

UU News

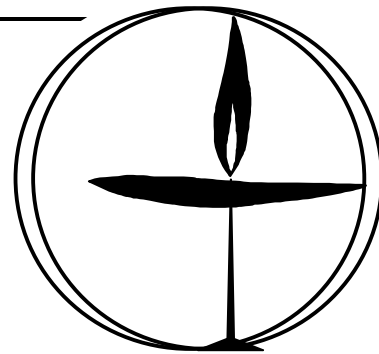
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

June 10, 2015



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

Board President: April Gates—988-6517

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Director of Religious Education:

Susan Ryder—643-1927—dre@uuso.org

Editor & Office Administrator: Robin Ahearn—432-3491
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BOOK & PLANT SALE RESULTS!

This year's Book and Plant Sale was a great success, bringing in over \$1000! There are still some plants available on the front lawn and plenty of books available downstairs by donation. A huge thank you to everyone who made the sale possible. —Deb and Julia

FROM THE OFFICE...

- The June 24 Newsletter will be the last issue for the "regular" church year; the deadline is Monday, June 22, at 9 am. The mid-summer Newsletter will be published July 29, with a deadline of July 27 at 9 am.
- Summer office hours will begin the week of June 29 and will be Tuesday and Thursday, 9-2. Regular office hours (MWF, 9-2 and T&Th, 9-12) will continue through June 26. —Robin Ahearn

JUNE DINING FOR WOMEN

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, June 14, at 6 pm at UUSO. The featured program this month is Indego, Africa, in Rwanda. This organization's Leadership Academy teaches business and leadership skills to women artisans who sell their handmade goods, worldwide, through cooperatives. Featured speakers will be Prof. Paul Conway, who has done research on Rwanda; Prof. Katherine O'Donnell, who has extensive experience with women's artisans cooperatives in Chiapas, Mexico; and Rachel Ainslie-Hamlin, who recently returned from visiting a Dining for Women sponsored program in the Dominican Republic. 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

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

General Assembly

It is almost time for our Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly. G.A. is our annual gathering at which we do the business of our association, worship together, teach and learn from one another in workshops and seminars, and connect with UUs from across the country (and around the world!). General Assembly is in Portland, OR, this year from June 24-June 28. Sadly, but understandably, due to the distance, I believe I will be the only person from UUSO in attendance at G.A. this year. I'll do my best to represent us and will cast my votes as your delegate as my conscious guides me. If you can't attend General Assembly, you can still get a feel for most of it. Many of the events are live-streamed on the UUA website or recorded for later watching. Highlights this year include:

The Opening Ceremony & Banner Parade	Wednesday (6/24) 8 pm PST
The Service of the Living Tradition	Thursday (6/25) 7:30 pm PST
The Ware Lecture by Dr. Cornell West	Saturday (6/27) 8 pm PST

I will be leaving for Ministry Days and General Assembly on Monday, June 22, and will be returning from Portland on June 28. While there, I'll be attending plenary sessions, workshops, and seminars. In between all of those opportunities, I will be once again coordinating the booth for the UU Trauma Response Ministry (featuring a brand new banner, thanks to our very own Suzy Beddoe. Thank You, Suzy!) I will try to answer emails while I'm at G.A., but phone calls are likely to go to voice mail. If you do have an emergency, please contact Board President April Gates or Office Administrator Robin Ahearn.

Next year, our General Assembly will be in Columbus, OH. (About a nine-hour drive from Oneonta.) It will be, as always, the last week in June. I hope some of you can make it. If you are interested in learning more about General Assembly or our wider movement, please let me know.

Building Your Own Theology — CANCELLED

Unfortunately, no one expressed interest in taking the Building Your Own Theology class I was offering this summer. This could be due to the time of the year or the time of the day chosen. Either way, I've cancelled the classes. I will look for another block of time that will work to offer the class in the fall. It is important and difficult work, but well worth the effort we would put into it—as our COASTers demonstrated so fabulously this past Sunday during the Rites of Passage service.

—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

Sawdust from the Board

Our regular June meeting is next Wednesday, June 17, and marks the end of my time on your Board of Trustees. It has been an honor to serve in this way, and I look forward to the coming year as your Moderator. Also stepping off the Board this year will be Mary Ambrose and Stan Sessions. Newly elected and returning members Karen Palmer, Sandy Smith and John Bagby will round out the Board for the next three years. The Board also has some temporary changes coming up as Stan Sessions steps down with one year remaining on his term, and two members will be on leaves-of-absence for the fall semester. The Board President, with the approval of the Board, will make temporary appointments to complete the nine-member Board.

Immediately following the final meeting of the 2014-15 Board, the new Board will have a brief meeting to elect officers and organize for the coming year.

Following the June 14 Sunday Service, the Sounding Board will be staffed by Trustees Jeane Bennett-O'Dea and Mary Ambrose. The Sounding Board offers an opportunity for you to greet Board members and communicate your concerns and ideas, likes and wishes directly to the Board. The Sounding Board table is usually located near the Sanctuary bulletin board. Board meetings are held at 6:30 pm in Chapin Memorial on the third Wednesday of each month except July. As always, UUSO Members are welcome to observe at all regular Board meetings.

—April Gates, President, for the Board of Trustees

ATTENDANCE:

April 19	74	May 17	62
April 26	89 (RE Kids' Srvc)	May 24	53 (Memorial Day Weekend)
May 3	79	May 31	77
May 10	N/A (Mother's Day)	June 7	82 (Flower Communion)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Now it is all before you—wonderful
...What is it love must say?

Go forth to the fullness of your being:
May a merry kindness look you in the face.
Where home was, may your travels bring
You to a fellowship of open hearts.

—from *Hand-Shadows* by Jarold Ramsey

The Coming of Age Spiritual Trek class (aka COAST) completed their Pilgrimage to Boston last week. Three adults and four teens/young women journeyed together with open hearts and minds to a place of much history and significance to Unitarian Universalists. This was only a part of the journey that began with the first COAST class last fall and that has continued throughout this year. They have worked together with adult advisors and mentors from our congregation to tease out what it is to be a youth, to become an adult, to find meaning and personal understanding of faith/spirit, to find support and connection with our UUSO and larger Unitarian Universalist community, and to celebrate who they are as individuals along the way. The journey is not over and certainly never ends!

Part of our time in Boston included working on individual statements of faith that they presented to our congregation at the “Rites of Passage” Service on Sunday, June 7. This work brought together things they learned on their faith journeys this year. Crafting a faith statement requires a lot of courage. It requires even more courage to present it to the congregation. It is a gift they offered to us.

I would like to challenge you to prepare a faith statement for yourself! Think about what you would say if you were presenting it to the congregation. Approach it as a snapshot in time – what you find yourself believing right now. In COAST, we start with the premise that our beliefs are always changing as we grow and we remain open to new understandings. What follows are some of the questions COASTers considered as they wrote their faith statements. These were meant as thought-starters and they were encouraged to find other questions to consider if these weren’t particularly helpful.

Do you have a sense of “God” or higher power? If so, how would you describe it? Why are we/you here in this world? What are your thoughts about what happens when we die? Do you believe in the concept of “evil”? Is there a force for “good”? Why are there bad things in the world and how do you react/cope with those things? When do you feel the most spiritual, joyful, present, and/or alive?

How would you have answered these questions when you were 12-16 years old? What would it have meant for you to present your work to a congregation? (Perhaps some of you actually did that – what did it mean for you at that time in your life?)

If you craft a faith statement, you will share some of what our teens experienced in COAST and perhaps also learn more about your own faith journey.

UUSO Newsletter—June 10, 2015

Our time in Boston was FUN! We toured the brand new UUA Headquarters which I found much more accessible to guests than the (beautiful, historic, centrally located) Beacon Hill offices. The new building was beautiful in a modern and open floor-plan way. Sunlight streamed in. There were interactive displays and friendly tour guides. The building has Platinum Certification by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the highest designation of green building certification. It incorporates historic items brought from the Beacon Hill site with modern, sustainable and earth-responsible architecture. We felt proud to honor our UU heritage as we saw memorials and portraits of famous historical UU leaders. We all learned things that amazed us. For just one example of many, I didn't know that Beacon Press, which is also housed in the new UUA building, published the Pentagon Papers in 1971. We all came away with a sense of pride at the huge scope of the work of Unitarian Universalists worldwide, both present and past. One of the teens asked how she could go about working for the UUA someday.

We had meaningful adventures all over Boston. We walked parts of the Freedom Trail and saw important places in US history. We played tag on the Boston Common every time we walked across it. There was a lot of walking! The group visited the attractions that they chose when they first began to raise money for the trip: the Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium, Fire and Ice Restaurant, and the museums in Salem that commemorate the dark time of the Salem Witch Trials. Our accommodations were an Airbnb in a nearby suburb that we found to be spacious and comfortable, and it met all our needs.

On Sunday morning we attended services at the historic Arlington Street (UU) Church. We were welcomed into a beautiful sanctuary to a service about facing fears by Rev. Kim K. Drawford Harvie. She preached from William Ellery Channing's impressive pulpit which was much higher than ours at UUSO! After the service, one of the COASTers was overheard saying, "I love it here!" We enjoyed a delicious lunch and fellowship time following the service. We incorporated a bit of our Arlington Street Church experience with you during the UUSO "Rites of Passage" Service on Sunday, June 7

There were the inevitable traffic delays, last minute closings of venues, parking woes, a missed train, and a bit more walking than had been expected. These things happen on any trip and also are good life lessons in dealing with the unexpected. Our COASTers handled everything with cheerfulness and flexibility. We laughed a lot together. On the ride back home to Oneonta one of the COASTers said, "I feel the happiest I've ever felt in my life."

Something new to this year's trek was being able to provide up-to-the-minute photos and comments about our adventures via social media. These were posted on the members-only UUSO Community Facebook Page moderated by Elayne Mosher. This page is for posts about activities at our church. If you would like to join this page, please contact Elayne through Facebook or email at mselayneous@yahoo.com.

Thank you so much for all the ways you have supported us in having this Coming-of-Age year, as well as for your generosity in participating in the group's fundraising. It has been an incredible journey!
—Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education

NOTES OF THANKS...

May 19, 2015

Dear Unitarian Community,

On behalf of the Oneonta Community Health Center, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$198. We deeply appreciate your gift.

For over five years our services have relied entirely on the charitable donations of our community. Those who volunteer give their time and talents to offer free health care services to uninsured adults and those greatly challenged with health care and insurance costs.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Gerri Haan, President, Board of Directors

June 2015

On behalf of our volunteers, I gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of \$130 from your Social Action Committee. In the almost 24+ years we have spayed/neutered over 6,000+ cats—and there are still more out there! We appreciate your committee thinking of our organization for your Change for Change.

Sincerely, Beverly Gruner, Treasurer, GOFAR (Greater Oneonta Fund for Animal Responsibility

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## If prayer would do it

If prayer would do it  
I'd pray.

If reading esteemed thinkers would do it  
I'd be halfway through the Patriarchs.

If discourse would do it  
I'd be sitting with His Holiness  
every moment he was free.

If contemplation would do it  
I'd have translated the Periodic Table  
to hermit poems, converting  
matter to spirit.

If even fighting would do it  
I'd already be a blackbelt.

If anything other than love could do it  
I've done it already  
and left the hardest for last.

—Stephen Levine

UUSO Newsletter—June 10, 2015

**CALENDAR  
JUNE**

|                                    |     |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jun 10                             | Wed | 6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM                                                    |
| Jun 11                             | Thu | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM                                                      |
|                                    |     | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM/Yoga/CM                                                        |
|                                    |     | <b>5:30 PM/NAACP/OBH Living Rm</b>                                               |
| Jun 12                             | Fri | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                    |
|                                    |     | 10 - 11:30 AM/Jung & Yoga/CM                                                     |
| Jun 13                             | Sat | 8 AM-5 PM/Bldg Use/Zen Retreat/CM                                                |
| Jun 14                             | Sun | Youth Canoe Trip/Off-site                                                        |
|                                    |     | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "Volunteerism: What We Get When We Give"/Laura Reyda/CM</b> |
|                                    |     | 12/Finance Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm                                                |
|                                    |     | <b>6:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM</b>                                               |
| Jun 15                             | Mon | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                    |
|                                    |     | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                                              |
|                                    |     | 7 PM/Endowment Cmte/OBH Upstairs                                                 |
| Jun 16                             | Tue | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM/Yoga/CM                                                      |
|                                    |     | 10:15 AM/Small Group Ministry/OBH                                                |
| Jun 17                             | Wed | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                    |
|                                    |     | 4 PM - 4:30 PM/Building Use/CM Loft                                              |
|                                    |     | <b>6:30 PM/Board of Trustees/CM</b>                                              |
| Jun 18                             | Thu | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM/Yoga/CM                                                      |
|                                    |     | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM/Yoga/CM                                                        |
| Jun 19                             | Fri | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                    |
|                                    |     | 10 AM - 11:30 AM/Jung & Yoga/CM                                                  |
|                                    |     | <b>7PM/Baseball Game/Damaschke Field</b>                                         |
| Jun 20                             | Sat | 2-5/Auction Item--Hypnosis Clinic/CM                                             |
| Jun 21                             | Sun | 9-10:30 AM/Building Use/OBH/RE                                                   |
|                                    |     | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "Being a Father"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>                          |
|                                    |     | 10:30-12/RE Ice Cream Party/OBH                                                  |
|                                    |     | 12-1:00 PM/Building Use/OBH/RE                                                   |
|                                    |     | 12-2 PM/Mali Tsk Frc/OBH Living Rm                                               |
| 12:30-2:30/Small Group Ministry/CM |     |                                                                                  |
| Jun 22                             | Mon | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                    |
|                                    |     | <b>9/Last "Regular" Newsletter Deadline</b>                                      |
|                                    |     | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                                              |

|        |     |                                                                                                 |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jun 23 | Tue | 6:30-9:30P/Stop the Pipeline Mtg/CM                                                             |
| Jun 24 | 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                                                             |
| Jun 26 | Fri | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                                   |
|        |     | 10 AM - 11:30 AM/Jung & Yoga/CM                                                                 |
| Jun 27 | Sat | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/OBH                                                             |
| Jun 28 | Sun | <b>NO RE</b>                                                                                    |
|        |     | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "Answering Children's Questions UUSO Style"/Alexandra Tolin Schultz/CM</b> |
|        |     | <b>1 PM/Free Hypnosis Clinic/CM Loft</b>                                                        |
| Jun 29 | Mon | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM                                                                   |
|        |     | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                                                             |

**JULY**

|        |     |                                                                  |
|--------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jul 5  | Sun | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "It's OK to be Weird"/Alexander Riba/CM</b> |
| Jul 6  | Mon | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                              |
| Jul 9  | Thu | <b>5:30-8:30/NAACP/OBH Living Rm</b>                             |
| Jul 12 | Sun | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "Growing Pains"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>           |
|        |     | 12/Finance Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm                                |
|        |     | 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM/Building Use/CM                                |
|        |     | <b>6 PM/Dining for Women/CM</b>                                  |
| Jul 13 | Mon | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                              |
| Jul 18 | Sat | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/OBH                              |
| Jul 19 | Sun | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "A True Unitarian"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>        |
| Jul 20 | Mon | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                              |
| Jul 23 | Thu | <b>6:30 PM/Concert/Neahwa Park</b>                               |
| Jul 26 | Sun | <b>10:30 AM/Service: "Question Authority"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>      |
| Jul 27 | Mon | <b>9/Mid-Summer Newsletter Deadline</b>                          |
|        |     | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM                              |

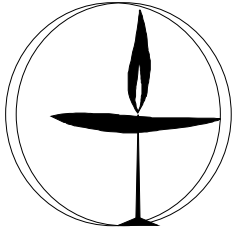
CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

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

*Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10-2*

**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

June 14, 2015

### "Volunteerism: What We Get When We Give"

An exploration of how we grow  
personally and benefit from  
living our lives in a way  
that is generous to others.

**Laura Reyda**

Music provided by  
the UUSO Choir and  
Music Director Tim Horne

*Ushers: Brian Bendlin and Arleen Benedict  
Coffee Hosts: Martha Robinson and ???  
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz  
(Please submit announcements to  
Kevin via email by 6/12.)*

June 21, 2015

### "Being a Father"

*Father's Day/ Family Friendly Service*

What does it mean to be a father?  
Join us as we celebrate this special,  
complicated relationship with  
reflections from multiple voices.

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

Music provided by  
Dorothy and Michael Frye-Hunt

*Ushers: Deborah Blue and Rina Riba  
Coffee Hosts: Leah Bridgers and  
Julian Pecenco  
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco  
(Please submit announcements to  
Julian via email by 6/19.)*