

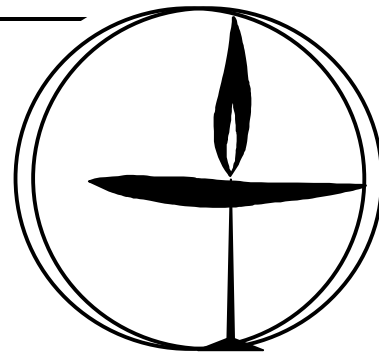
UU News

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 29, 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

MAY 10 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SLATE OF OFFICERS

The UUSO Nominating Committee of Alice Siegfried, Cynthia Squires, and me, will recommend the following slate of officers at the May 10 Congregational Meeting:

Board of Trustees (three-year terms)

John Bagby
Karen Palmer
Sandy Smith

Moderator (one-year term)

April Gates

Nominating Committee (three-year term)

Ben Friedell

(Continued on Pages 8 and 9)

2015 GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

The Auction is coming up this Saturday, May 2! Complimentary snacks and beverages will be available. Bring friends and family for a fun evening! Free childcare will be provided.

Here's the schedule:

5:30 pm	Doors open and the silent auction begins! Start bidding and check out the live auction items.
6:30 pm	Live auction begins, with Doug Hallberg as auctioneer.
7-8:00 pm	Silent auction tables close.

Here's just a sample of the terrific items up for bid! Check the website and listserv for a more complete list.

(Continued on Page 9)

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Ending Well Seminars

“Religion is the human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die.” So said the Rev. Forrest Church, one of our most prolific, contemporary UU ministers. For three weeks in May, we will be exploring this dual reality of living with the knowledge of death. There will be three sessions in the “Ending Well” seminar series. One session will deal with the legal issues of preparing for death; one session will deal with end-of-life issues from the perspective of hospice and medical decisions we may need to face; and one session will deal with memorializing and grieving. The exact order of the sessions has not been finalized as I am still working on arranging for guest speakers. Attendance at all three sessions is not required for participation, though it would be helpful if people would let me know if they are planning to attend so we can plan accordingly for space needs. The seminars will take place the first three Tuesday evenings of May (5/5, 5/12, and 5/19). Please check the UUSO website or the UUSO chat for the exact location (which will be determined by the number of participants we need to accommodate).

Sermon Discussion

UUSO, as we say every Sunday morning, is an active community with lots of opportunities to get involved. While this is good for us and a sign of a healthy congregation, it does make scheduling things a bit of a challenge sometimes. Scheduling the first in what I hope will be a monthly series of sermon discussions after the worship services on Sunday morning has proven to be quite difficult. My first attempt was thwarted by a previously scheduled engagement with our COAST group (which was a great deal of fun). The second attempt, scheduled for this upcoming Sunday, is in conflict with an important Finance Committee meeting—where we will be finalizing the proposed budget for the annual congregational meeting. At this point, I'm afraid this part of our Spiritual Exploration program will have to wait until the summer worship calendar.

Child Dedication

It is our practice, here at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, to offer the rite of Child Dedication twice a year, on Mother's Day and near Thanksgiving. Mother's Day is May 10, this year. The Child Dedication is a rite of passage where we officially recognize a child as a part of this beloved community and extend the blessing and commitment of the congregation to the support and welfare of the child and his or her family. If you would like your child to be dedicated this Mother's Day, please let me know.

—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

Sawdust from the Board

The Board of Trustees had a long and productive April meeting. Actions taken include:

- Approved posting UUSO Bylaws, Annual Report and Long Range Plan on the UUSO website;
- Approved creation of a secure area on the website to post the Annual Budget and summary of minutes of regular Board meetings;
- Approved creation of a searchable data base in a secured area for members and friends to look up addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of adult members who choose to be listed;
- Approved placing and activating a “Donate Here” button on the web page;
- Accepted with enthusiasm a new statement of purpose and mission for the Committee on Ministry;
- Approved a request from the Finance Committee to bring together a working group to explore avenues for planned giving through an endowment process.

Highlights of reports from various committees:

The Stewardship campaign, following phone calls which elicited generous donations, has reached our goal... The Properties Committee is working toward replacing the marquee at Chapin Memorial and expects to have a new hand railing completed at the Olympia Brown House... Fundraising is seeking a new coordinator for UUSO fundraising events... Social Action Committee is sponsoring a day for a community clothes program at Chapin Memorial, working with a group organized by a Methodist church in Binghamton.

Our next regular meeting is May 20, 6:30 pm, in Chapin Memorial. As always, members are welcome to observe. If you have an item that the Board needs to address, please let me know, or stop by the Sounding Board on Sunday, May 17, and speak with Trustees Amy Forster Rothbart and Virgil Briggs and ask to be on the agenda. A reminder that the Sounding Board is available during the Social Hour on the Sunday before regular Board meetings as a way for you to let the Board know about your concerns, ideas, hopes, and vision for UUSO.

A reminder: Please be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on May 10. I hope to see you there.
—April Gates, President, for the Board of Trustees

UUSO_TALK IS GOING AWAY!

As you probably know, our old listserv, UUSO_TALK, will be deactivated at the end of April. It has been replaced by UUSOCHAT@googlegroups.com. Most of the members of the old list have already signed up to be on UUSOCHAT, but if you haven't yet done that and you want to be able to easily send emails to interested members of the UUSO community, please sign up to be on the new list. You can do that by going to our website: www.UUSO.org and filling out your name and email address on the form that will come up when you click on "Email List," which you'll find on the blue bar at the top of the page.

If you have any questions or problems with the new UUSOCHAT@googlegroups.com email list, please contact Kathy Paranya at kparanya@stny.rr.com. —Kathy Paranya

MAY CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Caring Connections is a local program which provides emergency services for our neighbors who are in crisis. This program, housed at Catholic Charities, directs people to existing services, if they are available, and helps those for whom other services are not available. Run by trained volunteers and funded by local churches, Caring Connections is often the end of the line when a family is unable to find help. Catholic Charities provides professional support to the program. 100% of money donated goes to those in need, as Catholic Charities absorbs all overhead costs. —Donna Behrendt

YOU CAN NOW LISTEN TO PAST SERMONS ONLINE!!!

If you've missed any of the last few weeks of Sunday sermons, they are now available online at the following website: <http://uusopod.libsyn.com/>. You can also find them by going to our web site (UUSO.org) and looking under the dropdown menu listed in the blue bar under, "Ministry." You'll see a link to "Sermon Podcasts" there.

We've subscribed to a service where we can load most of the sermons given in our sanctuary each month, and as space allows, we'll also load some of the older sermons given in our sanctuary. If there is any particular sermon that you'd like loaded, please let me know so that we can get it posted. Several people have already requested a few of their favorites from the past, so you'll find them loaded on the site now.

We'll load sermons as soon as they have been prepared for podcasts, and that may take several weeks, so please bear with us if you don't find the most recent sermons right away. (Many, many thanks to Scott Segar who has been getting the podcasts ready from the recordings of the entire Sunday services.)

Please let me know if you have problems or questions about accessing the podcasts.

—Kathy Paranya for the Web Committee

SOLARIZE THE SOUTHERN TIER

Solarize the Southern Tier is currently giving a series of free public informational presentations around our area, seeking to double the number of solar PV installations across five counties—Otsego, Delaware, Chenango, Broome, and Tioga. If you missed the two previous local ones and would like to find out more about solar possibilities for your home or small business, the next Otsego County presentation will take place this week on Thursday, April 30, from 6 to 8 pm in the UUSO sanctuary. Free refreshments too. There will also be one in Otego on May 12. Solarize the Southern Tier is a volunteer-driven grassroots campaign from the non-profit Southern Tier Solar Works. These events feature information on costs and capabilities of solar in New York, detailing program and NYSERDA incentives, and include handouts with installation costs. Three partner installers, who have completed an RFP process, attend every event to answer questions and sign up any interested people for free assessments. In mid-May, everyone who has signed up for solar will be invited to a session focusing on financing options. For further info, visit www.southerntiersolarworks.org. Please also spread the word to anyone else you think might be interested.

—Kathy Shimberg

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE...

The Social Action Committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, May 5. This will be at 6:00 pm followed by an optional potluck. We invite guests and new members to 20 Draper Street, the home of Clarissa Stewart.

The committee will be hosting an informational meeting, "Solarize The Southern Tier," (see above article for more info) Thursday, April 30, at the UUSO from 6 to 8 pm. Done by the non-profit group Southern Tier Solar Work, they will give us the Who, How and How Much.

—Dotty Hudson

FROM CAMP UNIRONDACK...

The Unirondack Board of Directors has decided to offer our present campers an incentive to reach out to widen the circle of people in our community. If you refer someone who registers for either Channing session this summer, we will provide both you and the new camper with an additional \$25 credit in your camp store account. Refer four friends to Channing and you will receive a \$100 credit and get all the Unirondack gear you have ever wanted.

If you are not a present camper, you will still get the credit and can use it to get Unirondack gear over a weekend.

When you refer someone, please drop us an email telling us the person's name so when they register we can credit your account.

—Dan Gottfried, Executive Director

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Yesterday was the annual Children’s Religious Education Service. We performed a story about how important it is to accept each other and to let the people in our lives into our hearts. The children, along with adult helpers, did a fabulous job doing just that! I have been hearing much appreciation from those who attended the service. It was meaningful to those of us who were putting it on as well.

We had a practice and pizza party on Saturday night before the service. I have done this many times over the years and am always amazed at how much the children put themselves forward to participate with enthusiasm and with creativity. Some have to face many fears about doing this for you and are so brave. Some are more than ready to offer their talents and are joyful about doing so. Everyone brings something unique and wonderful to our service.

This year’s group amazed me from the very first by their attention and awareness of what they were creating together. Both adults and children jumped right in to help wherever they were needed. There were suggestions and changes offered that made the service a true collaboration. We were all made to feel richer and better by the presence and contributions of each other. Something new for us this year was when one of our students, Sabrina, choreographed a dance for us. We also had a student, Cory, who became our lead percussionist. Many of us adults were moved to tears just watching them practice. I felt like I was already attending a joyful and spirit-full service and it wasn’t even Sunday morning yet!

One of the teachers told me she overheard a conversation between two students after the Sunday service saying, “I really like coming to church!” and “Me too!” I think that about says it all.

—Susan Ryder, Children’s Director of Religious Education



Upcoming Raffle... **COASTing Our Way Towards Boston!**

The COAST (Coming of Age Spiritual Trek) Group are holding an exciting raffle that began April 19. During coffee hour, you can purchase raffle tickets from any COASTER, one for \$5.00 or five for \$20.00. We have many prizes, so your chances of winning are excellent!

PRIZES:

- Electric Keyboard, donated by Norma Lee Havens;
- Two WINNERS! Deluxe COASTER Quiche Lunch with special salad and dessert, pick your own date, donated by Lisa Zuend-Misner;
- COASTER Baked Goods Basket, including a variety of yummy baked goods donated by all members of COAST;
- Three WINNERS! Delectable Chocolate Fudge Pie, donated by Jenny Bagby.

The drawing will be on Sunday, May 17, and prizes (except the Deluxe Quiche Lunch) will be given to the winners on this date. As always, COAST is very grateful for the congregation's support and generosity.

Questions or want to get your tickets?

Contact COAST Coordinators Elayne Mosher Campoli or Eric Zuend-Misner, or Director of Religious Education Susan Ryder.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The 2015 UUSO Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, May 10, at 12 noon in the Sanctuary. The agenda will include election of members of the Board of Trustees and Endowment Committee, a Moderator, and a Nominating Committee (see bios, page 1). We will also review annual reports of the Minister, committees and sub-organizations of the Society, review and vote on the tentative 2015-2016 UUSO Budget, and review and vote on proposed bylaw changes for both the UUSO bylaws and the Endowment Committee bylaws. If you'd like to have a printed copy of the proposed bylaws with you at the meeting, please bring the copy you should have received in the mail; if you don't have one, a limited number of printed copies will be available at the meeting or you may contact the office to request a set be printed for you.

In order to be able to vote at the Congregational Meeting, you must have been a UUSO member for at least a month (member as of April 10). If you are interested in membership, you can speak with Rev. Craig Schwalenberg who will guide you through the process. Signing in as a current UUSO member at congregational meetings will serve as one means of affirming your membership for the calendar year.

Childcare will be available during the Congregational Meeting.

—Robin Ahearn

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SLATE OF OFFICERS

(Continued from Page 1)

Endowment Committee

Jenny Bagby (one-year term)

Paul Robinson (three-year term)

Grace Smith (three-year term)

The nominees, listed in alphabetical order, have submitted the following short biographies:

Jenny Bagby: My family and I have been members of UUSO since 2008. I am a current member of the Endowment Committee and Finance Committee. I am also the co-chair for the Cookies and Crafts Committee.

John Bagby has been a member of the UUSO since 2008. He has served as a member of the Religious Education Committee for six years, four of which he has served as chair or co-chair. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees for three years, serving as clerk for one year and vice president for two years. He is also a member of the Design Committee and the Properties Committee.

Ben Friedell is a lifelong UU and has been a member of UUSO for the past 30 years. During that time, he has served three different times on the Board of Trustees; as a member of the most recent Ministerial Search Committee; and is the current moderator of the UUSO.

April Gates: I live in Otego with my spouse of 24 years, Judy Tator, one sweet dog, two friendly cats, and six fluffy chickens. I have been a member of UUSO since 1986. I have served as a trustee for the past five years, and as president of the Board for the past two years, an interesting and rewarding experience. In addition to working with the Board, I have facilitated a Small Group Ministry for the past several years. I would be honored to serve our UUSO congregation in the capacity of moderator for the coming year.

Karen Palmer has been an active member of the UU Society of Oneonta since 1990. She has served in a number of ways, including as member and president of the UUSO Board of Trustees, past chair of the Stewardship Committee, moderator, Religious Education teacher, and Board member and president of our St. Lawrence District. Karen is excited to be a part of the health and growth of our congregation.

Paul Robinson is a nine-year Marine veteran having served as a Marine Embassy Guard. Paul graduated from the University of Colorado with a BA in education in 1970. He

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earned an MA in School Administration from the University of Northern Colorado in 1974. Paul is a retired teacher and school administrator. Paul joined the UUSO in the early '80s. He has served on many committees including a previous stint on the Endowment Committee.

Grace Smith: Having been a Society member since 1986, I have served on many, many committees and participated in innumerable fun and fundraising events. Currently my focus is on the UUSO Endowment Committee which I have chaired for the past two years. My husband, Duncan, and I are so glad we found UUSO so many years ago.

Sandy Smith has been a member of UUSO since spring 2014. Although new to Oneonta, Sandy has been actively engaged in UU life in Pennsylvania ('95-'07 & '12-'13) and Wisconsin ('07-'11). She is a faculty member at SUNY Oneonta in the department of health and fitness and an affiliate faculty member for the department of women and gender studies. She earned her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University where she studied sport management. Sandy is a conservationist and can often be found exploring the woodland trails of this region. She is pleased to be nominated for the Board of Trustees and plans to become more involved with the UU community and engaged in efforts to help preserve New York's great outdoors and wildlife treasures.

—Bob Brzozowski

2015 GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

(Continued from Page 1)

- Artwork by our own Peg Hathaway, Ed Garbarino and Betty Kratzenstein;
- One truckload of topsoil, #2 stone or screened bank run gravel, delivered;
- Half day of help with spring cleaning; four hours of home repair;
- Homemade breads delivered monthly and key lime pie to take home;
- 19th century refinished 4 drawer chest and a tabletop painted screen;
- A weekend away at a wonderful home in Princeton MA;
- Reese's Cheesecake, Baklava & Blackberry Apple Pie baked to order;
- Chauffeured field trip to the Corning Museum of Glass;
- An evening of fine dining at Toscana restaurant;
- Gift certificates for massage & acupuncture; tickets for Glimmerglass Opera;
- Join a Garden breakfast, Mexican dinner, Cocktail party, Dinner and a Movie ...and much more!

If you can't make it on Saturday, absentee bids will be accepted! Please contact Jane Bachman with a description of the item and your top bid. —Jane Bachman

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Please update your copy of the 2015 UUSO Directory with the following information:

Ruth Tarter

New address:

15 Farone Drive, Apt. F32

Oneonta, NY 13820

Hunter Leggitt

New phone number:

(269) 930-2262

HELP WANTED...

I announced at District Assembly with sadness that our district's treasurer, Mark Jackson, has decided to step down after several years of service. Mark will continue to serve as treasurer through the close of the current year's accounts, near the end of July, and will help train the new treasurer. I ask for your help in identifying candidates for the new treasurer.

Below is the job description. I ask anyone interested in the treasurer's position to contact me (Jeffrey.b.donahue@gmail.com) and submit a summary of relevant financial experience. This is a board appointed volunteer position I hope to have filled near the end of May to allow sufficient time to work with Mark before assuming these responsibilities.

SLD Treasurer's Job Description

- The district Treasurer is appointed by the district Board and attends Board meetings;
- Monitors and corrects as necessary the recording of receipts and disbursements in QuickBooks Online as performed or directed by the District Administrator and the District Bookkeeper to assure these conform to District policy and/or past practice;
- Produces and presents financial reports for District Assembly, district Board meetings, and at other times as requested;
- Participates in any audits or external financial reviews that may be necessary;
- Advises the Regional Lead, District Administrator, President, and Board on financial policy and prudent financial practice as necessary or requested;
- Serves on the district's Finance Committee who develops the annual budget.

Jeff Donahue, St. Lawrence District President, Jeffrey.b.donahue@gmail.com

—Submitted by Sue Tabone, Administrator, St. Lawrence District

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**CALENDAR
APRIL**

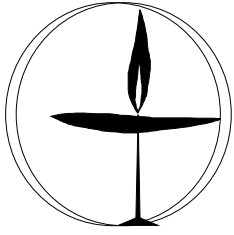
Apr 29	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		4 - 4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
Apr 30	Thu	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		6-8/Solarize the Southern Tier/CM

MAY

May 1	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9 AM-11 PM/Building Use/Set-up/CM
May 2	Sat	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM
		2-4/New to UU Class Reception/Off site 5:00 PM/Auction/CM
May 3	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "The Meaning of Ministry"/New Member Recognition/Rev. Craig/CM
		12 PM/Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		1-3 PM/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
May 4	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		3- 4:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30- 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
May 5	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
		6:00 PM/Social Action Cmte/Offsite
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Ending Well/CM Classroom(tentative) 6:30-8 PM/Ending Well/OBH Front Room(tentative)
May 6	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		4 PM - 4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		7-8:00 PM/Membership Cmte/OBH
May 7	Thu	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM - 6:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		7:00 PM/Web Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
May 8	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		5:30 PM/Pizza & Games/CM
May 9	Sat	10AM-6 PM/Social Action Cmte/CM
May 10	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Life After Birth?"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12 PM/CONGREGATIONAL MTG

May 11	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline
		3- 4:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30-8/RE Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
May 12	Tue	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM
		4:30- 8:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Ending Well/CM Classroom(tentative) 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Ending Well/OBH Front Room(tentative)
May 13	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		1:30 PM/Small Group Ministry/Off-site
		4 PM - 4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft 6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
May 14	Thu	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		5-8:30 PM/NAACP/OBH Living Rm
		5:30 PM - 6:30 PM/Yoga/CM
May 15	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
May 17	Sun	10:30/Srvc: "Head, Hands, Heart, and Hope"/Suzanne Miller/CM
		12 PM/Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		12-2/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		1-3 PM/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft 6:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM
May 18	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		10/Office Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm
		3-4 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
		6:30-8 PM/Zen Meditation/CM 7 PM/Endowment Cmte/OBH Upstairs
May 19	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 - 8:00 PM/Ending Well/CM Classroom(tentative) 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Ending Well/OBH Front Room(tentative)

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

May 3, 2015

"The Meaning of Ministry"

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

Ours is a shared ministry.
But what exactly is this "ministry"
thing anyway? More important,
what is OUR shared ministry?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Music provided by
the SUCO Brass Ensemble

*Ushers: Kevin Schultz and Emily &
Mark VanLaeys*
Coffee Hosts: Suzy Beddoe & Beth Small
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
*(Please submit announcements to
Kevin via email by 5/1.)*

May 10, 2015

"Life After Birth?"

Mother's Day/Start Together

Some people debate about when life
begins. Others wonder about life after
death. This Mother's Day, let's
consider life after birth...

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Music provided by UUSO Choir
and Music Director Tim Horne

Ushers: Paul Conway and Joe Stillman
Coffee Hosts: Adrienne Martini and
Volunteer Needed!
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco
*(Please submit announcements to
Julian via email by 5/8.)*