



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

February 15, 2017

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Talking About Taboo Topics

There is a running joke among Unitarian Universalist ministers that you can talk about almost anything from pulpit. Talk about politics, talk about football, even talk about sex if you want to-- but whatever you do, don't talk about money in the pulpit. Except once. During the "Sermon on the Amount" as a part of the Stewardship campaign. Then, it will be grudgingly accepted-- or possibly avoided, if you print your sermon titles and topics ahead of time. (Side note, "If I Had A Million Dollars" will be the sermon on April 2nd.) And yet, we are learning that we actually need to talk about money more and more. Not just about stewardship within our congregations, but our relationship with money in the wider society. It's hard to make decisions about what needs to be done without first discussing what resources we have at our disposal. What's our plan to bring about radical change, to build the Beloved Community? What will it require of us? What will it cost? Income inequality is a tragic fact of our country-- and of our wider world. And we will never address it adequately without first being able to talk honestly about money.

In the past few years, we've struggled a bit with our stewardship campaigns. Yes, we've mostly made our goals every year and we've used that money to make progress towards our long range plan. But, every year, the stewardship campaign seems to be harder and harder. Last year, we ended the campaign significantly short of our campaign and for a 2nd year in a row, we needed to do a 2nd ask to actually make up the difference. On the one hand, we need to talk about money more than we are. On the other hand, the 6-8 weeks of the stewardship campaign seems a bit fatiguing.

And so, based on the feedback we've received from you, the Stewardship Committee decided to find a new way this year. We looked around, read some books, and talked to our neighboring UU congregations. We found

we liked a process that the UU Congregation of Binghamton had used successfully a few years back. So, we took a field trip to Binghamton and talked to their minister and their former stewardship chair. They told us all about how they helped the congregation have a meaningful conversation about money and stewardship. Coincidentally, the process they used was the same one we were just starting to use here at UUSO-- the Appreciative Inquiry model. They started by having small groups meet to discuss money and stewardship and their financial hopes for the congregation. After that, they sent out a short survey that gathered data about what people actually earned and what they usually pledged to the church. While the surveys were completely anonymous, they still gathered and were able to give back to the congregation great data about what people pledged on average and where everyone's normal pledge fit in the greater picture. Turns out, many people had no idea how their pledge compared to others. Many folks admitted to just guessing what they should pledge every year. With the data from the survey and the information from the proposed budget, the congregation was able to have a serious, rich conversation about what stewardship really looks like, what they could and could not afford to do, and the best way of moving forward in their mission.

That's what we hope for with this year's stewardship campaign. The outline of the plan was in the last newsletter. The committee, with the support of the Board and the Committee on the Ministry, are holding the small group AI conversations the next two weekends. If you haven't signed up-- please do! The whole campaign is built on this first step-- our choosing to have this taboo conversation about money and our mission. We are doing something new-- and it only works with you!

*Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

We had a Religious Education “Snow Day” last Sunday. Very few were able to make it to church as a large snowstorm began around 8am and quickly made some roads undrivable. Those of us who were able to go to church gathered together in the Sanctuary to celebrate our Sunday all together. I am grateful to the adults and parents who stepped in to make a smooth transition for the handful of children present. They helped them adjust from their expected time in RE to attending the service. Rev. Craig’s service was inspiring and I watched the handful of children in the sanctuary seem mindful of this unexpected and unique time together. I didn’t ask if he adjusted his service for RE or not but it was perfect for them. We were even able to provide care in the nursery. One of our teens stepped in to help as one of our sitters was snowed in. Other adults stepped in as needed to make a smooth transition from what we had planned to do in RE to all of us staying together for the adult service. I was grateful for our church community and how we make space for each other.



Four of our teens attended a Con (Upstate UU Youth Gathering) in Binghamton Feb 10-12<sup>th</sup>. I was able to attend half of the Con and our youth were chaperoned the rest of the time by a Binghamton and Rochester UU Advisors. Elayne Mosher Campoli took on the task of driving them home Sunday morning. This was another situation where many people worked together behind the scenes to make sure our RE participants were able to have a great experience. Cons are amazing. This one was called “Once aCON a Time” and had a bit of a fairy tale theme. There were about 60 teens with an adult advisor to teen ratio of 1 to 7. A Con is run by the host congregation’s group of teens in association with their congregation’s adults and our UU Central East Region Youth and Adult representatives. It is carefully planned so that everyone can have a safe, exciting, interesting, and even awe-inspiring experience. The attendees create a covenant at the beginning of each Con. Part of the covenant is inclusion of everyone – even adults. I found myself in many wonderful conversations with both teens and other advisors. It is inspiring for teens (as well as adults) to be with UU’s from other congregations. The Youth were articulate, welcoming, inclusive, diverse, challenging, creative, and justice seeking. Together this created an amazing youth-lead environment that is beyond words to describe. We are right in the middle of Con Season with the next one happening March 31-April 2 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady.

Kudos to Elayne for driving our teens safely home through a snowstorm!

Susan Ryder  
 UUSO Director of Religious Education  
 dre@uuso.org

### Stewardship Update

The next two Sundays we'll be holding Appreciative Inquiry sessions as part of this year's Stewardship campaign. The sessions will be the same format as last fall, but with a different focus. The information gleaned from these sessions will help inform our survey, leading in turn to One-Day Sunday pledge day, April 2nd.

If you've signed up, we'll be contacting you February 15th or 16th to let you know which Sunday to come to.

Thank you.

—Karl Seeley, for Stewardship

# UUSO NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Activism 101

February 18, 3:00-6:00pm-UUSO Chapin Memorial

This event is open to the community; Men, women, kids, all are welcome, feel free to share! For folks who attended the Women's March Follow-up Gathering on Feb 3, this is the next event in our series. We had a great turn out that night with 140 folks from our congregation and the wider community filling the sanctuary. One of the calls to action that came out of that was that folks wanted to learn more about how to be effective activists...(drum roll please)

Activism 101 Program:

3-4pm Activism 101 training/workshop

4-5pm Panel discussion with Q&A

5-6pm Networking, coffee and snacks

Please RSVP via email or the [Facebook event](#). Childcare is available, please let me know if you will be bringing kids. If you would like to help with the event or bring a snack to share, please contact me. With so many new friends and neighbors coming to visit our space, now is a great time to show off our awesome hospitality skills!

I am also recruiting a few folks to form a planning team with me to continue planning quality events for our region. The idea is to plan larger gatherings for our region (so far we represent Otsego, Delaware and Chenango counties) for the purpose of networking, sharing resources, and keeping ourselves sustained by having fun together. I anticipate most planning work would be done via email/Facebook, perhaps an occasional phone call, instead of face to face meetings. Please let me know if you are interested.

—Elayne Mosher-Campoli

## Getting to Know UU

This is for you if you are new to UU and/or new to the UUSO congregation! Want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUSO? Interested in meeting other people new to the community? Considering membership? Then consider joining us for this year's Getting to Know UU! The Membership Committee and Rev. Craig Schwalenberg will present this three-part series. Whether you're planning to sign the membership book or simply curious to learn more about our congregation and its history, you are welcome to join us for conversation and fellowship.

Childcare will be provided upon request.

Meetings will be held 6:45 pm- 8:45 pm

5/2/17@ Olympia Brown House

5/9/17@ Loft in Chapin Memorial

5/16/17@ Olympia Brown House

5/21/16 New member welcome during the worship service.

Please RSVP by contacting Rev. Craig or Evelyn, our Office Administrator.

## PROPHETIC MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg will be leading/hosting an ongoing series of discussion workshops on our Prophetic Ministry. Through open sharing and engagement, participants will explore how to be better advocates for social justice in the public arena. Topics will include, but will not be limited to, speaking to our representatives, writing effective letters to the editor, and community organizing. Workshops will take place on every other Friday @ 6:30. The location of the workshop will vary based on size of the group and availability of space. (We are currently scheduled to meet in the Gathering Room in the basement of Chapin)

This Friday, February 17th, we'll be talking about dealing with the media and having conversations with those we disagree with. Reservations are not required, the meetings are open to all. Childcare will not be provided as children are welcome to attend all of these meetings/workshops. (They have a role to play in this work, too.)

# UUSO NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Supplies Collection for Columbia

We, Maria Montoya, Will Walker and I, will be taking a group of 18 students abroad to Cali- Colombia (Maria's native city) during spring break. While abroad, we will immerse ourselves in activities that will have our Oneonta students interacting with the community. One is "Fundación Able" a bilingual school and after-school program in Siloe, one of the less privileged barrios of Cali. Also one of our students is doing research on the health system of Colombia, and she will be spending the days at two hospitals and pediatric units.

We would like to fill our baggage capacity with items that this community needs and appreciates. Please spread the word. Help us, help others, it is not much, if each one of us contribute with a few items. Gracias.

-Zanna McKay and Maria Montoya

### -School Supplies

### -Art Supplies

### -Health Center Supplies

- Latex-exam gloves
- Antibiotic cream
- All kinds of first aid items
- Adult Diapers
- Small medical equipment to measure conditions such as diabetics, high blood pressure, etc.

### -Games for School and Hospital Pediatric Unit

### -Technology

- Old working iPods or tablets
- Cameras (with memory cards)
- Microscope
- Magnifying Glass
- Audio-books
- DVD Movies

For the full list of items needed, please see the link:

<http://tinyurl.com/jxs6s6w>

## Singing the Journey Dedicating Our New Hymnals

We have purchased and received 100 copies of the Unitarian Universalist hymnal, "Singing the Living Journey." We will be distributing the hymnals next month and will begin using them regularly as a part of our worship services. The UUSO choir has been singing selections from the teal hymnal for the past year or so. "Singing the Living Journey" is an exciting collection of many genres, including jazz, folk, pop, gospel, and world music.

*(Two of my favorite songs are in the hymnal. Feel free to guess which ones.~ Rev. Craig)*

To celebrate this new addition to our musical repertoire for worship, and to help offset the cost of the hymnals, we are inviting members of the congregation to sponsor dedications in the new hymnals. Members can honor a person or celebrate an event. Each dedication bookplate will cost \$15.00. If you would like to purchase a dedication, please send the following information to [UUSO@UUSO.ORG](mailto:UUSO@UUSO.ORG) and mail or drop off a check/cash for the desired amount. (Checks should be made out to UUSO with "hymnal dedication" in the memo line.)

Dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_

or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

or

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(pick one)

by

\_\_\_\_\_

### Last Wednesday of Month Anti-Militarism Film Series, Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7:00 pm in UUSO sanctuary:

U.U. Society of Oneonta's Social Action Committee presents Joe Stillman's documentary featuring former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, "Citizen Clark: A Life of Principle," Wed., Feb. 22, at 7 pm.

All welcome, FREE. Discussion with filmmaker afterwards. Free vegetarian dinner at 6 pm, RSVP requested but not required. Child-care available by request by Feb. 20: email [uusou@uusou.org](mailto:uusou@uusou.org), or call 607-432-3491.

### You can also dedicate your hymnal online at

<http://uusou.org/hymnal-dedication/>

We'd like to have as many hymnals dedicated as possible before Music Sunday, February 26th.

# UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Unitarian Universalism is our "Faith Tradition", though that word challenges some of us. What does it mean to live a life full of faith? What does a Faith-full community look like?

*\*Start Together Sunday*  
 With Music provided by Michael Frye-Hunt  
 Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Hudson Family  
 Ushers: Kate & Karl Seeley  
 Chancel Table: Kathy Paranya  
 Sound System: Julian Pecenco

*Hope*  
*Music Sunday*

Tim Horne, UUSO Choir, & Guest Musicians

February 26th - Sunday Service at 10:30  
 Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta



Emily Dickinson wrote,  
 "Hope is a thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without words and never stops at all."

Let's explore this theme with music and readings.

*\*Children to Classrooms at 10:30*  
 With Music provided by Music Director  
 Tim Horne, the UUSO Choir and Guest  
 Musicians  
 Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts:  
 Cynthia Miller & Bernadette Ryan  
 Ushers: Laura & Florian Reyda  
 Chancel Table: Mary Krupp  
 Sound System: Paul Carter

**THE UNITARIAN  
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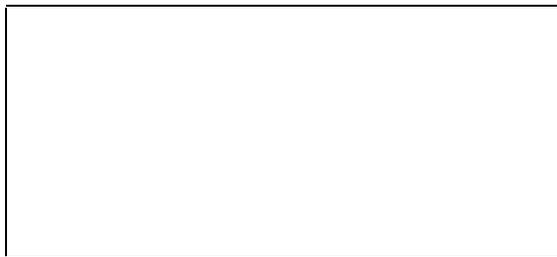


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**UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for March 1st issue is Feb 27th.

**Order of Service Announcements:**

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

**Verbal Announcements:**

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

**Green Sanctuary Corner**



This is a unique "green" idea from an article by Colin Beaven in the Nov 2009 online issue of YES! Magazine. The third tip in "10 Ways to Change Your Life" is:

**OBSERVE AN ECO-SABBATH**

For one day or afternoon or even one hour a week, don't buy anything, don't use any machines, don't switch on anything electric, don't cook, don't answer your phone, and, in general, don't use any resources. In other words, for this regular period, give yourself and the planet a break. Every hour per week that you live no impact cuts your carbon emissions by 0.6 percent annually. Commit to four hours per week, that's 2.4 percent; do it for a whole day each week to cut your impact by 14.4 percent a year.