

# UU News

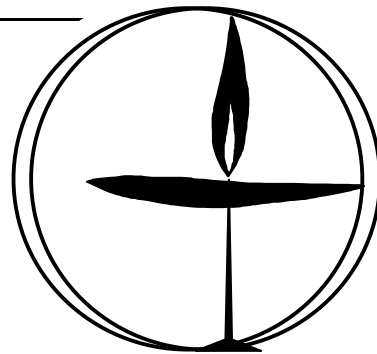
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA  
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

December 3, 2014



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

Board President: April Gates—988-6517

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## The ADOPT-A-FAMILY Collection!

The Adopt-a-Family gift tag Christmas Tree arrived at UUSO on Sunday, November 30. If you haven't yet, please get involved and invite your whole family to join you. Take a gift tag and provide a part of the holiday celebration for our three adopted community families who will not have any gifts without some help. This is how it works:

Check out the Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary; take a gift tag, provide the wished-for gift for the child or a gift card for the family based on their needs such as food cards and gas cards. Tags will describe the ages, sizes of the children and their special wish, favorite color or particular request.

*(Continued on Page 6.)*

## COOKIES & CRAFTS!

This Saturday is our annual Cookies & Crafts sale, so grab your friends and neighbors and plan to make a day of it with shopping and lunch! Wonderful crafts and scrumptious cookies will be available from 10 am-4 pm (and make great gifts!).

Don't worry—there is still time for you to bake some beautiful cookies to donate! While traditional sugar cookies are a particular favorite, you can perk up any cookie with a little icing or a few sprinkles.

**Please drop off your cookies at Chapin Memorial from 3:30-6:30 pm on Friday or from 8 to 9 am on Saturday so they can be included in our cookie assortments!**

—Jane E. Bachman

## FROM THE OFFICE...

Please be sure to check out the Winter Worship Schedule insert in today's newsletter—lots of great services coming up!

Also, please note **the December 17 newsletter will be the last of 2014** (the deadline is December 15).

The deadline for the first newsletter of the New Year is January 5. Please be sure to submit articles on time. Thank you!

—Robin Ahearn

## Sawdust from the Board

At the November 19 regular meeting, the Board of Trustees heard reports from Treasurer Beth Rafter, RE Director Susan Ryder, and from various committees. The Endowment Committee reports that grants have been awarded for this year; and the Website Committee continues to oversee staff training to maintain the new website and to monitor the content for any needed changes. A congregational survey is planned for early 2015, so please be sure to take a look at your new website and think about what you would like to see added to make it even better as we move into the new year.

Also, please be sure to notice that a door has been added to the OBH living room to allow privacy for groups using that space while others are using the meeting room/kitchen area. Our thanks to the Properties Committee for this welcome addition.

This coming Sunday we will welcome our Minister, Rev. Craig Schwalenberg, back to UUSO following his Sabbatical. The Board of Trustees joins with the Sabbatical Committee and the entire congregation to mark this day with a welcome back potluck following the Sunday morning service. Please plan to join us! The Tuesday morning Small Group Ministry will be on hand to help with set-up, serving in the kitchen, and the all-important clean-up for this all-church potluck.

The Sounding Board team for this month is looking forward to hearing your ideas, concerns, likes and wishes on Sunday, December 14. Please stop by and take this opportunity to speak with Board of Trustees Vice President John Bagby and Trustee Jeane Bennett-O'Dea, who will be staffing the Sounding Board table during the Social Hour.

As always, regular meetings of the Board of Trustees are open for members to observe. We meet at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month (except July). We currently meet in the Loft at Chapin Memorial.

—April Gates, President, for the Board of Trustees

### *Among Ourselves...*

*Our condolences to the family and friends of long-time  
UUSO Member Georgia (Bresee) Couden  
who passed away Sunday, November 23, 2014.*

### FROM THE MALI TASK FORCE...

Muffins for Mali celebrates its eighth year with its now highly anticipated weekly supply of delicious home baked muffins, stunning Malian jewelry and crafts, and other beautiful handicrafts for sale every Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas! Stocking stuffers right through more substantial gifts are available to help you complete your holiday shopping list. So stop in at our table after the service and see what's new! And don't forget, you can always make a gift of education with a donation of any amount to Youchaou's School! Thanks, as always, for your generous support of our project.

—Shirley Ferguson

## BICENTENNIAL OF REV. CHAPIN'S BIRTH

This month marks the bicentennial of the birth of Rev. Edwin Hubbel Chapin. Chapin was born in Union Village, now the village of Nassau, in Rensselaer County, NY, on December 29, 1814. He converted to Universalism as a young man and became a minister in 1838. His first church was the Independent Christian Church of Richmond, Virginia, composed of both Unitarians and Universalists. After a stint at Hosea Ballou's church in the Boston area, he was named pastor at New York City's Fourth Universalist Church in 1848, where he remained for 42 years. He was known for his oratory and traveled widely. He is thought to have made several visits to Oneonta, and gave the dedication in 1879 for the first Universalist church here. It was his last dedication, for he died the following year on December 26, 1880. The Oneonta church was then named Chapin Memorial, as was our current church on its dedication in 1894.

The UUSO is observing Rev. Chapin's 200th birthday with a special service on Sunday, December 21. The milestone will also be marked in other ways, including quotes by Chapin for the Wayside Pulpit and placing Chapin's portrait and his biography in a prominent spot in the sanctuary. Thanks to Cynthia Squires for pointing out the upcoming birthday several months ago and to Deb Bruce and Prue Stelling for helping with the plans for the observance; also acknowledgments to former UUSO member June Edwards, who wrote the biography of Chapin in the Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography, an on-line resource of the Unitarian Universalist History & Heritage Society. —Bob Brzozowski, UUSO Historian

*Never does the human soul appear so strong as when it forgoes revenge  
and dares to forgive an injury.*

—Rev. E.H. Chapin

## DECEMBER CHANGE FOR CHANGE

The December Change for Change will go to Family Service Association. FSA is a private non-profit social service agency. The mission of FSA is to support individual and family strengths and to assist area residents in meeting their own needs. The agency has a remarkable history of being there for the community in times of need. Read the FSA stories and information posted on the Bulletin Board. Family Service Association is a United Way of Delaware Otsego Fund Agency. —Norma Lee Havens

## GRATITUDE TO ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

On Sunday, December 14, we will recognize the generosity of those who have helped grow the Endowment Committee's fund this year. Please take a moment that day to thank those who will be wearing a blue ribbon on their name buttons. —Grace Smith

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*"What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world."*

—Paul Hawken

The Holiday Season is upon us! Many families and individuals engage in a cornucopia of celebrations. Others find this to be a time of introspection and deep quiet while waiting for the return of the sun. It can be a stressful time as well. However you experience this time of year, it can be brightened by taking advantage of opportunities to reach out to help others in our community as well as in our wider world. Our UUSO community offers many such opportunities. I would especially like to point these out as something for families with children and youth to do together as part of their holiday experiences.

Your family can provide part of the holiday celebration for three local families that UUSO has "adopted" who would otherwise not be able to have gifts this season. There is a small tree in the back of the sanctuary decorated with gift tags that describe the person needing a gift and offer some gift suggestions. I know that UUSO children would love to pick a tag and help find a gift to give. The tags will be on the tree on December 7 with gifts to be returned to the tree on December 14 in time for it to be delivered to the family on December 18.

You will also find a "Mitten Basket" near this tree in the back of the sanctuary. This is an annual tradition of the UUSO Religious Education Program where we collect warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for donation to Oneonta Family Service Association. These donations can be put in the basket on December 7 through December 28. They will be delivered to Family Services at the beginning of the New Year.

To send our help even farther in our world, your family can choose presents (and muffins!) from the Mali Market available during coffee hour from December 7 through December 21. All proceeds benefit Youchaou's School in Bamako, Mali. Our UUSO Mali Task Force has recently raised money to build a library for the school that has almost been completed. The next focus will be to purchase books for the library.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has a "Guest at Your Table" program that has been very accessible and meaningful for families for 40 years. To get started check out:

<http://www.uusc.org/guest-at-your-table-for-beginners>. According to the website, this year's theme is: "...food sustainability: ensuring that people have sufficient, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food to eat and that it's produced in a way that doesn't damage the environment... educational materials highlight projects in Haiti, Kenya, and Honduras that illustrate how sustainability initiatives, when done well, have multiple benefits." You can download a booklet called Our Stories of Hope that highlights "economic justice, educational opportunities for children, community responses to climate change, and other advancements for human rights." For many years my own family had a "Guest at Your Table Box" as a part of our dinnertimes together during the holidays. The box had photos and descriptions of children who would benefit from our donations. We would add small change to the box and it felt like we were

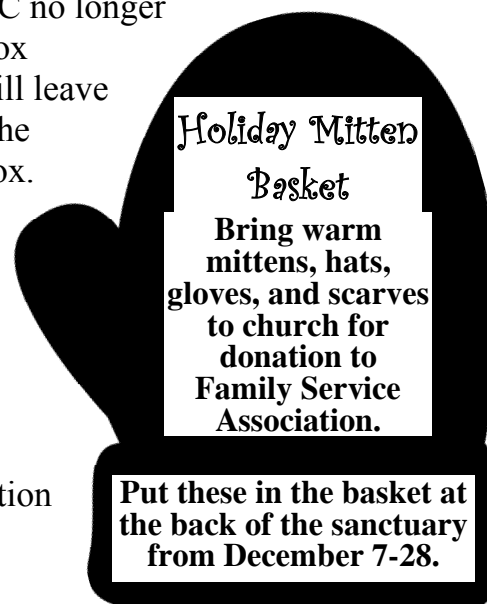
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inviting these children to have a place at our table. The UUSC no longer produces these boxes but I would encourage you to make a box together and for it to have a place of honor at your table. I will leave some blank box forms near the Mitten Basket at the back of the sanctuary should you want to make and decorate your own box.

These are a just a few of the opportunities available for helping others during this season. I know your children will have many other ideas and that it would make for quite an interesting discussion!

I wish you and your family a season of grace, justice, and beauty.

Susan Ryder, Director of Religious Education



## CATSKILL CHAMBER SINGERS WINTER CONCERT

Oneonta's Catskill Chamber Singers (which include UUSO members and friends Paul Scheele, Leah Bridgers, Suzy Beddoe and Emma Kirsch) will present their winter concert, "*Let Us Rejoice! Songs of the Season*," on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 pm at the UUSO. While there is no charge for the concert, free-will donations will be gratefully accepted.

Some of the pieces to be offered are several early 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century carols written by Michael Praetorius and William Byrd; "Puer Natus," a Gregorian chant; and a selection of international carols including the British "Coventry Carol," the French "Un Flambeau, Jeannette Isabella," and the Italian "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle."

The Catskill Chamber Singers, based in Oneonta, is an *a cappella* mixed chorus of 10 members from Oneonta and nearby communities, affiliated with the Catskill Choral Society. They are self-directed, and perform several concerts a year, singing music from the 12th century to the present, from classical to modern, from serious and sacred to the popular and fun. For more information please call Emma Kirsch at 433-0999 or visit [www.catskillchambersingers.com](http://www.catskillchambersingers.com). —Emma Kirsch

## ARJUN VERMA SITAR CONCERT DECEMBER 19

Arjun Verma will perform a Sitar Concert - Classical Music of India, accompanied by Naren Budhakar on Tabla - Friday, December 19, at 7:30 pm at 10 Lawn Avenue, Oneonta. \$20. Arjun grew up in Oneonta, studying Sitar from his father, Roop Verma, since the age of five. Arjun now lives in California, where he studied with his father's teacher, Maestro Ali Akbar Khan, for nearly nine years. He is one of the promising young artists of his generation continuing the over 500-year tradition of Master-Pupil lineage of North Indian Classical Music. Arjun was an active participant in the UUSO RE Program throughout his growing years. To reserve a seat, contact Tracy Verma at [atma@stny.rr.com](mailto:atma@stny.rr.com) or call 433-2353. [www.arjun-verma.com](http://www.arjun-verma.com) —Tracy Verma

## UUSO Newsletter—December 3, 2014

### The ADOPT-A-FAMILY Collection!

*(Continued from Page 1.)*

Tags will appear on our Holiday tree through December 7. Gifts must be returned (unwrapped) by December 14 or make special arrangements to be delivered later. Members of the UUSO Social Action Committee will deliver all the gifts to Family Service Association on December 18. FSA will deliver gifts to each family. We will also provide wrapping paper, tape and ribbon for the gifts to be wrapped by the parents.

Adopt-a-Family is a special program of Family Service Association. FSA is located at 277 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, and is a private, nonprofit helping agency. Please take an informational brochure to read about FSA services. Questions? Please call Norma Lee Havens at 432-3154, or another member of the UUSO Social Action Committee; or call the UUSO office at 432-3491.

—Norma Lee Havens

### A NOTE OF THANKS

From: Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County

Thank you for your recent donation of \$157 Change for Change, which was received on November 13. Each house built, each family served, each life forever changed started with people like you who decided to help. Many thanks for your continued financial support—and for the lunches!

—Peggy Fowler, Office Manager

### 27th ANNUAL FRIENDS OF CHRISTMAS DINNER

The 27th Annual Friends of Christmas Dinner will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, on Christmas Day from 12:30-2:30 pm, and is sponsored by St. Mary's and Saturday's Bread.

**The UUSO is invited to participate in four ways:**

First, encourage lonely or needy individuals and families to attend the dinner. If someone needs a ride to the dinner, please call Nancy Fodero at 435-7188 or Ann Steen at 432-1283.

Second, seek out the homebound and make arrangements to have a meal delivered by calling Nancy Fodero at 435-7188 or Ann Steen at 432-1283 on or before December 23.

Third, volunteer time (set up, cook, serve, deliver meals, clean-up, etc) by calling Kelly Ahlqvist at 432-1871 on or before December 23.

Fourth, to do donate specific foods and/or to make Christmas cookies, pies or breads, call Kelly Ahlqvist at 432-1871 before December 23. Items should be brought to the First United Methodist Church Wednesday, December 24, between 9-4.

For additional information, contact Ann Steen at 432-1283.

—Rev. David Mickiewicz, St. Mary's Church

# CALENDAR

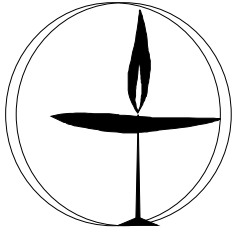
## DECEMBER

Dec 3	Wed	5:30pm /Vespers: "Ditching a Grudge"/CM 4- 4:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft 7-8pm/Membership Cmte/OBH
Dec 4	Thu	5:30pm - 6:30pm/Yoga/CM
Dec 5	Fri	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 3-11pm/Building Use/CM/C&C Set-up
Dec 6	Sat	7:00am - 10:00am/Building Use/CM 10am-4pm/Cookies & Crafts/CM 12-4/Parents' Day Off/COAST/OBH 4:00pm - 6:00pm/Building Use/CM
Dec 7	Sun	10:30am/Service: "Returning"/Rev. Craig Schwalenberg/Sabbatical Return Service/CM 12pm/Welcome Back Potluck/CM 1-3pm/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
Dec 8	Mon	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 3pm - 4:00pm/Building Use/CM Loft 6:30-8/RE Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM
Dec 9	Tue	4:30- 8:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft
Dec 10	Wed	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 1:30/Small Group Ministry/Off-site 4- 4:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft 6:00pm/Scrabble & Potluck/CM
Dec 11	Thu	5:30pm - 6:30pm/Yoga/CM 6- 8:30pm/NAACP/OBH Living Rm
Dec 12	Fri	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM
Dec 13	Sat	9:00am - 11:00am Youth Cooks/OBH Kitchen
Dec 14	Sun	10:30am/Service: "Stories of the Season"/Rev. Craig/CM 11:30am/Holiday Workshop/CM 12pm/Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm 2-6pm/Building Use/Catskill Chamber Singers/CM 6:15-9:30/Compassionate Friends/CM

		8-9am/Aerobics/CM 9am/Newsletter Deadline-last of 2014
Dec 15	Mon	3pm - 4:00pm/Building Use/CM Loft 6- 8:00pm/Small Group Ministry/OBH 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM
Dec 16	Tue	10:15am-12:15pm/Small Group Ministry/OBH 4:30- 8:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft
Dec 17	Wed	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 4:00pm/Web Cmte/OBH Dining Rm 4-4:30pm/Building Use/CM Loft 4- 6:00pm/Small Group Ministry/OBH 6:30pm/Board of Trustees/CM
Dec 18	Thu	5:30pm - 6:30pm/Yoga/CM
Dec 19	Fri	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM
Dec 21	Sun	10:30am/Service: "Two Hundred Years!"/Rev. Craig/CM 1-3pm/Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
Dec 22	Mon	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 3pm- 4:00pm/Building Use/CM Loft 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM
Dec 23	Tue	6:30-9:30pm/Stop the Pipeline Mtg/CM
Dec 24	Wed	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 1:30pm/Small Group Ministry/Off-site 6:30pm/Christmas Eve Service-- Family Service/Music and stories for all ages/CM 10:00pm/Christmas Eve Service-- Meditative Service/Contemplative and traditional/CM
Dec 26	Fri	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM
Dec 28	Sun	12:00pm - 2:00pm/Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm 1pm/Free Hypnosis Clinic/CM Loft
Dec 29	Mon	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM 6:30pm - 8:00pm/Zen Mediation/CM
Dec 31	Wed	8:00am - 9:00am/Aerobics/CM

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

**Rev. Craig's Office Hours:  
Returns from Sabbatical 12/4.  
Office Administrator's Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:30**



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
12 Ford Ave.  
Oneonta, NY 13820

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

**December 7, 2014**

### **"Returning"**

*Start Together Sunday*

After time away and travels afar, it is time to return to the Beloved Community, time to be, once more, a part of the greater whole.

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

Music provided by the UUSO Choir  
and Music Director Tim Horne

*Ushers: Deb Bruce and Dawn Kilts  
Coffee Hosts: Stan Maricle and Cathi Wiltsey  
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz  
(Please submit announcements to  
Kevin via email by 12/6.)*

**December 14, 2014**

### **"Stories of the Season"**

*Stay Together Sunday*

Let's celebrate the time of holidays and holy days with the telling of stories from different lands and different traditions.

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

Music provided by the UUSO Choir  
and Music Director Tim Horne

**Holiday Workshop  
following today's service!**

*Ushers: Jenny and John Bagby  
Coffee Hosts: The Membership Committee  
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco  
(Please submit announcements to  
Julian via email by 12/13.)*