



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

March 1, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Mile High Ministry

Last week, I made my annual trip to Oklahoma for Lectio Divina, the reading retreat with my seminary colleagues. I'm of two minds when traveling on airplanes. On the one hand, I'm tempted to dress for comfort, put on my earbuds, and listen to podcasts and music oblivious to my surroundings while we fly across the country. On the other hand, I sometimes wear one of my provocative or Unitarian Universalist shirts and see what conversations I might find myself in with a stranger in the sky. This trip, I split the difference. I went incommunicado on the way there. One the way back, perhaps with my spirit recharged and refreshed, I wore my "Don't Frack It Up" t-shirt, my Black Lives Matter button, and my Standing On The Side of Love hat.

My first flight on the way home was uneventful and I even had the seat to myself-- though I did get a nice nod from the flight attendant. It could have been basic hospitality or she might have been silently showing her support. Hard to say. On the second leg of the journey home, the reaction was much easier to interpret. An older gentleman stopped in the aisle of the plane, looked at me and said, "Where did you get that shirt?" (If you haven't seen the shirt, it has an outline of a cow on the front of it. The cow is actually made up of a list of all of the chemicals that have been found in fracking fluids. The top of the shirt says, "Like New York?" and then below the cow it says, "Don't Frack It Up!") I replied, "A member of my congregation (Thank you, Kathy Schimberg!) got it for me some years ago." The man grunted and said, "If you don't like it, stop using the product." He then moved down the aisle to his seat. I spent a few minutes coming up with witty responses in my head and feeling a bit upset at this response-- but since we were in Houston, TX, I guess I shouldn't have been surprised. After that flight landed, I was waiting for my gate-checked bag when the same man came up to me. I braced myself for his next verbal attack. He said, "I'm sorry about my attitude earlier. That wasn't

very nice of me." I accepted his apology and told him it was all right. He then asked where I was from and what church I belonged to. We spent the next five minutes talking about the fracking industry and our relative views and experiences. It ended with us both agreeing that we need to move to renewable energy and feeling better about the interchange.

On the last flight home, I found myself sitting next to a woman. I introduced myself and we briefly talked about where we were from and where we were going. She was an industrial engineer who was currently working for the university near Binghamton. After I told her I was a minister at a church, our conversation grinded to a halt. About halfway through the flight, I pulled up a photo of the church and showed it to her. She looked at the signs out front of our sanctuary and she gasped, "How did you know I was a Muslim?" "I didn't. But I suspected based on your name, your accent, and the Arabic text you were reading." "Do you know what the sign says in front of your church?" (I had a moment of panic-- I was pretty sure what it said-- I ordered the sign to say it-- but I don't read Arabic -- what if it was wrong?) "You welcome your Muslim neighbors? (Whew-- it does say what it is supposed to say!) Do you have many Muslims in your city?" she asked. "Not too many, but there some in the surrounding areas." And from there we had a wonderful conversation about religious discrimination and tolerance. She shared an apple with me and we ate and talked about many other things. It was a delightful conversation and a great way to end my trip home. I was so sad she felt the need to hide her Muslim faith at first and so glad I was able to let her know I was an ally.

Ministry takes many forms. Evangelism can be about having a conversation, rather than attempting a conversion. As always, it was good to be among colleagues, and even better to return home to this congregation.

*Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

I was able to sit in for part of our YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) teen's group last Sunday as they worked on planning their visit to Ithaca March 3-4th. They are very excited about their upcoming trip together. They have been getting to know the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca's teen group HSYG (High School Youth Group) for the past couple of months. They have met some individuals at previous cons (District wide youth conferences) and they had two Sunday morning skype sessions together.



The Ithaca teen group invited our YRUU to a "lock-in". This is an overnight event supervised by adult Youth advisers and organized mostly by the teens with adult input. They have planned a retreat that includes meals, walking field trips to the Ithaca Commons and nearby waterfalls, an evening movie at the church, a worship service, waffle-fest breakfast, a community service activity, and all set-up and clean-up. The community service activity will be preparing veggies for soup for the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca's soup lunch that will be held the following Sunday. Our group is planning parts of the worship service and an afternoon activity that sounds creative, fun, and thought-provoking called: "Utopia/Dystopia". Parents from Ithaca and Oneonta have all added support, help and enthusiasm to this event. Ithaca parents are helping provide meals, chaperone duties, set up and clean up.

The Ithaca DRE, Ann Stephenson, has skillfully organized this event by weaving together all the other organizers ideas and making it all happen. We are grateful to our own John Bagby and Caroline Cooper who will divide driving and chaperoning duties. John will drive and chaperone from Friday afternoon to Saturday breakfast. Caroline will take over from Saturday breakfast to the afternoon and drive everyone back to Oneonta. We are also thankful to Chris and Carolyn Wolf-Gould who will loan us a bigger vehicle for the trip back home.

We hope to be able to reciprocate at some point and share our UUSO and Oneonta community with the Ithaca teens. All in all this looks to be a fabulous weekend!

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

UUSO MONTHLY MEETINGS - MARCH

March 5	12:00 PM	Green Sanctuary Committee	OBH
March 7	6:00 PM	Social Action Committee	67 Church St.
March 8	6:00 PM	Scrabble and Potluck	CM
March 12	2:00 PM	Dining For Women	CM
March 12	12:00 PM	Finance Committee	OBH
March 13	6:30 PM	RE Committee	OBH
March 15	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees	TBA
March 19	12:00 PM	Mali Task Force	OBH
March 20	7:00 PM	Endowment Committee	OBH

CM: Chapin Memorial Sanctuary/12 Ford Ave. — OBH: Olympia Brown House/16 Ford Ave.

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



Changing the world one dinner at a time.

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 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.

This month we learn about and support Caravan to Class. Its mission is to build schools and educate children in the rural, Timbuktu region of Mali. A recent pilot project, the Female Literacy Project, was started to educate women as well. The women learn to read, write and calculate in their local language. 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.

Christmas Donations

The Family Service Association has sent a thank you letter from various families in response to our Christmas present donations:

“Thank you! My kids were so happy!”, “Thank you so much for your kindness, without you we would not have had a Christmas this year, bless you!”, “To the family that helped me during Christmas, I cannot begin to thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. To see the happiness exude from my children melted my heart and filled my soul with an endless amount of happiness. Thank you for all you have done!”.

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, at 607-432-3491.

Annual Goods and Services Auction

Sunday March 5 is the official opening of the auction season! Our annual Goods and Services Auction is scheduled for Saturday April 22 in Chapin, so be sure this fun event is on your calendar!

Our most popular auction items are events (beach/mountain getaway; local walks; craft class); food items (gourmet meals; soup/cookies/bread of the month) and services (airport chauffeur; yardwork; technology help). We found the Silent Auction tables to be overcrowded in past years, so we've decided to be more selective in what we put out this year. More details on this later; for now, please start thinking about the wonderful and unique skills, meals and services you have to donate and share at our auction! Feel free to call or email Jane Bachman or Arlana Young with your fabulous auction ideas.

People with clipboards will be circulating during coffee hour beginning March 19 to record donations you'd like to offer, snacks you'd like to bring, and time you'd like to volunteer. Please give generously!

-Arlana Young

First Sunday—Backpack Buddies Donations

Next Sunday, March 5, is First Sunday and we are back on schedule for Backpack Buddies and Personal Care Products. Please bring your child-friendly, non-perishable, vaguely nutritious food for Backpack Buddies and personal care items for donation. This time of year is always a hard one for families to make ends meet and the need is great.

We have made a big difference in our community and are making a direct impact on it. Between our donations and the Endowment Committee grant we have done a lot. Let's make 2017 a banner year for our project.

-Dawn Kilts for Social Action Committee

UUSO NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Unitarian Universalist
Society of Oneonta**

Presents

SHORT & SWEET



*An evening of
Dessert Theater
featuring
songs and stories
about
Luck and Chance*

Friday & Saturday
March 17th & 18th

7:30 PM
12 Ford Avenue
Oneonta



Featuring performances by

Leah Bridgers, Ben Friedell,
Diana Friedell,
Chava Granett, Tim Horne,
Karl Seeley, Duncan Smith,
Rosemary Summers, &
Lisa Zuend-Misner

Tickets in advance
\$15 adult/\$8 student
Call 607-441-3206

or at the door

\$18 adult/
\$10 student

*Ticket price includes
beverages and
delicious homemade
desserts!*

Mali Dinner—April 1st

The Mali Education Project will hold its annual delicious buffet fundraiser on Saturday, April 1st, from 6 to 9pm in Chapin Memorial Chapel.

This year's event will feature South African cuisine as well as the inspiring documentary Taking Root about the life of Wangari Maathai who founded the Green Belt Movement in her native Kenya to reforest the environment and empower impoverished women to change their lives. This fundraiser will benefit Youchaou's School in Bamako, Mali where 55 students are sponsored by both UUSO members and others in the wider community. The proceeds will support the new library which needs more books, shelves, tables and chairs.

Reservations are required by contacting Carolyn Wolf-Gould at 607-434-3304 or cswolfgould@gmail.com. Don't delay as space is limited. The tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$10 for children over 5 years old. Childcare is available by request. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.

Thanks from Stewardship

Thank you to all of those who participated in one of our Appreciative Inquiry sessions over the last two Sundays - I know others wanted to and were unable.

We're processing what we learned and will be sending out a summary of the gleanings to accompany a survey to get a broader sense of which ideas from the sessions resonate most broadly.

The other part of the survey will be a pair of questions about your financial giving to the UUSO. The information will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous from the Stewardship Committee, as is the case with your actual pledges. We hope that by having an aggregate picture of people's giving habits, we can all make more informed choices in our pledging.

Thank you again for your participation.

-Karl Seeley, for the Stewardship Committee

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



We Can Do It!

MARCH 5TH • 10:30AM

ROSIE, GET YOUR CAPE!

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

JOIN THE REBEL ALLIANCE TODAY!

There's been a lot of powerful female heroes showing up lately; though they've never been as rare as you might think. What's going on? Look! Up in the Sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the annual geek sermon.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*
With Music provided by Michael Frye-Hunt
Worship Associate: Shelly Hilts

Coffee Hour Hosts: Molly Swain
Ushers: Kimberly Elsener
Chancel Table: UUSO Members
Sound System: Scott Segar



This Land is Who's Land?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

March 12 at 10:30 AM
Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

The Doctrine of Discovery is one of our country's, one of our faith's original sins. Created by papal decree in 1452, affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1823, and poisoning our land and our spirits to this very day

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Adina Johnson
Ushers: Deb Bruce & Sue Troost
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Scott Segar

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

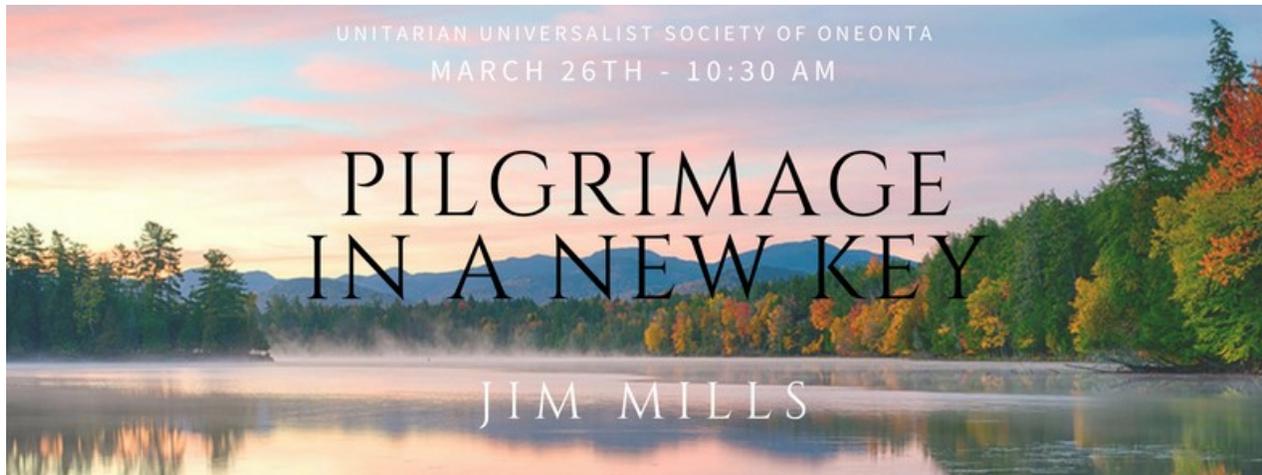


A Catholic tradition, a Taize service creates a time for renewal and reflection, with worshipful music, brief words, and silence.

(Many regular elements of our traditional service will not take place this Sunday or will be done non-verbally.)

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne & the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mary Ruhoff & Norma Lee Havens
Ushers: Liz Jacob-Carter & Tobias Carter
Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas
Sound System: Julian Pecenco



What if there the spiritual practice of pilgrimage came to the United States? Imagine local, interfaith trips planned to promote environmental sustainability and social justice and heal individuals, societies, and the earth.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne & the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Need Volunteers!
Ushers: Need Volunteers!
Chancel Table: Mary Ambrose
Sound System: Paul Carter

March 2017

Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM
Chapin Memorial Sanctuary
12 Ford Ave, Oneonta, NY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OBH: Olympia Brown House—16 Ford Ave	CM: Chapin Memori- al Sanctuary— 12 Ford Ave	Green: Off-Site	1 8am Exercise Group/CM	2 4:30p Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft 7p CCS	3 8am Exercise Group/CM	4 2PM Rev. Craig B-Day Party/CM
5 12p Dessert Cmte/CM Rob- bing Room 12:30p Green Sanctuary/ OBH	6 8am Exercise Group/CM 5:30 6:30p Zen Meditation/ CM	7 6p Social Action Cmte/67 Church St	8 8am Exercise Group/CM 1:30p SGM/Off- site 5:30p Affinity Group/OBH 6p Scrabble & Potluck/CM	9 4:30p Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft 5:30 NAACP 7p CCS	10 8am Exercise Group/CM	11 1p Girl Scouts/CM
12 12p Dessert Cmte/CM Rob- bing Rm 12p Finance/ OBH 2p Dining for Women	13 Newsletter Deadline 6:30p RE Cmte/OBH	14 6:30p Small Group Ministry/ OBH	15 10:30am Small Group/OBH	16	17 7:30p Dessert Theater/CM	18 7:30p Dessert Theater/CM
Sanctuary Blocked off for Dessert Theater Set-up and Break Down						
19 9AM-12 Chil- dren's Worship/ OBH 12p Mali/OBH	20 8am Exercise Group/CM 6:30p Zen Meditation/ CM 7p Endowment Cmte/OBH	21 6:30p Pastoral Care Training/ CM	22 8am Exercise Group/CM 1:30p SGM/Off- site 5:30 Affinity Grp/OBH	23 4:30p Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft 7p Catskill Cho- ral Society/CM	24 8am Exercise Group/CM 4p Fundraiser for DVHS/CM	25 9am Clean Spaces Cmte/CM
26	27 Newsletter Deadline 8am Exercise Group/CM 6:30p Zen Meditation/ CM	28 6:30 STP/CM 6:30p Small Group Ministry/OBH 6:30p Pastoral Care Training/ Gathering Rm CM	29 8am Exercise Group/CM 6p Last Wed.'s Documentary Series/CM	30 4:30p Transgender Support Group/ CM Loft 7p Catskill Cho- ral Society/CM	31 8am Exercise Group/CM	

For the most up-to-date information on events and building reservations,

please see our calendar on our website at:

www.uuso.org/church-calendar

Or click on the Calendar tab on our website: UUSO.org

Change for Change for March is the Oneonta Community Health Center whose mission is to enrich our community through serving the health and wellness needs of the uninsured and underinsured people in Otsego and Delaware counties by providing free, professional, primary health care.
<http://www.oneontaclinic.org/>

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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607-432-7323



UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for March 15th issue is March 13th.

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

Verbal Announcements:
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



We here are blessed by having a local alternative online streaming community radio station, which emphasizes programs concerned with sustainable and "green living," climate change, innovative energy solutions, local agriculture revival, gardening, permaculture, food, bio-regionality, grassroots movements, ethical living, and other pressing issues of our modern culture. It was created a few years ago, and is programmed and maintained, by John Kosmer, who lives (in his own self-designed passive-solar house) between Fly Creek and Cooperstown, and is also a co-founder of Sustainable Otsego.

Check out the daily program schedule at
<http://www.glimmerglassradio.com/index.html>

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