

UU News

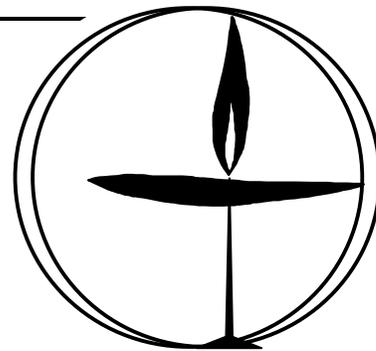
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

July 29, 2015



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

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Horne—432-7323

UUSO Church Building—433-7329

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Susan Ryder—643-1927—dre@uuso.org

Editor & Office Administrator: Robin Ahearn—432-3491
uuso@uuso.org

DONATE TO THE UUSO AND PAY PLEDGES ONLINE

UUSO is pleased to announce the convenience of online donation. **A greener approach to giving!**

Pledge payments and other contributions can now be paid automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card.

Giving online is easy and allows you to make a one-time payment or to set up automatic recurring contributions. You can also view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at **www.uuso.org**,
2. Click on “Donate” on the blue menu bar, then click on the “Online Donation” link,
3. Click on the **Create Profile** button, then
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile,
5. You can choose from General Operating or Pledge Payment options to make your one-time gift or schedule your recurring contributions.

—Lynn Beken for the Web and Finance Committees

FROM THE OFFICE

Calendar Planning: Please be sure to submit scheduling requests for the upcoming church year to the office, by email at uuso@uuso.org or by calling 432-3491 during summer office hours, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-2. (*Please **do not** assume that events that were on last year's calendar will automatically be carried over.*)

The next Newsletter will be published August 26, with a deadline of 9 am on August 24. Please be sure to submit articles on time.

—Robin Ahearn

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Questions in Abundance

Our annual Question Service was Sunday, July 26, and there was an absolute plethora of good questions submitted by those in attendance. (Some people wrote multiple questions on their note cards.) There were so many questions, I couldn't get to more than half of them during the service. I took several of the questions and set them aside for the next Sunday's service, "The Hard Questions." Those questions were:

- "How can we allow fast food workers to be paid \$15/hour while preschool teachers are only paid between \$8-15/hour?"
- "What are we doing or not doing that causes us to create unfairness?"
- "If God is Love, why isn't there more love in the world?"
- "Why do people let fear paralyze them?"
- "Why are we always at war?"
- "If there is such a loving God, why are most wars religiously based?"
- "Why are we so mixed up?"
- "Why do we only know difference in each other?"
- "Is there a way to avoid feeling jealous of others?"

I believe all of these "hard questions" have one thing in common: Human Nature. And so, this next Sunday, I'll be reflecting on Human Nature during the service.

There were still over a dozen questions left that I didn't get to—and they were good questions. So, I'll be answering those questions over the next weeks, posting those answers on UUSO Chat and on my Facebook page. (As always, I make no promises as to the veracity or cleverness of my answers to the questions. As I said to one of the younger questioners on Sunday, often, the minister's only honest answer to a question is, "I don't know.")

A Mysterious Question

One of the questions submitted this past Sunday was,
"Where did the new chalice come from?"

Which was an extremely good question. Earlier this year, our traditional UUSO chalice, created by Don Booth in the mid 80's, was accidentally knocked over and shattered. We have been using a number of temporary chalices ever since as we have contemplated a more permanent replacement. (One of the temporary chalices was also accidentally knocked over and broken as well—which encouraged us to consider less fragile chalices.) This Sunday, when we arrived to prepare for the service, a new, large, beautiful wooden chalice was bolted in place on our stand. No one spoke to me or our ad-hoc Chalice Committee about it—it just appeared anonymously. The reaction of those in attendance was quite positive. The wooden chalice matches the beautiful woodwork of our sanctuary. So, for now, while we don't know who to thank for our new, beautiful, less-fragile, chalice, we are certainly grateful for this gift to the congregation.
—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Debbie Reep Maskin: Debbie's new name is Debbie Reep MacLeod; her new contact info is: 20 Eileen Street, Albany, NY 12203; (518) 482-0715 (h); 437-7244 (c); debflute@hotmail.com

Luba Reep: New contact info: Diamond Ridge, 59 Harris Road, Apt 220, Troy, NY 12182

Sawdust from the Board

It finally “feels” like summer and it has been good to see our Sanctuary filled to a healthy level for Sunday services given the competing draw of lovely weather. I’d like to highlight some people who have recently stepped up to fulfill an important service for our congregation. Paul Carter has accepted an appointed position to the UUSO Board of Trustees to fill in for John Bagby during his temporary leave of absence. Grace Smith has been asked by the Board to be the Fundraising Committee Chair and has accepted. It’s wonderful when our members are willing to contribute their time and talents to support our congregation and its Mission. Thank you, Paul and Grace!

Our next Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, beginning at 6:30 pm. We are changing our regular meeting location from the Chapin Memorial Loft to the Sanctuary so that we can welcome any guests with an accessible and ample enough space. Our Board meetings are open to any members and friends of the congregation and it is fine to just show up without notice. A guest is invited as an “observer” of the meeting and not a participant in the deliberations. However, we have several ways for anyone in the congregation to request that an item be placed on the Board agenda:

1. Voice your issue to the “Sounding Board”—a table with two Board members set up after the service on the Sunday before the Board meeting (August 16 will be the next one, with John Bagby and myself).
2. E-mail me with your issue at kpalmer14@hughes.net or call 267-4793 by the Sunday afternoon before the Board meeting.
3. If you are on a committee, you will likely have a Board member as a liaison assigned to bring your issues to the Board.
4. Speak with any of our Board members or our Minister, Rev. Craig Schwalenberg, at least a week ahead of the meeting so that he or she can ask to have your item added to the agenda.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Trustees, we encourage your interest and engagement with us toward realizing our common Vision together. —Karen Palmer, President, UUSO Board of Trustees

Circle of Life...

Sending caring and loving thoughts to Diana Friedell and Family on the recent death of Diana's Mom. Mrs. June Ellen Minnerly Borden, 92, of Frederick, MD, died peacefully in her sleep Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

ENDING WELL — PLANNING A MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our next installment in the "Ending Well" series will focus on "Planning a Memorial Service" and will be held on Tuesday, August 25, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Chapin Memorial Sanctuary at UUSO. We will discuss the purpose of a memorial service and the various types traditional to our culture. Planning your own memorial service, or at least offering guidance to those that will be doing so, can be a great stress reliever during a very trying time. All ages are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided upon request (contact Rev. Craig by August 20, if you will need childcare). If planning to attend, please let Rev. Craig know. —Rev. Craig

UUSO Newsletter—July 29, 2015

COFFEE, ANYONE???

As most of you know, at every summer's end we put together a list of assigned coffee hour hosts and ushers for the upcoming year. With every able member and friend helping out, there is very little burden on any one person. The hope is that everyone able will host one coffee hour and usher one Sunday per year. And, it's that time again: Time to compile the list of coffee hosts and ushers for the '15-'16 church year. If you have scheduling requests or preferences, please submit them to the office by August 13 for use in the preparation of the assignment list, to be included as an insert in the August 26 Newsletter. Thank you!

—Robin Ahearn

MEDEA BENJAMIN TO SPEAK

Medea Benjamin, long-time peace and social justice activist, will be speaking at the Kateri Tekakwitha Peace Conference in Fonda, NY, on August 14 and 15. If any of you are interested in attending or would like to know more about Medea's work, go to the peace conference website, <http://kateripeaceconference.org>.

There is a possibility that she might speak at UUSO on Thursday evening, August 13, prior to the conference. Lisa Barr is in contact with the organizers and we are waiting for a response. If we are able to arrange this, it will be posted on UUSOCHAT.

—Suzanne Miller for the Social Action Committee

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE RETREAT

The Social Action Committee (SAC) will have a retreat on Saturday, August 15, beginning at 9:30 am at the home of Suzanne Miller, 103 Elm Street in Oneonta. Lunch will be provided. The morning will focus on developing a covenant for our group which sets guidelines for how we work together and treat each other; this will be facilitated by our UUSO board president, Karen Palmer. After lunch we will discuss the various SAC current projects and potential projects and decide what we want to focus on for the coming year. If you would like to become a part of the Social Action Committee, please email Suzanne Miller at Millerss@oneonta.edu to get more detailed information about the retreat and the work of the group.

—Suzanne Miller

CHANGE FOR CHANGE UPDATE

Recent distributions were \$125.00 to G.O.F.A.R. (Greater Oneonta Fund for Animal Responsibility) for April; \$167.50 to Caring Connections for May; and \$115.50 to Opportunities for Otsego's Violence Intervention Program for June.

—Cindy Squires

FROM THE MALI TASK FORCE...

I include here words from Youchaou's Quarterly Report that I thought might be of interest to the congregation. It was expressed by the grandfather of one of our formerly sponsored students who graduated from 9th grade and is now in high school which is free...

"According to M. Kamite, the grandfather of Moussa Balla Kamite, a formerly sponsored child who succeeded in the DEF exam last year, It's unbelievable that white men, despite the excessive distance between their countries and our own, can be so sensitive to our pains and sorrows. It's just incredible in my eyes.

He said he does not have any words to express his thanks and gratitudes to the friends in Oneonta who helped him educate his grandson."

Anyone interested in finding out more about our program in Mali, please don't hesitate to contact me, or anyone in the Task Force.

—Shirley Ferguson

THE BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT

Each year The Family Service Association gives new school supplies to students from lower income families or families experiencing a crisis who live in Otsego County. 424 children received school supplies in 2014.

This year, the project will take place at the Elm Park Methodist Church in Oneonta. We are seeking donations of new school supplies or money to purchase supplies.

We hope that you will support the Back to School Project this year. We would like to receive donations by Friday, August 28, in order to set the project up to begin the following week, but donations will still be accepted even after the project has started.

Donations can be dropped off at FSA during our regular hours or you may call 432-287 to make other arrangements if necessary.
—Patricia Leonard, Executive Director

CALENDAR JULY

Jul 29	Wed	6-9 PM/SGM Facilitators/OBH Living Rm
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AUGUST

Aug 2	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "The Hard Questions"/Rev. Craig/CM
Aug 3	Mon	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Aug 5	Wed	6-9/SGM Facilitators/OBH Living Rm
Aug 9	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "The Last Mile"/Adrienne Martini/CM
Aug 10	Mon	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Aug 11	Tue	6:00 PM/Picnic/Wilber Park
Aug 12	Wed	5:30 PM - 8:30 PM NAACP/OBH Living Rm
Aug 13	Thu	4:00 PM - 10:00 PM Social Action Cmte/CM
Aug 14	Fri	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Building Use/Private Rehearsal/CM
Aug 15	Sat	9:30 AM - 4:00 PM Building Use/Private Wedding/CM
Aug 16	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "A Rabbi's Reflection"/Rabbi Molly Karp/CM 12:00 PM/Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
Aug 17	Mon	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Aug 19	Wed	6:30 PM/Board of Trustees/CM
Aug 20	Thu	7 - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Aug 21	Fri	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM/Building Use/CM

Aug 22	Sat	9 AM - 2:00 PM/Community Swap/CM 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/OBH
Aug 23	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "The Tao of Juggling"/Rev. Craig/CM
Aug 24	Mon	9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Aug 25	Tue	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM/Ending Well-- Planning a Memorial Service/CM
Aug 27	Thu	7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Aug 30	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Much Obligated"/Rev. Craig/CM

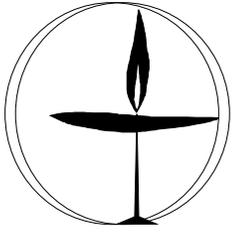
SEPTEMBER

Sep 3	Thu	7 - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Sep 6	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Procrastinate Tomorrow"/Sam Goodyear/CM
Sep 10	Thu	7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Sep 13	Sun	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM/Building Use/CM 6 - 8:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM
Sep 14	Mon	6:30 PM/RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
Sep 17	Thu	7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Sep 24	Thu	7 PM - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

Rev. Craig's Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10-2

Office Administrator's Summer Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday, 9-2



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
 12 Ford Ave.
 Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

August 2, 2015

**"The Hard Questions:
 Human Nature"**

Some questions are just more difficult.
 They take a bit more time and reflection.
 Let's sit together and go a bit deeper with
 some of our hard questions.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
 Dorothy and Michael Frye-Hunt**

*Ushers: Duncan and Grace Smith
 Coffee Hosts: Barbara Sue and Paul Agoglia
 Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco
 (Please submit announcements to
 Julian via email by 7/31.)*

August 9, 2015

"The Last Mile"

Faith is in the gap between what we know we
 can do and what we hope to achieve.

Adrienne Martini

**Music provided by
 Dorothy and Michael Frye-Hunt**

*Ushers: J Dono and Mary Ellen Hoffman
 Coffee Hosts: Brian Bendlin and Deborah Blue
 Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini
 (Please submit announcements to
 Adrienne via email by 8/7.)*

August 16, 2015

"A Rabbi's Reflection"

Rabbi Karp will share thoughts and
 reflections from her perspective as an
 ordained Rabbi. What wisdom does the
 Jewish faith have for our UU tradition?

Rabbi Molly Karp

**Music provided by
 Music Director Tim Horne**

*Ushers: Amy Forster Rothbart & A. Martini
 Coffee Hosts: Adina Johnson & Volunteer
 Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini
 (Please submit announcements to
 Adrienne via email by 8/14.)*

August 23, 2015

"The Tao of Juggling"

Family Friendly Service

These days, it seems we are all juggling;
 trying to keep multiple things in the air,
 trying not to drop anything important.
 Life is all about juggling. So is the Tao.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
 Dorothy and Michael Frye-Hunt**

*Ushers: Volunteers needed!
 Coffee Host: Beth Small
 Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey
 (Please submit announcements to
 Cathi via email by 8/21.)*