

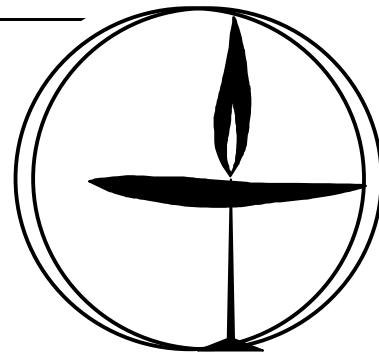
UU News

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



April 1, 2015

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

Board President: April Gates—988-6517

Music Director: Tim Horne—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

HIGH HOPES!

Our stewardship drive is making great progress. We have reached \$127,618 of our \$170,000 goal. We look forward to having the remaining \$42,382 by the end of the stewardship campaign on April 12. If you haven't pledged yet, every dollar counts. Each pledge, no matter how great or small contributes to our collective goal...making our UUSO a real and supportive presence to our members, community, and the world. We move onward with *High Hopes* in fulfilling our campaign goal. Thank you for your support!



—Sandy Smith, Stewardship Chair

FROM THE OFFICE...

Annual reports are due from all committee chairs, the minister, the Board of Trustees, the treasurer, and the Director of Religious Education **by April 6**. Please be sure to submit reports on time so they can be included in the complete UUSO Annual Report to be presented at the May 10 Congregational Meeting.

—Robin Ahearn

AUCTION 2015!

Our Goods & Services Auction is fast approaching on May 2! Be sure that this event is on your calendar, and invite your friends and neighbors! As usual, we'll serve complimentary snacks and beverages during the silent and live auctions. There will be free childcare available for the evening.

As the Auction will take place on the same evening as the Catskill Symphony, there will

(Continued on page 3.)

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Faith Exploration at UUSO

Last month, I invited members of the UUSO community to gather and discuss how we might improve how we do adult religious education or adult programming. Between the two meetings, about a dozen people met in person to explore the topic. Several other people couldn't attend the meetings, but shared their thoughts via email and phone calls. These are the main ideas, as I understand them, that came out of those conversations:

- We would like there to be more opportunities for learning and faith exploration.
- The Building Your Own Theology curriculum was quite popular.
(Though it is difficult to schedule due to it requiring 10-12 weeks.)
- Involvement of the minister in these programs is not required, but desired.
- There is considerable interest in exploring end-of-life issues.
- It was everyone's hope/desire that a program of some sort be offered soon.

Based on these ideas and others shared, I have a few ideas for how we might expand our Faith Exploration here at UUSO. (I'm calling it Faith Exploration, because it is more descriptive of the purpose and less restrictive than Adult Programming.)

What Do You Believe? – Diana Friedell suggested this idea to fill the void left by the end of our Spiritual Vespers. Once a month, we will invite someone to come and facilitate a presentation/conversation about their particular religious and/or spiritual beliefs. We hope this will help us to better know our neighbors, build connections beyond UUSO, and inspire and assist us in the formation of our own beliefs.

Worship Forum – Once a month, I plan to facilitate a discussion of the worship topic after the service. I'm hoping to start this conversation in the loft or in the front of the sanctuary 30 minutes after the worship service ends. People are encouraged to bring food or a bag lunch. My intent is to give us an opportunity to go deeper with some of these topics and to promote faithful conversations.

Quarterly Offerings – Once a quarter, on the same schedule as our worship calendar, I am hoping to offer a program of some sort. Depending on the topic or curriculum, these programs might be facilitated or co-facilitated by members of the congregation. We have a large number of programs to choose from. Our UUA's Tapestry of Faith collection has dozens of programs of varying lengths on many topics. There are also many books and workshops offered through Beacon Press.

While I am already offering, with the Membership Committee, the Getting to Know UU classes this quarter, I am also tentatively scheduling a three-part workshop on “Ending Well” for May 5, May 12, and May 19. The full details of this three-part workshop have yet to be determined. (There is no published UU curriculum on death and dying—something we might want to rectify.) My hope is to provide information on the legal aspects, the basics of hospice, and the religious issues related to the end of life.

Faith Exploration Committee

While it is important and desirable that I, as the minister, be involved in these programs as much as possible—I know that I will not be able to organize and facilitate these offerings by myself. I am going to need help. I would like to form a Faith Exploration Committee, patterned after the Worship

UUSO Newsletter—April 1, 2015

Committee. Everyone on the Worship Committee is directly involved in some aspect of worship here at UUSO. The committee, as a whole, meets quarterly to review the last quarter and plan out the next quarter. I foresee the Faith Exploration Committee working in a similar fashion—with each person on the committee responsible for coordination of one piece of the Faith Formation program every quarter. If you are interested in being a part of this new endeavor—this experiential learning (like an experiment, but with no negative outcome, since the goal is to learn something)—then please let me know.

—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

Circle of Life...

Congratulations to UUSO Member Patricia Engel LaFata on the birth of her newest grandchild, Myla Rose Turnbull, daughter of her son Ben and his wife Liz! Myla was born on Patricia's mother's 96th birthday. Welcome to this wonderful world, Myla!

Have you signed up for UUSOCHAT?

As you may know, we have a new discussion email list for the UUSO: UUSOCHAT@googlegroups.com. If you haven't yet signed up to be on it and would like a way to easily contact UUSO people, go to our web site, <http://uuso.org/> and click on the "Email List" button on the blue bar at the top of the page. Fill out your name and give your email address in the form that comes up, and Robin will add you to the listserv.

Once you receive an email notice that you've been added to the list, you can send email to everyone on the list by sending to UUSOCHAT@googlegroups.com.

We will be inactivating the UUSO_TALK list at the end of April, so don't delay!

—Kathy Paranya for the Web Committee

AUCTION 2015

(Continued from page 1.)

be a preliminary list of auction items prepared for the preceding Sunday (4/26) which will enable the entire community to participate, whether in person or via absentee bids. And remember that the silent auction will begin at 5:30 and the CSO not until 7:30!

If you haven't already, contact Jane at 431-9509 with your donations of items, services, or snacks for the evening, or if you can help for a few hours the night of the auction. We can't do it without you!

—Jane Bachman

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Explorers class of preK through third graders recently visited their "Special Place" in the backyard of the Olympia Brown House. They have been doing this off and on since their class began in the fall. They are exploring the interdependent web of life and their "Special Spot" is a place to pay close attention to all of the many changes that occur through the seasons to their very own piece of earth. They are happy to report to you all that last Sunday they noticed signs of spring. There was a brighter quality to the sunlight, the snow was beginning to recede and if they listened very carefully, they heard running water.

This bodes well for our upcoming Easter/Spring Celebration on April 5. We will all begin in the sanctuary until after Time for All Ages and then go to the Olympia Brown House for the annual Can Hunt. If we are able to be in the backyard (not too much snow, water, or mud), there will be deviously hidden cans of food to find. All will be collected and packaged for donation to one of the local food pantries. If need be, we will conduct our hunt inside the Olympia Brown House. There will also be spring treats for all participants! We are still in need of non-perishable food donations to hunt. These can be left in the entryway of Chapin Memorial Church or in the office entryway at the Olympia Brown House at least 15 minutes before the service on Sunday, April 5. Thank you for helping with this project!

Another spring activity that has been mentioned in previous newsletters is information about planting milkweed and other butterfly host and nectar seeds for our gardens. This is to support the dwindling monarch butterfly population in our area. If you are interested in more information about these plantings as well as the plight of the monarch butterfly, you can now find flyers and brochures in the RE brochure holder at the bottom of the stairs at Chapin Memorial. If you are interested in taking it a step further, there is also information about how to get your garden certified as a "Monarch Waystation."

Here's to water, mud, seedlings, and future butterflies! —Susan Ryder, UUSO Dir. Religious Ed

PUBLICITY ASSISTANT

Do you need assistance drafting a press release or even just deciding how an event or issue needs to be publicized? Contact Kay Stuligross at 432-6974 or stuligrossk@gmail.com. I'll help you write a press release or edit what you have written. We will talk about how widely you need something publicized: to the UU community, to area churches, to the Greater Oneonta and Cooperstown areas, or to all of Delaware and Otsego County. We will also discuss the appropriate vehicle for your information: UUSO services, newspapers, radio, online.

Together we'll decide where each release should go and what each should include. We need to work together as soon as an event is planned for the release to reach the public at the most effective time. Of course, Robin will continue to be an integral part of this process.

—Kay Stuligross

Sawdust from the Board

At the Board's March meeting, we heard the regular reports from the Treasurer, Director of Religious Education, and Minister. The Board accepted reports from the Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Committee. The slate of officers and Bylaws changes were accepted by the Board, and will be voted on by the membership at the May 10 Annual Meeting. A mailing with the agenda; slate of nominees for Trustee, Moderator, Endowment Committee, Nominating Committee; and details of proposed Bylaws changes will be sent to Society members shortly.

Kathy Paranya, Chair of the Website Committee, reported extensively on the recent congregational survey and gave the committee's recommendations for the Board to consider. We will take this up at the April 15 Board meeting.

We heard from the Office Committee that we will be needing a new copier in the not-too-distant future.

Many thanks to Cynthia Squires, who kindly agreed to act as Recording Secretary for this meeting in Robin's absence.

The March Sounding Board was well attended, and items brought up were addressed as appropriate. Come visit with Trustees at the next Sounding Board, held each month during the Social Hour on the Sunday before Board meeting. As always, members are welcome to observe at Board meetings, which are held at 6:30 pm in Chapin Memorial on the third Wednesday of each month (except July).

—April Gates, President, for the Board of Trustees

APRIL CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Our Change for Change for the month of April will go to GOFAR (Greater Oneonta Fund for Animal Responsibility), a nonprofit organization established in Oneonta in 1991 to help with the cost of spaying and neutering stray cats and local pets for people who couldn't afford it on their own. GOFAR currently conducts a monthly spay/neuter clinic for cats, and also sponsors a voucher program to offset the cost of spaying and neutering both cats and dogs at participating area veterinarians. GOFAR exists on volunteer help and professional vet services and also seeks donation of some clinic supplies. GOFAR's goals include educating all pet owners about the benefits to them and to society of spaying and neutering pets, and encouraging responsible pet ownership. Priority for services is given to low-income households, disabled individuals, elderly residents, farmers, and individuals caring for stray or feral cats. See www.gofar.org or call 436-9546 for further information, clinic dates, and needed supplies.

—Kathy Shimberg, for UUSO Social Action Committee

UUSO ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The UUSO Endowment Committee plans to write each month a very short newsletter article highlighting some aspect of its mission, goals, fundraising efforts, investments or distributions.

So, this first information clip will simply present the Fund's mission statement written in 1997: *The mission of the UUSO, Inc's Endowment Fund is to raise, invest, manage, and disburse gifts to fund both activities in the Society that are not normally part of the operating budget and activities in the community that are consistent with the principles of Unitarian Universalism.*

If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, email them to me, and our committee will do its best to answer them. The Fund exists because of your ongoing generosity. Thank you.

—Grace Smith, Endowment Cmte Chair: chewsie6@gmail.com

NOTES OF THANKS...

The Family Service Association/ February 12, 2015:

Dear Friend of The Family Service Association:

We at FSA wish to thank you for your generous contribution of \$372.66 to The Family Service Association. We depend on donations like yours to continue providing basic assistance to lower income individuals and families, and people who are dealing with crisis.

During 2014, adults and children from 1,215 area households received services at FSA. This number included 1,944 adults and 1,278 children, a total of 3,222 people. People from all over Otsego County and some from surrounding counties found their way to FSA.

Services were provided through the agency's four programs: the Clothing Program, the Emergency Services Program, the parenting Resource Center, and the Training Program.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely, Jim Catella, President, Board of Directors

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/February 5, 2015

Dear Friends:

Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the budgeted gift of \$166, which we received on 1/23/15.

Since 1939, supporters like you have helped UUSC become a leading voice in advancing human rights worldwide. We pledge to honor your commitment to us through our efforts to defend the human right to water, to restore and protect our civil liberties, to ensure workers' rights, and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

Sincerely, William F. Schulz, President and CEO

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

Dear Friends:

Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the **Guest at Your Table** gift of \$159, which we received on 1/26/2015.

Sincerely, William F. Schulz, President and CEO

UUSO Newsletter—April 1, 2015

CALENDAR APRIL

Apr 2	Thu	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM - 06:30 PM/Yoga/CM
Apr 3	Fri	8:00 AM - 09:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Apr 4	Sat	6:00 PM - 09:00 PM/Building Use/CM
Apr 5	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "The Price of Redemption"/Rev. Craig/CM
		1-3 PM/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
Apr 6	Mon	8:00 AM - 09:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		3-4 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6-8 PM/Small Group Ministry/OBH
		6:30-8 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Apr 7	Tue	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM
		10:15 AM-/Small Group Ministry/OBH
		4:30-8:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30 PM/Stewardship Cmte/OBH Living Rm
		7:00 PM/Web Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
Apr 8	Wed	8:00 AM - 09:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		1:30 PM/Small Group Ministry/Off-site
		4-4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
Apr 9	Thu	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM - 06:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM/NAACP/OBH Living Rm
		6:30 PM - 08:30 PM New to UU Class/OBH Dining Rm
		7-9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Apr 10	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		5 PM/COAST Circle of Life Retreat begins/CM
		5 PM/COAST Circle of Life Retreat begins/OBH
Apr 11	Sat	COAST Circle of Life Retreat/CM
		COAST Circle of Life Retreat/OBH
Apr 12	Sun	COAST Circle of Life Retreat ends/CM
		COAST Retreat ends/OBH
		10:30 AM/Service: "The World Wide Web"/Rev. Craig/CM

		12 Finance Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm
		12-1 PM/COAST Brown Bag Lunch/OBH
		6 PM/Dining for Women/CM
Apr 13	Mon	8:00 AM - 09:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline
		3-4 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30/RE Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30-8 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Apr 14	Tue	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM
		4:30-8:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
Apr 15	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		4-4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30 PM/Board of Trustees/CM
Apr 16	Thu	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM - 06:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:30 PM New to UU Class/OBH Living Rm
		7-9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Apr 17	Fri	8 AM - 9 AM/Aerobics/CM
Apr 19	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Our Commandments"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12-2 PM/COAST Mtg/CM Classroom
		12-2 PM/Mali Task Frce/OBH Lvg Rm
		1-3 PM/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
Apr 20	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		3- 4:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6-8 PM/Small Group Ministry/OBH
		6:30-8 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
		7 PM/Endowment Cmte/OBH Upstairs
Apr 21	Tue	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM
		10:15 AM/Small Group Ministry/OBH
		4:30-8:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
Apr 22	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		1:30 PM/Small Group Ministry/Off-site
		4-4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft

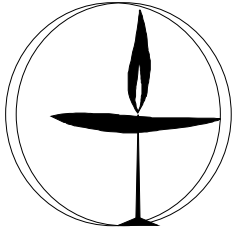
CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

Rev. Craig's Office Hours:

Tuesday, 10-4; Wednesday, 12-4; Thursday, 10-4

Office Administrator's Hours:

Mon, Wed & Fri, 9-2; Tues & Thurs, 9-12



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

April 5, 2015

"The Price of Redemption"

Easter Service, Start Together

In the Christian story of Easter, Jesus gives his life to redeem all of our sins.

Believers or not,
there IS a price for redemption.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Music provided by the UUSO Choir
and Music Director Tim Horne

Ushers: Tom O'Brien and Beth Rafter
Coffee Hosts: Lynn Beken and Prue & Rich Stelling
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco
(Please submit announcements to Julian via email by 4/3.)

April 12, 2015

"The World Wide Web"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has declared this to be Climate Justice month. Where do we fit in our world wide web, the web of all existence and creation?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Music provided by Dorothy & Michael Frye-Hunt

Ushers: Vickie Andritz & Bob Rightmire
Coffee Hosts: Karl & Kate Seeley
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
(Please submit announcements to Kevin via email by 4/10.)