



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of February 21st, 2018

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### **And The Children Shall Lead...**

Like many of you, I reacted to the news of the school shooting in Parkland, FL with a mixture of deep sadness, horror, and anger. "Oh, no. Not again." Mass shootings have become a common occurrence in our country and it is hard to know how to react anymore. I've lost count of how many rallies I've attended and spoken at. I've got files of pastoral prayers that I've read from the pulpit. I've called and written and emailed our legislators. As have many of you. Our outrage and our tears do not seem to be having any effect on those who claim to represent us. It is easy to slip into despair and inaction in the face of this ongoing horror.

But after the news of the shooting, after the predictable deflections and empty statements of support from our representatives, something else happened. The students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School joined together and found their voices. As one of them said in a statement to the media, "The children at Sandy Hook were too young to speak or to even understand what happened to them. We will speak for them and for all of the children that have lost their lives to gun violence." The students have taken to twitter, facebook, and other social media. They have set up a media center in a nearby park to give interviews to any reporter that cares to listen. They have followed the example of the Women's March and are calling on nation wide events over the next few months. These youth are doing exactly what needs to be done. They give me hope. They inspire me. And I want to offer whatever assistance and support I can to them-- and to all youth who take up their cause.

At the same time, I know several members of our congregation are looking for a way to address this issue. The Social Action Team is planning at least one letter writing event. As we find out more, we will let the congregation know. Let's do what we can to end this ongoing tragedy of gun violence. The problem is complicated-- but that is no excuse for doing nothing.

### **Movie With the Minister**

Join me for an afternoon movie, Black Panther, the newest Marvel superhero movie on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. (The time will be determined once they post the show times.) The movie is rated PG-13 and includes violence and guns. Black Panther was the first black superhero created by Marvel comics. The movie stays true to its roots and focus on the the fictional African nation of Wakanda. The portrayal of a country that was never colonized, is rich with resources and African culture, and is technologically advanced is inspiring. The sets, costumes, and music are all award-worthy. I believe this is one of the best superhero movies I've seen. No RSVP is necessary. I'll post a gathering time once we know when the film is showing.

### **Spirit-Full Wednesday**

Starting in March, I plan on hosting a monthly discussion on spiritual topics on the first Wednesday night of every month. I have no format in mind and no curriculum. My plan is to announce a topic and invite people to join me for an hour or so to discuss it. We'll start at 6 p.m. and we'll go no later than 8pm People are welcome to come and stay for as little or as much time as they like. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. If childcare is needed, I will arrange for it (please let me

*(Continued on page 3)*

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

***“The world would never amount to a hill of beans if people didn’t use their imaginations to think of the impossible.” -Pete Seeger***

The Seekers Sunday School Class (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders) meet most Sunday mornings to work with their Popcorn Theology curriculum. The class uses clips from movies to delve into topics about ethics, morality, and our Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles. On February 25<sup>th</sup> they will have a lesson called, “Where Dreams Come True”, and watch parts of the movie, Field of Dreams. They’ll look at their own aspirations and why they are important. They’ll explore the quest for meaning in our lives and how we can respect and support each other’s quests although they can be different from our own.

I’m excited to say we have received some new lessons for this class that include some of the following films with their special focus in parenthesis:

- The Princess Bride (love/true love, justice vs. revenge, and hope)
- Kiki’s Delivery Service (believing in yourself, what makes a job vs. what makes a “calling”)
- Mulan (identity, truth, gender roles/expectations)
- Wall-E (First and Seventh UU Principles, compassion and respect)
- Up! (accepting loss, letting go, love and adventure)

***“Every time I’m in the woods I feel like I’m at church.”***  
***-Pete Seeger***

The Explorers Class (K-3<sup>rd</sup> Graders) has been working with the Experiences with the Web of Life curriculum. Many a snowy Sunday morning they’ve trekked over to the nearby Olympia Brown House to visit their “Special Spot”. They are filling their Web of Life journals with observations about the temperature, changes in plant and animal life, and beautiful sketches. Their upcoming classes will include: Rain and Snow and the Web of Life; Uniqueness; and Litters and Runts.

Both classes will enjoy “Pet Day” on March 25. Children are invited to bring their gentle pet guests. Pets must have a leash or a container. Please let me know if your child plans to bring a guest pet so I can be sure there are enough pets. I can always bring my own if needed. It also helps me arrange the classrooms so the pets will be comfortable.

The Experiences with the Web of Life curriculum is a wonderful way to explore our UU Seventh Principle. As with Popcorn Theology all seven principles are woven throughout.

Here is a children’s version of the UU Seven Principles from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum:

1. We believe that each and every person is important.
2. We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
3. We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
4. We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
5. We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
6. We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
7. We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.,

In Peace,

Susan Ryder  
 UUSO Director of Religious Education

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Continued from page 1)*

know.) While I won't be serving food, I do encourage people to bring their dinner if they like. The first topic is a geeky one chosen by me-- but future topics will be chosen by those who are present or from suggestions sent to me.

**Spirit-Full Wednesday**, March 7 6p-8p “Black Panther, Wonder Woman, and Chalice”

Last year the movie Wonder Woman was a touchstone for many women. This year, Black Panther is being hailed a revolutionary movie in the superhero genre. The comic book, Chalice, features a transgender superheroes. What is the power and significance of these depictions in popular media? Why are people reacting so strongly to them? Are they really a revolution?

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

## UUSO NEEDS YOU!

There are many ways to get involved at UUSO and many ways to contribute to our shared ministries. Here are number of committees, teams, and events that need some assistance. Which need(s) fit your deep joy, passion, or talent? Contact Rev. Craig to help out.

**Connections Team** - The Connections Team is responsible for welcoming people to UUSO, helping them to become members, and facilitating membership transitions when necessary. Our Getting to Know UU classes are usually scheduled for the Spring and we currently have 1 person on the Connection Team.

**Fun Team** - The Fun Team is a loosely organized team of all those who organize the social activities here at UUSO. Currently we have Game Nights, the Thanksgiving Potluck, and the Holiday Workshop. In the past, we had Secret Valentines, a Mardi Gras party, Circle Suppers, Summer Picnics, and other social opportunities. These activities and events are an important part of our building community and forming connections, but they only happen if people organize them.

**Usher Team** - Our Safe Congregation Committee has recommended that we create a dedicated, trained team of ushers. If we had a team of 4-6 people, willing to commit to being an usher once a month for the next year, we could get this team started.

**Spiritual Development** - A member of the congregation is interested in trying a new program of Spiritual Development and adult programming at UUSO. If you are interested in helping them get this program off the ground and trying something new...

These are just a few of the ways UUSO needs you! IF you have an interest, a skill, a passion that you'd like to contribute to our shared ministry-- let me know. Together, we are doing--and can do even more-- amazing things!

## UUSO COFFEE HOST BRIGADE

We are once again going to try a new way to get coffee hosts for Sundays at UUSO. We have formed the Coffee Host Brigade. So far seven people have signed up.

This entails doing coffee hour about three times per quarter. That works out to about once a month. You can choose to do coffee hour by yourself or with a partner. Some people partner by dividing the tasks so that one person brings all the food and the other person does all the work. And some people partner by each person bringing some of the food and doing some of the work. Coffee hours don't have to be elaborate—something sweet (cookies or cake, etc.), something not sweet (bagels or cheese and crackers, etc.), some fruit and/or vegetables, milk, half and half, and juice. Reimbursement is available.

Please let me know if you want to join this brigade of fearless sociability warriors. I am really trying to create a renewed sense of hospitality and generosity in the congregation.

—Pam Strother

607.267.4280/[pstrother@stny.rr.com](mailto:pstrother@stny.rr.com)



## GAME NIGHT POTLUCK

Friday, February 23 come to a potluck game night! We will provide an array of games for all ages and play styles but also feel free to bring your own favorites as well!

## UUSO VALENTINES

There are still a lot of hearts waiting at the back of the sanctuary. Did you get a valentine? Pick up a folded heart at the back of the sanctuary and get your UUSO Valentine. (You can pick up multiple hearts if you feel extra generous this month.) Every heart has a name of a UUSO member or friend that could use a little token of appreciation. Give them a call. Send them a card. Do something nice for them. Whatever you have the time and energy and creativity for. If you don't recognize the name, than this is an ideal time to make a new connection. Everyone is listed in the Realm database. Happy Valentines Month!

(What shall we do with all the hearts that aren't picked up? Have an idea? Let me know. -Rev. Craig)

## BACKPACK BUDDIES

We are creeping closer to spring. I know it will be very welcome this year. We have had enough winter. Sunday, March 4 will be first Sunday and time for Backpack Buddies and Personal Care Items collection. As you start spring cleaning perhaps you will come across some personal care products left over from your travels. With kids getting outside more often as the weather warms and will need lots of nutritious food. So let's bring in as much non-perishable, kid-friendly and vaguely nutritious food to fENY Regional Foodbank and put Backpack Buddies Otsego/Delaware Counties in the memo.

Thanks for the wonderful support.  
Dawn Kilts for the Social Action Team

### **TIME SAVER FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS: COAST PIZZA DINNER KIT FUNDRAISER**

UUSO Coast is organizing a timesaver meal fundraiser of pizza meal kits to be delivered on Sunday, March 11 at coffee hour. COASTers will take orders on Sunday, February 25 and Sunday, March 4 at coffee hour. Kits will include dough, sauce, cheese, toppings of your choice, salad and dessert. Each costs \$20. Proceeds from the kits will benefit the COAST Boston trip in April.

COAST is also gratefully accepting donations of the following to offset costs of the kits: dough (regular and gluten free), tomato sauce, cheese, salad ingredients, single serving salad dressing, bell peppers, black olives, onions, pepperoni, broccoli, pineapple, mushrooms, Ziploc bags (regular and quart). Please let a COASTER or Elayne Mosher Campoli know if you can donate something by Sunday, March 4, and please bring donations to OBH before church on March 11.

### **PETITION AND "THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK"**

San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Board of Supervisor member Harvey Milk were allies--and rising stars in the national Democratic Party at the time of their assassination by Dan White, a straight, white fireman with police connections. (Moscone was liked for President and Milk for U.S. Senate). Under California law since enacted, part of White's implied defense --gay panic -- would not be allowed today. This year, on February 5, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced support for pending legislation banning a 'gay panic' defense in NY assault cases--and you can sign a petition banning this defense at the screening of *The Times of Harvey Milk* Wednesday, February 28th. The Last Wednesdays Film Series on Peace and Justice continues offering a vegetarian meal at 6:00 followed by screening at 7:00 with discussion thereafter--and childcare for those contacting church office (432-3491) by Monday February 26th. Please come see this important film with its timely message. Sponsored by the Social Action Team.

### **CHRIS ANTAL TO SPEAK AT UUSO**

The Social Action Team is delighted to have Rev. Chris Antal, UU military chaplain who resigned in protest, spend the day at UUSO on Sunday, March 11th. In the morning worship service, he will give the sermon entitled "Peace and Pain," focusing on the choices we make. After social hour, there will be a free "Food for Thought" lunch at 12:15 p.m. hosted by the Social Action Team. At 1:00 p.m. Rev. Antal will lead a two- hour workshop on "Drone Warfare: Awareness and Action ." The workshop will include a 30-minute version of Robert Greenwald's *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars*. Hope you will join us for this special day! Sponsored by the Social Action Team.

### **SHARING OUR FAITH – SHAPING OUR DREAMS**

Our stewardship campaign for 2018-2019 is now underway. We had a lovely church service on Sunday with many people returning their pledge forms. Thank you! The potluck was well attended with wonderful dishes and desserts. I would like to express a huge thank you to all the people who helped set up, serve and clean up. Your assistance was greatly appreciated. Joe Stillman's video was a great salute to UUSO and was greeted with many compliments. The video will be available on our website if you have not seen it.



As of today, we have had 55 pledges returned which is 35% of available pledgers. We have a way to go to the 95% goal but it is a very promising start. If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn or any member of the stewardship committee.

—Judy Tator

## CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Recent disbursements were \$105.00 to Literacy Volunteers Otsego Delaware Center for October; \$150 to Family Service Association from November; \$94.00 to ARC Otsego from December; and \$33.00 and \$18.00 to Caring Connections from fifth Sundays in October and December.



### SUZANNE MILLER—GRATITUDE FOR A SUPERSTAR OF SERVICE

The members of the Social Action Team nominate our chairperson, Suzanne Miller, as a member worthy of tremendous gratitude and acknowledgement for her service to our beloved community. In chairing our group, Suzanne has exercised wisdom and patience in facilitating our meetings as we passionate social justice advocates collaborate on our projects.

Suzanne has also served our Religious Education Program, The Mali Task Force, given sermons, volunteered at countless fundraising events and provided beautiful chancel table arrangements.

As a college professor, Peace Corps Volunteer and advocate, she has served the local community and the world beyond, serving on boards like Opportunities for Otsego and represented UUSO through her work with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

We sing the praises of Suzanne Miller as she celebrates her 75th birthday on February 20.

Happy birthday Suzanne. We love you. Thank you for all the ways you serve the UUSO and humanity.

#### SUBMIT ORIGINAL UU HYMNS AND WIN

The Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN) is seeking original music and lyrics suitable for congregational singing (otherwise known as "hymns") in UU worship services. The 2018 Vincent B. Silliman Congregational Song Competition will award \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$250 for third place, and name nine honorable mentions. The winning hymns will be sung at the UUMN Annual Conference in Portland, OR, August 1-5, 2018. The deadline is April 30. Early submissions are encouraged. For more information and to apply, visit the UUMN website at [UUMN.ORG](http://UUMN.ORG)

#### ONLINE LEARNING FOR UU LEADERS

Healthy boundaries, communication, conflict navigation, covenant, mission, stewardship, building trust, adapting to change—are these concepts that you would like to bring more intentionally into your daily practice of Unitarian Universalism? The UU Leadership Institute offers a way there with online courses designed for lay leaders and religious professionals to learn and grow in faith together. Team up with a few friends, board members, or colleagues for the learning to have the most impact. Four core courses in Leadership Development include: Centered Leadership (Part 1), Centered Leadership (Part 2), Strategic Leadership, and Adaptive Leadership. Each course has eight lessons. Complete the lessons at your convenience and hold conversations with teammates as you advance through the course. Five courses in specialized topics are also available this semester, including faith formation, safer congregations, and spiritual companioning. Register today!

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES  
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

"THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING"  
MUSIC SUNDAY

MUSIC DIRECTOR TIM HORNE AND THE UUSO CHOIR

25 FEBRUARY | SUNDAY SERVICE | 10:30AM

Humankind has always looked to the skies for inspiration. On this Music Sunday, we will do likewise, with song and poetry.

*\*Children to Classrooms at 10:30*  
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir  
Worship Associate: Alex Schultz

Coffee Hour Hosts: Kathy & Spike Paranya  
Ushers: Kim Elsener  
Chancel Table: Alice Siegfried  
Sound System: Lisa Barr

MARCH 4 · SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30AM · UUSO

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
TAKES A LOOK AT GENESIS

DUNCAN SMITH

The Biblical origin narrative spun many threads that have been woven into differing theological tapestries. These strands can be shaped into a relevant view of our place in the universe.

*\*Children to Classrooms at 10:30*  
With Music provided by Michael & Dorothy Frye-Hunt  
Worship Associate: Caroline Bagby

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patricia Engel LaFata & Jesse Schwabe  
Ushers: **Need Volunteers**  
Chancel Table: Please see Alice Siegfried to sign up!  
Sound System: Scott Segar



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## **UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for March 7th issue  
is March 5th, by 9AM.

**Order of Service Announcements:**  
Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

**Verbal Announcements:**  
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

## **Green Sanctuary Corner**



UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) recognizes the grave dangers that climate change impacts pose to the world's most vulnerable populations. Increasing temperatures and variable precipitation are intensifying natural disasters, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, intensifying droughts and causing widespread flooding.

These climate impacts are increasing food and water insecurity, affecting natural resource-based economies and livelihoods and leading to mass displacement. These impacts disproportionately affect the most marginalized populations by multiplying their risks, widening inequalities and threatening their basic human rights and dignities.

CHECK OUT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND WHAT WE CAN  
DO AT [UUSC.ORG](http://UUSC.ORG)

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