



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of March 7th, 2018

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

A Worshipful Experience



Every Sunday, we do our best to create a warm, welcoming, worshipful experience for members, friends, and visitors. What makes something worshipful? That's a hard definition to pin down. Much like our beliefs, it varies from person to person. What is worshipful to one person is distracting or boring to another. For some, the music is the most important piece of the worship service. For others, it is the sermon or reflection. For still others, it is the friendly greetings and the joys and sorrows. (Very rare is the person that comes to the service for the worshipful nature of the announcements-- but I'm open to the possibility.) When planning the service, I try to make sure there is a "flow" to the service. A good worship service blends elements of joy, meaning, gratitude, generosity, laughter, compassion, celebration, and contemplation. Together we build a "container" for all of these components to come together, just as we all come together from our varied lives in that sacred time and sacred space.

Every Sunday, our Worship Associate mentions all the people that contribute to making our service worshipful and welcoming. The ushers, the social hour hosts, the audio tech, the choir, the musicians, the worship associate, and the worship leader. The

one group we don't mention are those in attendance. Worship is a communal experience. I've held a service for only 2 people -- it isn't nearly the same rich experience as a service with 30, 75, or even more. It is one of the reasons we have communal parts of the worship service-- the hymns, the doxology and covenant, the friendly greetings, and the Joys and Sorrows. Each piece has a purpose, an emotional note, that contributes to the flow and the greater whole. Tim and Michael choose their musical pieces with deep care and intention-- and it shows. While writing the sermon/reflection takes the most of my time and attention, I take equal care with picking out the various readings and pieces of the service so everything hangs together with cohesion and poetry. And then, into that mix, we invite your contribution to the worship experience.

You contribute by just being there. Your presence conveys that the service, this community, are worth your time and attention. You add meaning and depth to the collaborative experience. When you show up on time, you help with the flow-- the gradual building of this thing we call worship. With your unison readings and singing, you fill the space with your voice and your spirit. Singing a hymn with enthusiasm or with deep emotion sets the tone for the next piece and the message yet to come. Joys and Sorrows, that time we set aside for sharing those important things that have touched our hearts deeply, also contributes to the sense of community, the feeling of intimacy, and encourages us to be

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The UUSO has a unique and inspiring relationship with Youchaou's School in Mali. Some of you may not know about this relationship or that children in the RE program and Zanna McKay were the ones who initiated our first contact with Youchaou.

RE's part began during the January intersession of 2005 when UUSO children wanted to write to children in Africa. Zanna McKay, who had taught for two years at an International School in Bamako, Mali, suggested that I contact Youchaou. She had learned he was trying to start a school for children who had no other access to an education. In 2003 Zanna sent him \$50 for his school. He said that this donation made all the difference for him as he had been ready to give up. Zanna then gave a presentation about Youchaou's school to the Service Club of the Oneonta Middle and High schools in 2003. The group was so moved by Youchaou's vision that they raised \$350.

I began a wonderful correspondence with Youchaou in 2005. As we learned more about his work, the children at UUSO wanted to help the children in Mali. We wanted to make a real difference in their lives. RE children learned that the school was very different from their own schools. For instance the school had only one box of colored pencils distributed among the classrooms. If a class needed to use a certain color they would need to trade colors with another class. UUSO children made artwork to sell to support his school. The following year, 2006, the Religious Education Program's January Intersession was called, "Hands Across the World".

We want to send the kids food and pencils and money. The kids work hard and their clothes are raggedy. We feel sad about the kids. —RE children at the 2006 Intergenerational Service

In 2006 a group of adults began to meet at our church to work out a sponsorship program for the school. In the first year, the group raised enough to sponsor 28 children. A group of seven adults, including our then-minister, Judy Quarles, visited the school in January of 2007 and the number of sponsored children increased to 50. The UUSO Mali Education Project now coordinates the sponsorships of 55 children.

Because of your belief, your reliance and willingness to help, life has been changing positively for many people here. I just can't believe it! " . . . we have a saying here that runs as follows: "A single finger cannot take a stone". That means as an individual, you need to join efforts in order to succeed or accomplish certain things. Alone, it will be hard to succeed or do some accomplishments. This is exactly my situation. I have a vision, dreams but I could never or hardly realize them without your assistance. I really thank you for that. —Youchaou Traore, May 7 2010

EPY (Ecole Privée Youchaou) began in 2000 in a small rented building and for the next six years Youchaou paid for the school himself. His vision has become a reality as the school has grown to include a large complex of schools that teach hundreds of children. Youchaou's school now has a Kindergarten, a primary school (up to ninth grade), a high school, a vocational school, and a library. Through fundraisers, we have helped significantly in the building of the library, parts for a well, and providing school furniture and supplies. There are groups from all over the world that contribute to his work as well as some families who are able to afford to pay fees. It has always been a non-profit school, perhaps the first one in Mali. It is currently one of the best schools in Mali with a focus on the high quality of teacher training, communication with families, personal initiative of the students, small class size and the education of girls. The school has won many awards.

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I lead a Children's Worship Service about Youchaou's School every year. This year it will be on March 18. We will be making a banner as a gift to the school from UUSO RE. We are also excited about the April 21st annual Mali Banquet Fundraiser.

For more information about Youchaou's School visit www.epyschool.org ; speak to Annemarie Hosnedl, Chair of the group;, Shirley Ferguson, Sponsorship Coordinator; or with another member of the UUSO Mali Education Project. . I plan to update the group's brochure to be available for the April 21'st dinner.

In Peace,

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

JOB POSTING: DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY (UU BINGHAMPTON)

Part Time (30 hr/wk) at least 27 Sundays
UUA Fair Compensation
Medical, Dental, Retirement, Vacation

Following a year of experimentation and discernment, our congregation has decided to put a higher priority on more innovative faith development time. We envision the Director of Family Ministry as a leader who will partner with our Minister and Family Ministry Team to create meaningful, innovative opportunities for faith development for all ages.

We invite you to join us in creating a vibrant family ministry embracing families of all kinds, supporting them as the primary religious educators of their children.

Desired qualifications include, but are not limited to:

- BA or BS or higher preferred
- UUA Religious Education Credential Program
- Flexibility
- Patience
- Organization and Time management
- Technical Skills
-

[Our Congregation](#)

[Our Community](#)

[Detailed Job Description](#)

[Family Ministry Team Brochure](#)

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume by March 30, 2018 to dfmsearch@uubinghamton.org

Please contact us with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

there for one another. It is a cornerstone of our building the beloved community. Which is why it is so important that everyone use that time for what it was intended. Making announcements during Joys and Sorrows disrupts the tone and the flow of the worship service. It makes it harder for the musicians and the worship leader to pull everyone back into the communal experience we were building together. It has been my practice, when someone shares overly long during Joys and Sorrows or uses the time for something better done as an announcement, to speak with them after the service. But that practice is proving less and less effective. I hope, by letting everyone in on the goal, reminding everyone of the collaborative process of creating a warm, welcoming, worshipful experience-- we might all do our part to weave a service that is rich with joy, love, thought, and meaning.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

FORMER UU MILITARY CHAPLAIN TO LEAD DRONE WORKSHOP SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH

Rev. Chris Antal, a UU military chaplain who resigned in protest over US drone warfare policy, will be at UUSO this Sunday, March 11th. He will give the sermon in the morning worship service 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. At 1:00 p.m. Rev. Antal will lead a two-hour workshop on "Drone Warfare: Action and Awareness." The workshop will include a 30-minute version of Robert Greenwald's *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars*. See the flyer for more details about the event and help us spread the word. Hope you will join us!

LETTER WRITING TABLE ON GUN VIOLENCE

Molly Swain, with Dawn Kilts from the Social Action team, will host a letter writing table on gun violence next week, March 11th, during social hour. Molly will supply paper, envelopes and contact information for lawmakers and you can choose what aspect of this issue you would like to focus on in your letter. Please come by.



When is a nickel worth 15 cents in today's world?

We have two angels in our midst who match every bottle and can return fee of five cents. When our donated bottle and cans are redeemed through the CLYNK program with Hannaford's bottle return program we can recoup 15 cents. So the good word is to continue bringing in your bottles and cans to help build the UUSO Endowment Fund.

-Bill Benedict for the Endowment Committee

YES!!! IT'S AUCTION TIME!

The date is set for Saturday April 14, just a month and a half from now, so we need to get cracking on this major fundraiser for the church. We've got some new ideas and we need some new people to help out, so please step up and do what you can!

Arlana Young is in charge this year, so she'll be coordinating all aspects of the event. Jane Bachman will be helping in some important ways, but not as much as she has in previous years, so we need 4 people to handle these specific areas:

1. **Advertising.** Evelyn is putting together a flyer; all advertising is coordinated with her in the office. The Advertising head will work with Evelyn, post flyers, write up notices for the order of service, and help with signing up volunteers.
2. **Donation of Goods and Services.** Jane has offered to store items at her house and to write up the bid cards. The Goods/Services head will enter info into the database (already formatted) and be responsible for getting all items/service info to the church on Saturday April 14 and setting them up.
3. **Volunteer solicitation and management.** The Volunteer head will coordinate the clipboard signup activity during coffee hours; ensure that volunteers are signed up for all tasks (list is already developed); and manage the volunteers during the event.
4. **Finance.** The Finance head will manage the financial procedures during the event. He/she will have at least 3 volunteers to help.

Please contact Arlana as soon as possible if you can be the Lead person for any of these areas.

We will, of course, need lots of volunteers to help with food, kitchen, set-up and breakdown, silent auction tables, finance, greeting and sign-in, etc., so when the clipboard person comes to you at coffee hour, smile and sign-up!

We also need an auctioneer! Our intrepid and lively mainstay, Doug Hallberg, is not able to be the auctioneer this year. Arlana has been thinking of a few people for this major role, so if she approaches you with the offer of a lifetime, please consider this opportunity to bask in the limelight for the night!

And we need our flamboyant, theatrical Van/Vanna Whites! Opportunities here for two people to strut their glamorous sides!

And finally, most importantly, we need you to donate wonderful, enticing, gorgeous, thrilling, and valuable goods and services! Think big, think beautiful, think creatively. Here are some of the ideas already in the making:

1. Progressive dinner: 4-5 families in a neighborhood offer a dinner, one course at each house. Participants walk or drive from house to house and enjoy the meal and company.
2. Grappa tasting: Grappa is the Italian liquor made from the mash left after the pressing of the grapes for wine. It's strong, it's hardy and it comes in a multitude of flavors!
3. Foods of the month - cookies, bread, soup, pie, and ?????
4. Phish poster and concert tickets
5. Snowboard with bindings
6. Antique wooden snowshoes in excellent condition
7. Beautiful wooden rocking horse
8. Caned chairs
9. Antique items

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10. Furniture
11. Jewelry
12. Fine scarves
13. Basket of chocolate delectables
14. Vacation homes
15. Handmade quilt
16. Potted plants
17. Basket of cat items
18. Various dinner and lunch themes
19. Field trip to the Oz museum

More great items and services to come, including yours!

An initial meeting for all volunteers is scheduled for **Saturday March 10, 10:15 at the church**. We'll be done in about an hour, and there'll be light refreshments! Please try to be there but if you just cannot, please call or email Arlana to let her know that you will be helping. Our goal is to surpass last year's amazing profit of \$9000 – let's ALL make this happen!

SHARING OUR FAITH—SHAPING OUR DREAMS

Our congregation is just the most wonderful and generous group of people! Over 80 pledge units have responded to our stewardship campaign so far. That means that 53% of possible pledgers have answered the call. Thank you. To meet our goal of 95% or more people pledging, we still need almost 70 more pledge forms to be returned to us. If you need a pledge form or want to make a pledge online or by phone, just let Evelyn, Kari Reynolds, Pam Strother, Paul Robinson or Judy Tator know. We'll see to your needs quickly.

Why are we so persistent in asking everyone to return a pledge form? We have two anonymous benefactors who will add \$1000 dollars each to their pledges if we can get 95% participation from everyone else. That's a lot of money added to our ministries and programs. All you need to do is sign the pledge form, put an amount for a pledge or donation that you feel comfortable giving and return it in any one of the ways noted on the form. We need your help. Won't you help us?

—Judy Tator, Stewardship Committee Chair

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: RELOCALIZING FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

On February 11, as a follow-up to our screening this past November of Local Futures's film "The Economics of Happiness" (see www.localfutures.org), UUSO's Social Action Team offered to the congregation and wider community a free Food-for-Thought lunch in our Chapin sanctuary, followed by a talk by Eugene Marner of nearby Franklin on "Relocalizing: What It Is and Why We Need It," discussing "drawdown" resulting from world-wide over-extraction and ultimate depletion, now in process, of earth's fossil-fuel energy supply, and the necessity to understand and be prepared for the inevitable changes this will cause in how we live or will have to live. A return to local community focus and cooperation will have to replace our current dependence on globalized transport of food and other necessities, reversing much of the industrialized overconsumption we've come to take for granted. This is not optional, so we should become aware and prepare for it now, to make the necessary societal and personal adjustments less painful later. About 30 people attended, mostly from UUSO and a few from the local community. Audience Q&A added comments and insights to the discussion. The event was covered by Daily Star reporter Erin Jerome, whose article appeared with a photo on the Star's website that evening and published in the next day's paper; it was also videotaped by Wilton Vought and can be seen on his YouTube channel, "Other Voices, Other Choices" at https://youtu.be/m_jy93WV. It was also recorded in-house and is available as a UUSO podcast for anyone interested. And, given this information, where do we go from here?

—Kathy Shimberg for the Social Action Team



Liz Jacob-Carter and Jenny Bagby for many years of leading the highly successful Cookies and Crafts UUSO fundraiser. They will be stepping down but remaining on the committee to support the efforts. Liz and Jenny have brought holiday spirits to new heights and we truly appreciate their leadership!

Kathy Paranya has tirelessly lent her talents to assisting our office for over 30 years and has helped move UUSO into the 21st Century. Her leadership as chair of the Database task force led to purchasing the Realm software to help integrate our information in a user friendly way for our congregation. The Database task force has now completed its mission and Kathy is now taking a well deserved break from the leadership role. UUSO has benefited greatly from Kathy's dedicated service.

“Food-for-Thought” Lunch Drone Warfare: Awareness and Action

Sunday, March 11, 2018
Lunch 12:15 pm — Workshop 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta (UUSO)

Sponsored by the Social Action Team of UUSO

Workshop leader:

Rev. Chris Antal, a Unitarian Universalist minister, served as a US military chaplain and resigned in protest over US drone warfare policy.



In this two-hour workshop, participants will grow in understanding of the moral hazards of U.S. drone warfare, and grow in awareness of the communities that live and die under U.S. drones. Participants will also learn specific talking points to engage the press and public officials, and organize for action.

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees met for our regular meeting on February 21. After hearing the Treasurer and staff reports, we acknowledged receipt of the Committee on Ministries submission of a proposed Conflict Policy and Procedures which will be reviewed by the board's policy subcommittee. The board approved a confidentiality policy. Also approved was a building use request from Dining for Women to waive all fees for monthly use of the sanctuary and kitchen due to its strong alliance with our UU principles and UUSO mission and significant UUSO member involvement. The board discussed options for Clergy coverage during Rev. Craig's sabbatical occurring from Aug. 4 through Dec. 2, 2018.

Due to the imminent changes in committee and board membership that occurs after June, the consensus, after consultation with the office administrator, was that the directory be printed in the fall of each year. The new online Realm system allows for availability of updated contact information throughout the year.

Three issues arose from the Sounding Board report: 1) The chair arrangement in the sanctuary needs to be such that all aisles have enough room for safe flow of traffic. David Ray will be asked to accommodate this with Rev Craig's agreement. 2) Candlelight Dinners are requested to be reinvigorated. Rev. Craig will be consulted upon his return. 3) It was requested that the office committee be re-established. By consensus, the board felt this structure was not advisable. Currently the office administrator may seek volunteers from the congregation to assist with office functioning as needed.

Liaison reports were given. The board was informed that the endowment committee would like to change the name of the current endowment fund to the "UUSO Community Fund". The safety committee is officially meeting regularly to address a variety of plans to be proactive with safety for the congregation. The co-chairs of Cookies and Crafts, Liz Jacob-Carter and Jenny Bagby, are stepping down and have our grateful thanks. Rhiannon Ham and Pam Strother are the new co-chairs. A conversation was held recently with Liz and Jenny, Pam Strother, board members, and the minister discussed ways to strengthen the support of UUSO volunteers. The covenant subcommittee is actively seeking input on the draft UUSO covenant of right relations. A bookkeeper search committee has been formed and the call for applicants has been issued. Potential bylaws changes were reviewed and will again be discussed at our March BOT meeting. Lapsed members are being contacted by the president and minister to see if they would like to renew.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for March 21, 6:30pm in the sanctuary. UUSO members and friends are welcome to observe. The sounding board will be available March 18 following the worship service to hear input for the board from the congregation.

Karen Palmer, President
UUSO Board of Trustees
607-267-4793
greenspeech3278@gmail.com

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

MARCH 11TH - SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30AM

PEACE AND PAIN

REV. CHRIS ANTAL & REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

Privilege provides us the choice to pay attention to the world's pain and seek to relieve it, or insulate ourselves in sophisticated resignation or anesthetizing slumber.

How we choose determines who we become.

Rev. Chris Antal will be presenting on drone warfare and our quest for peace at UUSO today at 1pm.

**Start Together Sunday*

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

Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Rosemary Summers & Cathi Wiltsey

Ushers: Suzanne Miller & Walter Vom Saal

Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller

Sound System: Patrick Rosr



In The Great Lawsuit, Margaret Fuller put forth the radical notion that men would not be spiritually whole until men and women were equal. How far have we come?

How far do we have to go?

**Children's Worship at OBH*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother

Ushers: Kim Elsener

Chancel Table: Dotty Hudson

Sound System: Paul Carter

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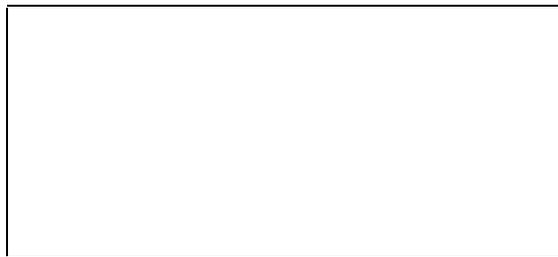


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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for March 21st issue
is March 19th, 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



Despite the recent blizzard (and perhaps more to come) Spring is on its way! You might want to consider setting up a means of composting your organic waste. Here are some ideas from www.GlobalSteward.org:

Worm Composting: Learn about worm composting
(vermiculture at [Earthworm FAQ](#)).

Composting: Start a compost pile with yard trimmings and
food scraps. Learn more at [Wikipedia's Compost page](#).

Grasscycling: [Leave grass clippings on the lawn](#) as fertilizer
and to reduce the amount of yard trimmings disposed in land-
fills.

Mulching: Mulching mowers are available which will con-
vert cut grass into a natural fertilizer.