true. They'll watch a clip from the movie, *Field of Dreams*.

**May 15:** I will host Children's Worship Service at 10:30 at the Olympia Brown House. We will have a Celebration of the Animals Service! Friendly and well-behaved animals are invited (as well as their child-owners). This is also **Bring-A-Friend Sunday**, so human friends are also encouraged to join us.

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**May 22:** Classes will begin at 10:30. Explorers will learn about Universalist P.T. Barnum and enjoy some circus activities. Seekers will look at how bad things do sometimes happen and what can be done while watching a clip from the movie, “Super 8.”

**May 29:** There will be no RE Classes because of Memorial Day Weekend. Childcare will be available in the nursery.

**June 5:** Intergenerational Flower Sunday for all, in the Sanctuary. It is a Stay-Together Sunday. Each person will bring a flower and choose another to bring home. (Extras will be available should someone forget to bring one.)

**June 12:** This is the last class for the Explorers and Seekers. Explorers will learn about Unitarian Beatrix Potter and Seekers will talk about changing the world while watching part of the film, *Evan Almighty*.

**June 19:** Annual All-RE Ice Cream Party at the Olympia Brown House!

Please save this information for later referral or you can always find information about upcoming classes at [www.uuso.org](http://www.uuso.org) by clicking on “Children/Youth” at the top of the page and then “Next Sunday’s Classes” in the drop-down menu. It will be updated by each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Here’s to Spring!

—Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education, [dre@uuso.org](mailto:dre@uuso.org)

### UUSO Religious Education Easter Celebration!

**CAN HUNT**

**Cans Needed!**

**On March 27, all RE participants will have the chance to search for deviously hidden cans in the backyard of Olympia Brown House. They will package them up for donation to area food banks. There will be a short lesson about mindfulness (which we have been practicing lately), treats, and a party!**

**If you have any non-perishable cans or boxes of food to donate, please leave them in the collection box at the front of the sanctuary or on the office porch of the Olympia Brown House on or before March 26. Thank you!**

## ANTIWAR AUTHOR, DAVID SWANSON, WILL SPEAK AT UUSO

Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 pm—Save the date!

Swanson will speak at UUSO on “Waging Peace: War Is A Lie,” as part of a book tour for his second edition of *War is a Lie*. He will meet with a gathering of college students at 5:30 followed by a talk to the general public at 7:00 with refreshments to follow. We hope you will mark your calendar and help us spread the word.

—Suzanne Miller, Social Action Committee

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### FROM THE OFFICE—IN GRATITUDE...

As most of you probably know, I have accepted a job at Hartwick College. It's a wonderful opportunity for me and my daughters, although I will most certainly miss my UUSO Family! I know our Search Committee is hard at work and will soon be hiring a replacement, who I'm sure will serve you well.

Back in the summer of 2002, my former father-in-law, Jack Ahearn, mentioned that his church was looking for a secretary; he encouraged me to apply. Cindy Squires, Kathy Shimberg, Jon Dyer (all long-time UUSO members), and Wendy Hunt and Jason Smith (former UUSO members who've since moved away) interviewed me and ultimately invited me to join the UUSO staff. After just a moment's hesitation, I gladly accepted—the group that interviewed me quickly won me over with their easy smiles, wit, and warmth. It's been a true joy being a part of the UUSO for these past 13 1/2 years. Through these years, the church has been an integral part of my life, and the lives of my children. I've learned and grown so much, and have thoroughly enjoyed my years as Office Administrator for the UUSO. I will forever cherish the memories and friends I've made.

The 37-year-old once hired to be the church lady I momentarily hesitated to become (the image my mind initially conjured up when Jack suggested I apply was a combination of the stodgy, pious church lady sitting in the darkened office of my childhood church rectory coupled with Dana Carvey's church lady/alter ego saying, "Well, isn't that special"! ) is now a 52-year-old who will be eternally grateful for having had the opportunity to share these many years with all of you. I've loved being your "church lady" (aka office administrator). Thank you for the gift of these years together!



—With much love and gratitude, Robin



**CALENDAR  
MARCH**

Mar 16	Wed	<b>6:30 - 8:30 PM/Board of Trustees/CM</b>
Mar 17	Thu	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		7 - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Mar 18	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Mar 19	Sat	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM/Anti-racism Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		10:00 AM - 5:30 PM/Building Use/CM
		10 AM - 10:00 PM/Building Use/OBH
		<b>5:30 PM/Mali Event: Moroccan Banquet &amp; Movie/CM</b>
Mar 20	Sun	<b>10:30: "The Voices In Your Head" Rev. Craig &amp; Cheryl DeDecker/CM</b>
		<b>12:00 PM/Jim Crow Book Discussion/OBH Dining Rm</b>
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		<b>1 PM/Free Hypnosis Clinic/CM Loft</b>
Mar 21	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		5:00 PM - 6:30 PM/Building Use/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
		7 PM/Endowment Cmte/OBH Lvg Rm
Mar 22	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
		Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		5:45 PM - 7:00 PM/Yoga/CM Loft
Mar 23	Wed	6:30 - 9:30 PM/Stop the Pipeline/CM
		8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Mar 24	Thu	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
		Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
		Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Mar 25	Fri	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		<b>7:00 PM - 8:30 PM/Finding Your Path/Cheryl DeDecker/CM Loft</b>
Mar 26	Sat	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Mar 27	Sun	<b>10:30 AM/Service: "Judas, Peter, and Thomas"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>

		12-2 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
Mar 28	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		<b>9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline</b>
Mar 29	Tue	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
		10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
Mar 30	Wed	5:45 PM - 7:00 PM/Yoga/CM Loft
		8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Mar 31	Thu	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10A/Policy Sub-cmte/OBH Dining Rom
		10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM

**APRIL**

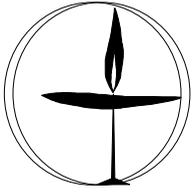
Apr 1	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10AM-11 PM/Building Use/Set-up/CM
Apr 2	Sat	8AM-5:30PM/Building Use/Set-up/CM
		<b>5:30 PM/Auction/CM</b>
Apr 3	Sun	<b>10:30 AM/Srvc: "Jazz Hands"/Diana Friedell &amp; "Answer the Muse"/CM</b>
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		1:00 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM
Apr 4	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Apr 5	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		1-3 PM/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
		5:45 PM - 7:00 PM/Yoga/CM Loft
		6 PM/Social Action Cmte/67 Church St
Apr 6	Wed	7 PM/Web Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm
		8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Apr 7	Thu	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM Loft
		4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		7-8P/Membership Cmte/OBH Lvng Rm
Apr 8	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Apr 9	Sat	4:30P/Bldg Use/RE/CM Sanc/Kitchen
Apr 10	Sun	9-10:30 A/Bldg Use/RE Rehearsal/CM
		<b>10:30 AM/Service: RE Service/CM</b>

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

**Rev. Craig's Office Hours:**

Tues, Wed, and Thurs, 10-2, by appointment

**Office Administrator's Hours: TBD**



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
12 Ford Ave.  
Oneonta, NY 13820

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

**March 20, 2016**

### "The Voices In Your Head"

*Start Together Sunday*

The Bible says God speaks as a "still small voice within." All we have to do is listen for that voice, but... which of the internal voices is the right one?

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

**Music provided by  
Music Director Tim Horne**

*Ushers: Chuck & Dotty Hudson &  
Arlana Young*

*Coffee Hosts: Florian and Laura Reyda*

*Worship Associate: Keith Willcox*

*(Please submit announcements to  
Keith via email by 3/18.)*

**March 27, 2016**

### "Judas, Peter, and Thomas"

*Easter Sunday*

*Children's Worship at OBH*

Three disciples, three roles in the Easter story: Judas as betrayer; Peter as denier; Thomas as doubter. Who was redeemed and how—and why does it matter?

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

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

*Ushers: Karl & Kate Seeley*

*Coffee Hosts: J Dono & **Volunteer Needed!***

*Worship Associate: Charles King*

*(Please submit announcements to  
Charles via email by 3/25.)*