

UU News

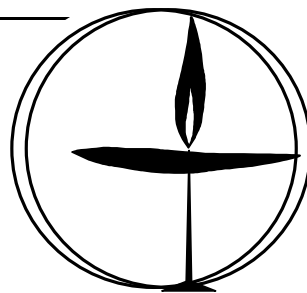
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

November 4, 2015



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

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Home—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

RUMMAGE SALE OPEN NOW!

Hours: Wednesday from noon until 6 pm;

Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm, with everything at half price after 5 pm;

Friday from 9 am until noon, with all remaining items selling for 10 cents/each.

More help for packing up Friday afternoon will be most appreciated, and we could use an extra vehicle for transporting goods to the Salvation Army Thrift Store.

—Anne Ray, Fundraising Committee

PIZZA AND GAMES!

Friday, November 13, doors open at 5:30 pm

All UUSO Members and Friends are invited to Pizza and Games! Please bring \$1.50 per person for pizza, a dish to share (like veggies & dip, salad, hummus, salsa and chips, dessert, etc.) and games to play. This fun event has been enjoyed by folks of all ages at UUSO for many years. Fun is guaranteed for all, whether you come alone or with your whole family. We'll hang out, enjoy company and conversation, eat a casual dinner together, and maybe even learn a new game or play an old one you've always loved. We hope you'll join us!

Please also see this and other UUSO events on Facebook, look for our group, "UUSO Community." If you need help finding it, please contact Elayne Mosher Campoli at ms.elayneous@yahoo.com.

—Brought to you by the Membership Committee

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

“Leadership and Learning are indispensable to each other.”

—*J.F. Kennedy*

On Saturday, October 31, 25 people came together for the first annual UUSO Leadership Retreat. Board trustees, staff members, committee chairs, and the minister (yours truly) spent the day with the Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, our Regional Leadership Development Consultant. We shared what motivated us all to serve the congregation; where our sense of purpose aligned with the congregation's principles, mission, and vision. It was quite moving to hear each person describe their reason, their love, their passion for UUSO. Rev. Renee shared several models and metaphors about leadership and shared ministry. We looked at our long range plan and asked some very telling questions about our dreams and goals.

- What do we need to learn to accomplish this goal?
- What heart-work do we need to do?
(What fears, concerns, and attachments do we have to acknowledge and address?)
- How does this idea/plan align with our mission and vision?
- For each plan and action who is going to be...
Responsible? Accountable? Consulted? Informed?

It was an amazing day! Rev. Renee was impressed and surprised with how well we worked together and how much we accomplished in the short time we had together. The participants, many of us originally guardedly skeptical about spending this time on a holiday, were excited and encouraged about what we had learned and where we would go next.

The last thing we did as a group, with Rev. Renee's encouragement and facilitation, was to create a covenant—an agreement about how we would work together as UUSO leaders. This is the covenant we created and agreed to (with some minor edits for language and consistency):

Our UUSO Leadership Covenant

We covenant to

- Create a safe place to explore different opinions.
- Listen to one another for understanding.
- Take the time to build trusting relationships.
- Ask questions instead of making assumptions.
- Take things seriously, but not personally.
- Commit to align with UUSO's mission and vision.
- Let go of what no longer serves us to make space for what will.

- Find the joy in our work
- Be grateful for the learning of both our successes and our failures.
- Serve with kindness and love.
- Engage fearlessly in creative conflict.
- Give each other permission to hold one other accountable for our commitments.
- Share the responsibility for this covenant.

If you are one of our UUSO leaders (board trustee, staff member, committee chair, or program leader) and you weren't at the leadership retreat, we invite you to join us in this leadership covenant. The original covenant will be posted in the sanctuary for the next month and you are invited to sign it if you are so moved. Together, we can facilitate amazing things here at UUSO.

A Congregational Covenant?

The UUSO Board of Trustees has a covenant. Several of our committees have covenants they use to guide their work together. The UUSO staff has worked on creating their own covenant to guide their commitments to each other and to the congregation. There has been talk of a congregational-wide covenant (not to be confused with the “covenant” we say during our worship services). If we were to create a congregational covenant, an agreement of how we wanted to be with one another, what would you want it to include? What would help you—help us—to live our principles and serve our mission and vision together?

—Cooperatively, Rev. Craig

KEEP CALM AND BAKE COOKIES!

It's time once again for... Cookies and Crafts 2015!

Great looking and delicious tasting things are happening on Saturday, December 5. The 28th Annual Cookies and Crafts takes place from 10 until 4—a festive tradition and terrific fundraiser for the UU. You'll see many tried and true vendors and products as well as a new crafter or two, gourmet items hand-made by our talented congregation and, of course, Pam's fruit cakes (pre-order to guarantee yourself this treat). Soon we will ask you to volunteer to make your favorite delicious and BEAUTIFUL cookies (just add colorful sprinkles, really!) and to help us with the other tasks that make this event as popular as it has been for the past 27 years. Can't wait to see you there! Mmmmm, I can already taste the mint brownies and _____ (you fill in the blank)! AND, we NOW accept Credit Cards!



—Liz Jacob-Carter for the C & C Committee

THE HOUSE WE LIVE IN...

The Black Lives Matter Task Force will be presenting, “The House We Live In,” which is part two of a three-part TV series, “Race: The Power of Illusion,” following the worship service on November 8 at 12 noon in the sanctuary. Discussion will be led by Zanna McKay who has a personal story to share related to “red lining” which is addressed in the film.

—Members of the Black Lives Matter Task Force

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Please be sure to update your church directory with Carol's new contact information:
Carol Malz, 15476 State Highway 23, Davenport Center, NY 13751; (607) 278-5438.

PROJECTOR USE POLICY

Approved by Board October 2015

UUSO owns a video projector. This projector is available for use for UUSO events and for those renting UUSO facilities.

1. The projector (and the laptop computer that works with it) will be stored in the AV closet at 12 Ford Avenue.
2. The Office Administrator will maintain a “Projector Schedule/List” and a list of those trained and authorized to use the projector.
3. Those wishing to use the projector must reserve it by contacting the Office Administrator and being added to the Projector Schedule. (If the Office Administrator is not available, the Minister or the Director of Religious Education may authorize and schedule projector use.)
4. Only trained/authorized projector operators may reserve the projector, and that person must be present for any use of the projector.
5. For non-UUSO sponsored events, there will be a \$30 projectionist fee for the first two hours, paid to UUSO. Additional hours will be billed at \$15/hour. (Two thirds of total fee will be remitted by UUSO to the projectionist.)
6. The projector may not leave UUSO premises for non-UUSO events without approval of the Office Administrator or the Minister.

Sawdust from the Board

It's been a busy and wonderful fall at UUSO! The board met October 21 for a regular meeting and executive session. We took the following actions:

- Approved a new projector policy (See Page 2);
- Approved the expenditure of up to \$1378 for additional Director of Religious Education professional expenses for this fiscal year. (See Susan's article about her experiences at the fall LREDA conference!);
- Approved allowing the Bookkeeper and Treasurer positions to be held by the same person.

We had a full UUSO delegation for the NYSCU (New York State Convention of Universalists) annual meeting on October 23-24 and were treated to a very inspirational keynote by Mark Morrison-Reed, which has been recorded and will be available soon. The workshops were also excellent. We received many positive comments for our hosting of the event.

A substantial group of UUSO members/friends attended a Planned Giving discussion with UUA Consultant Rev. Renee Ruchotzke on October 30. The board will be moving forward with the ideas generated by this group.

The Board, Committee on Ministry, staff, and committee chairs participated in a day-long leadership retreat on October 31 facilitated by Renee. This was a highly interactive, productive, and inspirational day that served to help us align ourselves as leaders with the UUSO mission and vision and move to a shared ministry model. Renee acknowledged our leadership for working at a higher level than she has experienced in some other congregations.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions, and two board members will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service the Sunday before the board meeting.
—Karen Palmer, President, UUSO Board of Trustees, 267-4793 kpalmer14@hughes.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This congregation has begun to support more professional development for me as your Director of Religious Education. The past two years UUSO professional development funds have allowed me to pay the dues to belong to LREDA, the professional organization for DRE's. As a member of LREDA I have made many connections through the LREDA website, attended webinars, and used the searchable LREDA listserv whenever I needed help with an idea. This year, in addition to the professional development funds I was allotted in the current budget, I received funds from the UUSO Board of Trustees and from the UUSO Endowment Committee to attend the National LREDA Fall Conference that was just held in Morristown, NJ, as well as to attend a Professional Days Retreat with Rev. Craig next March. I also hope to attend General Assembly, which will be in Columbus, OH, June 22-26. I apply for and receive all possible grants and scholarships from our district and from LREDA to do this work. I have just returned from the LREDA Fall Conference and I want to thank all of you for this professional development support.

I am still processing all that I learned at the LREDA conference. It was a full conference with very little “down time.” The conference helped me as a DRE in so many ways and I appreciated every minute!

A focus of this conference was “Theme Based Ministry.” Theme Based Ministry means being intentional about monthly themes that relate to our mission and carry through in everything we do. Using this model, the religious education of our children would focus on the same theme of spiritual exploration that is occurring for the adults. A goal is to bring us together as a community of seekers with common themes to talk about all week long. It would help us go deeper when we journey together. This idea would relate to the work we've already been doing at UUSO to articulate and live our vision and mission throughout all of our programs.

I think the idea of Theme Based Ministry is similar to what we already do each January. Currently, the RE (Religious Education) program picks a theme for three to four weeks of workshops for children and youth. During this time Rev. Craig also preaches on this theme. RE invites many participants from the congregation (along with some non-UU experts on the theme) to help with our workshops. It is a way for adults who don't often participate in RE programming to do so. The common theme also means we all have something to discuss together after church and at home regardless of our ages or if we were upstairs or downstairs at church. Many new relationships are formed. At the end of January, RE presents a Sunday service about the theme. I have heard much appreciation from people of all ages for having these experiences together in January.

Theme Based Ministry is a way of “doing” church that can be carried out in many different ways depending on the size, needs, preferences, and traditions of any church community. It means being intentional about choosing themes. This leads to a focus on goals. This isn’t a new idea for many leaders and members of our society. For me, this conference helped me learn more about it, see the benefits, and learn new ways that it might be implemented.

Another aspect of this conference was called, “Full Week Faith.” Full Week Faith means aligning how we “do” church with how people currently live their lives. The premise is that people have become busier. People (especially children) aren’t always available on Sunday mornings. Many people are now learning more through participation in social media rather than through the one-way communication of sitting and listening to ideas. More and more people of all age groups are relying on social media. There is a concern that we have to change how we do things in order to be relevant and to reach people with our message. I learned many ways that other UU societies are applying the idea of Full Week Faith. I learned new ways to reach out through social media. I learned how to “tweet”!

Personally, I came away from this conference with a clear sense that I am not alone in the work I do as a DRE. I made new contacts, new friends, and found new avenues to turn to for help. I was able to network with upstate NY DRE’s and will be seeing them this week for a two-day workshop in Syracuse. We will be able to share resources, deepen our connections and support for each other, and discuss many of the things we learned at the National Conference. I am hoping to work together to provide joint experiences for our Youth such as overnight retreats and mission trips. I was also spiritually “fed” by attending worship services which didn’t involve having to be “on” as DRE.

Thank you all for providing me with these opportunities. I wouldn’t have known how valuable these connections would be without having had the chance to attend the Fall LREDA Conference. —Sincerely, Susan Ryder, UUSO Dir. of Religious Education

SOCK HOP

There will be a sock Hop at the First United Methodist church, 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, on Saturday, November 7. Doors open at 5 pm, program starting at 6 pm. The event features music from the 50's & 60's, contests, a silent auction, and delicious "vintage" food, including burgers, shakes and fries. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance or reservations made at the church office at 432-4102.

—Submitted by Virginia Wilson, First United Methodist Church

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT FRUITCAKE 2015!

Since it worked so well last year, I will be taking orders for fruitcakes ahead of time again this year so everyone can buy as many as they want. The fruitcakes come in two varieties: Light Honey Rum and Dark Brandy Molasses. Each weighs about a pound. The price this year is the same as last year—\$15 each. 100% donation to UUSO. The ***deadline for ordering is November 12*** because the fruitcakes have to be started before Thanksgiving in order to have time to ripen and mellow for the Christmas season. Please either call 267-4280 or email me at pstrother@stny.rr.com if you want to place an order. The fruitcakes will be available for pickup at Cookies and Crafts on December 5, or by special arrangement if you cannot pick them up at Cookies and Crafts. —Pam Strother

NOVEMBER DINING FOR WOMEN

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, November 8, at 2 pm in the UU Sanctuary. Each month the group learns about and supports organizations that help women and girls in developing countries improve their lives. The featured organization this month is Hope Through Health, which will train 25 Community Health Workers to provide home-based health care to pregnant women and children through age five in Togo, Africa. There are few doctors in this small sub-Saharan country, only one per 20,000 people, and pregnant women and young children often suffer and die from preventable diseases. Sustained funding will be provided to Emerge Global, in Sri Lanka. This program reaches out to girls aged 10-18 who have survived abuse and are living in protective shelters. The girls are taught business skills and jewelry design and build savings accounts that help them become self-sufficient after they leave the shelter. 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

ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner is open to all and is once again being prepared by St. Mary's Church and The Lord's Table in Oneonta and served at the Elks Club. Dinner will be served Thanksgiving Day at the Elks Club, 84 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, from 12:30-2:30 pm. To help: Encourage lonely or needy individuals and families to attend the dinner. If someone needs a ride or a meal delivered, please call Deb Bruce at 433-0356 or email oneontathanksgiving@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 24. To volunteer time (set up, cooking, serving, delivering meals, clean-up, etc) or donate specific foods and/or make homemade pies or breads, call Chris Carpenter or email oneontathanksgiving@gmail.com. Items should be brought to the Elks Club or The Lord's Table on Elm Street, Wednesday, November 25, between 9 am and 4 pm. For additional information, contact Chris Carpenter at 435-7987.

—Submitted by Rev. Mickiewicz, St. Mary's Church, & Chris Carpenter, Dinner Coord.

UUSO Newsletter—November 4, 2015
ENDOWMENT GRANT UPDATE

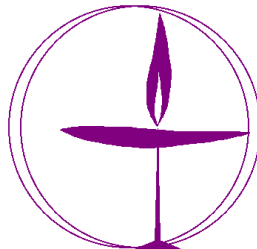
The UUSO Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of funds from this fall's funding cycle.

Some brief statistics: There were 19 grant proposals submitted for a total of \$13,458.00. The amount available to fund projects was \$3917.00. Of the total amount available for grants, 54.9% went to requests from UUSO (18% went to UUSO capital improvement while 37% went to other requests for UUSO funding), 45.1% went to assist community projects.

The requests funded for 2015-2016 were (in no particular order):

- UUSO Office Administrator: Professional expenses;
- Music on the Delaware: Preservation of local music history;
- UUSO RE Director: Professional development expenses;
- Fox Care Gender Wellness Center: Counseling;
- UUSO Office Committee for new carpet;
- UUSO Black Lives Matter Taskforce for materials;
- Oneonta World of Learning: General expenses;
- Joe Stillman for UUSO website video;
- Oneonta Nursery School for a science unit;
- NAACP's Bedding Project for transitioning families;
- UUSO Properties Committee for new marquee;
- Oneonta Toastmasters for CC membership;
- S.T.A.R.T. Actors Group for production costs.

If you want to know more about the funded projects, we would be delighted to talk with you.
—Grace Smith, Endowment Chair



UUSO Newsletter—November 4, 2015
THANKSGIVING DINNER AT UUSO

The annual UUSO gala Thanksgiving dinner will once again be held on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26. After many years coordinating this great event, Pam Strother has passed the torch on to Leah Bridgers and Julian Pecenco. We'd like to thank Pam for her many years of tireless service in organizing the dinner, and making it such a wonderful event. This annual tradition is a fabulous way to spend the Thanksgiving holiday. You'll get a sumptuous meal without having to cook it all yourself, and you'll get to spend the afternoon in the company of UUSO family and friends.

We'll gather in the sanctuary at Chapin Memorial at 2 pm, starting with appetizers and beverages, followed by a full sit-down dinner buffet at 3 pm. Feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives. All who wish to attend are welcome at the feast.

We need all parts of the meal, from beverages and appetizers to desserts. Bring a family favorite, or try something new. (If at all possible, try making your dish gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, and/or nut free, so that guests of all dietary needs will be able to enjoy the bounty.)

The sign-up sheet for attendance at the dinner is now on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Sign up now so we can plan for enough tables, chairs, and food. We need several more people to help with set-up (at 12:15 pm,) and as many as possible to stay after the meal to help with cleanup. We're also looking for another person able to cook a turkey for the dinner.

If you'd like to sign up via e-mail at jp.pecenco@gmail.com, please provide the following information:



- Name(s)
- Number of People Attending
- Any dietary restrictions
- Your contribution(s) to the meal
- If you are able to help with either set-up and/or clean-up.

If you have any questions or you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julian at jp.pecenco@gmail.com or Leah at LCbridgers@gmail.com.

—Leah Bridgers & Julian Pecenco

CALENDAR NOVEMBER

Nov 4	Wed	12:00 PM - 6:00 PM RUMMAGE SALE BEGINS!/CM
Nov 5	Thu	9-8/RUMMAGE SALE Cont'd/CM 7 PM/Membrshp Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
Nov 6	Fri	9-12/RUMMAGE SALE Cont'd/CM 12:00 PM/Rummage Sale Clean-up/CM
Nov 7	Sat	9:00 AM/Rummage Sale Clean-up/CM
		9 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		5:30 - 9:30 PM/Candlelight Dinner Childcare/OBH
		6 PM/Candlelight Dinner/Offsite
Nov 8	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Always Be Right"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12 PM/Black Lives Task Force Movie, "The House We Live In"/CM
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		1:30 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/CM
		2 - 4:00 PM/Dining for Women/CM
Nov 9	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM/RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Nov 10	Tue	5:30 - 7:30 PM/Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Nov 11	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Nov 12	Thu	10A/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM-12:00 PM/Jung & Yoga/CM
		5:30 PM - 6:30 PM/Yoga/CM
		7 - 9:30 PM/Building Use/CCS/CM
Nov 13	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		5:30 PM/Pizza & Games/CM
Nov 14	Sat	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM/Zen Retreat/CM
		9 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		12-2 PM/Building Use/OBH 1st Floor

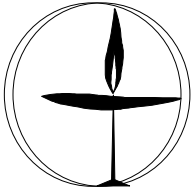
Nov 15	Sun	10:30 AM/Service: "Depth and Disconnection"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12 PM/Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
Nov 16	Mon	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM/Newsletter Deadline
		10:00 AM/Office Cmte/OBH
Nov 17	Tue	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
		7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Endowment Cmte/OBH Living Rm
		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Nov 18	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Nov 19	Thu	6:30 - 8:30 PM/Board of Trustees/CM
		10:30 AM-12:00 PM/Jung & Yoga/CM
Nov 20	Fri	4 PM - 5:00 PM/Building Use/CM Loft
Nov 21	Sat	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
Nov 22	Sun	9 AM/Black Lives Matter Task Force/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM/Service: "Thank You"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM/Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
Nov 23	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM/Zen Meditation/CM
Nov 24	Tue	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		6:30 - 9:30 PM/Stop the Pipeline/CM
		7:30 PM/Community Thanksgiving Srvice/Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 107 Balmoral Dr
Nov 25	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM/Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Nov 26	Thu	2 P Thanksgiving Dinner & Fun/CM 10A/Sm Grp Ministry/OBH Living Rm

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

Rev. Craig's Office Hrs: Tues, Wed, & Thurs, 10-2

Office Administrator's Hours:

Mon, Wed & Fri, 9-2; Tues & Thurs, 11:30-2



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

November 8, 2015

"Always Be Right"

Jay! Tomlinson of "The Best of the Left!" podcast strives to live his life with the motto, "Always Be Right!"

It's easier than you think it is.
And quite important.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

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

Ushers: Alice Blu and

Elayne Mosher Campoli

Coffee Hosts: Doug Hallberg and

Margaret Maguire

Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini

*(Please submit announcements to
Adrienne via email by 11/6.)*

November 15, 2015

"Depth and Disconnection"

Start Together Sunday

In a world more profoundly, deeply connected, there may be something radically redemptive and renewing in actively choosing to disconnect.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
Music Director Tim Horne**

Ushers: Jane Bachman and

Bob Brzozowski

Coffee Hosts: Norma Lee Havens and

Molly Swain

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

*(Please submit announcements to
Cathi via email by 11/13.)*