



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of April 4th, 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Minister's Column</i>	1
<i>Religious Education</i>	2
<i>News & Announcements</i>	3
<i>Sandust</i>	6
<i>Worship Services</i>	9

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

"There can never be too many thank you's."

This line came up at a recent Social Action Team meeting-- and I think it summarizes one of the new lessons we've learned at UUSO. Part of being a family, religious or otherwise, is that we tend to start taking people and things for granted. It isn't a malicious thing, or even a conscious thing; it's just a natural occurrence over time. But during our visit with the stewardship consultant last fall, Liz Coit, we were reminded of how important the practice of gratitude truly is. We've been making an effort to keep Gratitude central as one of our UUSO spiritual practices. Remember, if you have someone you want to thank in the UUSO newsletter, just submit their name and a brief reason why. There can never be too many thank you's.

"What are we going to do with the money?"

This year, the Board, has proposed a slight change to the budget process. Our Finance Committee and our Bookkeeper are putting together a draft budget based on everyone's requests. The Board is inviting anyone interested in giving input on the priorities for next year's budget to come to a meeting on Sunday (4/8) at 2:30p. (The meeting will take place in OBH-- unless we need more space.) At that meeting, we will look at the pledge total and everyone's budget requests and work together to prepare a draft budget for the congregation's approval.

There are two significant pieces in the proposed budget that UUSO members need to consider:

• Fair Compensation Recommendations

Last year, the Personnel Committee, at the Board's request, took an in-depth look at our UUSO staff compensation and how it related to the Unitarian Universalist Association's recommendations for fair compensation (based on our economic/geographic level in the country.) They found that UUSO was not in right relationship, financially, with most of the UUSO staff in various ways. The Personnel Committee prepared a report to the Board with a recommendation for a three

year plan to bring wages and benefits back in line with the fair compensation guidelines. The first year of that three year plan is included in the preliminary budget.

• Sabbatical Minister

Per my letter of agreement with UUSO, I am granted 1 month of sabbatical per year of service. I have requested, and the Board has approved, my taking of a 4 month sabbatical this year from August 4th through December 2nd. There are several ways a congregation can carry on during a minister's sabbatical. One of the options that has become more popular with UU congregations is to contract with a sabbatical minister. Sabbatical ministers provide varying levels of services to the congregation as determined by service contract. I had proposed this option to the Board last year, and after investigation and deliberation, they have decided that a sabbatical minister would be the best option for UUSO while I'm away. The minister they have been in contact with for the position is the Rev. Kimberly Debus, a community minister from Saratoga Springs. (<https://www.uua.org/central-east/resources/guest-in-your-pulpit/debus>) After considering several levels of service, the Board is proposing Rev. Kimberly provide pastoral care on-call, lead 9 of 18 services during the sabbatical, and be available for meetings of the Board, core staff, Sabbatical Committee, and others upon request. This sabbatical ministry is in the proposed budget.

I hope those that can and are interested will attend the meeting this Sunday. If you can't make that meeting, please contact a member of the Board with your questions or input. If you have any questions about Rev. Kimberly or the sabbatical ministry, please contact me.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I had been monitoring the weather all week with hopes that we could hold our Annual Easter Can Hunt outside. I decided last night that the outside hunt was a “go”. This morning I awoke to unexpected rain and freezing temperatures. It had stopped raining but was cold and windy when the COASTers (6-8th graders) arrived to help me hide cans at the Olympia Brown House. We decided together to go ahead and hold our hunt outside. Our congregation had donated 78 cans for us to hide. Grace, Jacob, and Caitlin helped Alex, Adina, and I hide cans all over the backyard of the Olympia Brown House. Some would be easy to find (a pinecone in front of a big can) and some were very tricky (tucked away underneath the stairway ramp). The younger children arrived sometime after 11am and began to hunt for the cans. We gathered the cans all together in the front room of the Olympia Brown House and posed for a group photo.

Later on I realized that we forgot to be cold because we had such a great time together hiding and then looking for cans. Two cans were not found. This remains a mystery and anyone is welcome to search for them in their spare time. The cans we found are all bagged and in the trunk of my car. They’ll be delivered to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry early next week. Thanks to all of you who donated, hid, hunted, and packed up the cans. This is an important way that we help our community each year.

I was also grateful to Barbara because she worked in the nursery and to our regular sitter, Avery. It is generous of them to work on Easter morning.

Our day continued with the messiest art project ever. I was again grateful for the help of the COASTers, Alex, and Adina. I highly recommend this project. We created paper marbling with shaving cream and food coloring. This was a lot of fun. I was asked for the technique so here it is:

1. Materials needed: tubes of food coloring, white cardstock paper, plastic rulers or spatulas, wooden sticks, foamy shaving cream (we used the one for sensitive skin), a cookie sheet, paper towels.
2. Use a table cover, wear smocks, and roll up sleeves.
3. Squirt shaving cream and spread it around until it is fairly flat on the cookie sheet.
4. Squirt food coloring here and there – use at least two colors
5. Swirl it around with a pencil or wooden stick. Be careful not to mix it up too much.
6. Place cardstock on top of it all and press down gently.
7. Pull up paper to see a beautiful design!
8. Wipe off the shaving cream with the ruler and then with paper towel.
9. Wipe everything with paper towels and wipe some more.
10. That’s it! You can use the same to make more prints. You can add more colors or swirls if you want or wash it out and start again.



The particular brand of shaving cream smelled nice. Everyone was careful with the mess we were making. We also had liquid watercolors for painting cardstock eggs for those who were waiting to try marbling. We finished our day with delicious strawberry shortcake. We ended up warm, clean, happy and it felt like spring after all.

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LISTEN UP MEMBERS

At their meeting on February 21, the Board of Trustees approved the use of emails and the UUSO website to notify UUSO Members of Congregational Meetings. All UUSO Members with email addresses on file will receive these notices electronically. Members with no email address on record will receive hard copies of the meeting notices, as will any Member who requests a hard copy.

This move to electronic communication will save significant cost in terms of paper, ink, postage, and the time of the Office Administer.

Hard copies of the agenda and pertinent documents also still be available at Congregational Meetings.

- Mary Ruhoff, Moderator

DESSERT THEATER RETURNS MAY 12!

The UU Players will present Erma Bombeck's "Motherhood: The Second Oldest Profession" on Saturday, May 12 at the UUSO. There will be two performances: a matinee at 2:00 PM, and an evening show at 7:00PM. Since this is the day before Mother's Day, it is the perfect opportunity for a fun way to honor the Mom in your life, so be sure to save the date!

In the meantime, assistance is sought for the following:

1. Publicity - helping with announcements, press releases, and hanging flyers
2. Tickets - printing and selling tickets, handling reservations
3. Desserts Coordinator - recruit dessert contributions and manage kitchen activities during and after the two performances

Please contact Rosemary Summers (rosemarysummers@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in this always fun fundraiser!

UU CONNECTION TO APRIL DOCUMENTARY

"William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe" is the April 25th feature of the Last Wednesdays Film Series on Peace and Justice for All.

Pick an issue of the 60's and 70s -- Kunstler probably defended activists who helped change US society for the better. In this intimate biography, filmmakers Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler seek to recover the real story of what made their late father one of the most beloved, and hated, lawyers in America. Winner of the L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth Vision Award, 2009 Sundance Film Festival. A co-production of ITVS. Lisa Barr was at the documentary's premiere in Chicago which featured a panel including Bernardine Dohrn. Barr will explain the connection between Kunstler and 60s era civil rights activists from New Orleans' First Unitarian Universalist Church. As always, doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a 6:00 vegetarian meal followed by film screening at 7:00 with discussion thereafter if desired. Childcare available by contacting UUSO office by Monday, April 23rd. Free of charge.

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS RETURN

Mark May 5, Cinco de Mayo, on your calendar for a candlelight dinner hosted in the homes of our members and friends. We would love, for this to be an all-church event with lots of participation. You will need to let us know if you would like to be a guest or host for a social evening getting to know each other better. Details in next newsletter.

Justine Roefs, justine.roefs@yahoo.com, 267-0020

Alice Siegfried, alice.pott@icloud.com, 432-8673

A SEASON OF FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING

Temple Beth El of Oneonta is sponsoring a special interfaith community program titled "A Season of Faith and Understanding." This series invites you to learn more about the religions in our community by visiting different houses of worship. Guests will be greeted by clergy and given an overview of each religion and their prayer service. After the service, stay for coffee, conversation, and fellowship.

Choosing to respect and understand one another, including how we pray, strengthens our bonds. Our unique religious beliefs and identities form the basis for promoting a more just, caring community. Join us for these interesting and engaging opportunities to connect with our neighbors. Host communities are St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (April 8 at 9:45 am), First United Methodist Church (April 15 at 9:45 am), Temple Beth El (April 20 at 7:15 pm), Religious Society of Friends/Quakers (April 22 at 10:45 am), Baha'i Community of Oneonta (April 28 at 7:00 pm), Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta (May 13 at 9:45 am), Karne Ling Retreat Center/Tibetan Buddhism (June 9 at 2:00), Church of Latter Day Saints/Mormon (June 10 at 9:45 am), and Osmanli Dergahi/Islam (June 17 at 12:00).

For more information, click on "Announcements" at www.templebetheloneonta.org, or contact Temple Beth El President Ken Sider at ksider@hotmail.com or 607-432-5522.



ANNUAL REPORTS

It's annual report time! Annual reports are due no later than April 16th this year (at 9AM), to allow time for your committees and teams to meet, if necessary.

- Please make the subject of your emailed report easily searchable using this format: "Annual Report 2017-2018 ___ Committee(or)Team".
- Please send in reports electronically so there's less processing delay. (It's a lot easier to find one member of a committee to type up their report than to find a volunteer to type up five handwritten ones..)

Here's the format we're following this year.

- Committee/Team
- Committee/Team Chair:
- Board Liaison:
- Committee/Team Members (please indicate titles, if any):
- Mission Statement:
- Summary of Goals and Accomplishments (or just "Accomplishments"):
- Looking ahead — preliminary goals and issues for next year:

Thank you for all that you do!



SHARING OUR FAITH – SHAPING OUR DREAMS

Your Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that our Stewardship Campaign is over for this year. Thanks to your participation and generosity, 98% of you returned a pledge form and earned us the \$2000 matching funds. In total, your pledges added up to 186,326 dollars. With the incentive amount added in, we have a grand total of \$188,326 with which to create a budget for next year!

On Sunday April 8th from 2:30 to 4:30 PM, all who returned their pledge forms will have the opportunity to meet in OBH for the first round of budget discussion and creation. You are welcome to present your ideas to help share our faith and shape our dreams for 2018-2019.

The Stewardship Committee, would like to thank you all for meeting the challenge and making it possible to continue our task of meeting our needs in our congregation, community and the world.

-Judy Tator

INVITATION TO BUDGET PLANNING

Any member or friend of UUSO who has pledged for the coming year is invited to participate in the first discussion involved in drafting the budget. You can lend your voice as to how we might allocate our precious resources to further our Mission and shape our Dreams into reality. This planning session will take place Sunday, April 8 from 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Olympia Brown House dining room. It will be the 2nd phase of a 4 phase process which will be explained at that session. Snacks will be offered.

-Karen Palmer
UUSO Board President

UUSO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS DIRECTORY

From the March 7th Sawdust article in UU News:

“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.” Please see the [Congregant Guide](http://help.onrealm.org) on help.onrealm.org, or contact the office administrator for assistance with your new Realm online directory account.

2018 CER ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY SPRING GATHERING

Friday, April 13, 2018 - 7:00 pm EDT to Saturday, April 14, 2018 - 5:00 pm EDT

You Can't Spell Church without J-O-Y

2018 Seaway Spring Gathering

Come join UUs from across New York for a day of worshipping, learning and connecting! Hosted by the CER of the UUA and First UU Society of Syracuse.

For more information on registration and workshops please go to <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/2018-cer-st-lawrence-seaway-spring-gathering>

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees met for our regular meeting on March 21. After approving minutes and hearing the Treasurer and staff reports, we were pleased to appoint Adina Johnson to the Board until June 30, 2018. She fills Stan Maricle's position. We now have a full complement of nine Trustees again.

The Board discussed the process that could bring forth a UUSO faith-based statement. This was suggested as an action at the recent Drone workshop. The Board agreed that if such a statement were to be endorsed by our congregation, the appropriate process would be to utilize our current social justice task force approval process stated in the bylaws. The Congregation-approved task force would be expected to provide the necessary education related to the faith-based statement which would then be voted on at a future Congregational Meeting.

The Board reviewed the bylaws and proposed suggested changes to be brought back to the bylaws committee which will then present a final draft of bylaw revisions to the Congregation to be voted upon at its annual meeting on May 6.

A photo permission policy will be developed by the staff per a Sounding Board request.

The Board approved a letter of membership inquiry to be sent to members who have not yet indicated a desire to continue their membership over the past year.

Trustee Nathan Elsener will consult with appropriate people to recommend the color for the new sanctuary carpet and the new mailboxes. It was clarified that there will be a box available for items to be sent from Chapin Memorial to 16 Ford Avenue which was a Sounding Board request.

The Sabbatical Task Force has been formed and was given the charge by the Board to coordinate the coverage for Rev. Craig's sabbatical from August 4 through December 2 and provide ongoing communication with the congregation. John Bagby is the chair of the Sabbatical Task Force.

The Board voted to dissolve the Website Committee. A Website Team will be created and overseen by the office administrator to support the updating of the website. Bob Brzozowski agreed to be the liaison to the Memorial Committee.

The Board also met briefly for a special meeting on Sunday, April 1, and voted to approve Alan Zimmerman's access to all UUO financial records including pledge records. Alan is a CPA who has recently joined the Finance Committee and is willing to lend his expertise for which we are grateful! Alan will sign the confidentiality agreement per our new policy.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for April 18, 6:30pm in the sanctuary. UUSO members and friends are welcome to observe. The Sounding Board will be available April 15 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

Goods & Services

AUCTION

Saturday, April 14th
Doors Open at 5:30PM
Live Auction Begins: 6:30PM



PHISH TICKETS
HANDMADE QUILT
ART BY JOE STORY
CAKES & PASTRIES
WINE
LONG WEEKEND GETAWAY
DINNER & A MOVIE
GREEN TOAD GIFTCARD
JEWELRY
MUSIC LESSONS
HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE
ANTIQUE SNOWSHOES
-100S OF ITEMS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 FORD AVE. ONEONTA





Annual Benefit Buffet & Bazaar

Egyptian Banquet

(non-spicy, GF, & vegetarian options available)

and presentation:

*Prof. Julie Licata's
SUCO Drumming Class*

Saturday, April 21st

Unitarian Universalist Society

12 Ford Ave. in Oneonta

Bazaar Opens at 5:30pm, Banquet at 6pm,

\$15 Adult, \$10 Child over 5, Family Rates Available

Free Childcare

Meal Reservations Required!

CALL (607) 434-3303

email: cswolfgould@gmail.com

Hosted by:

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

Mali Education Project to Benefit

Children at Youchaoui's School in Mali

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

#NEWWORLD

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

10:30AM | April 8

Twitter has changed the way
we organize and respond.
#MeToo, #NeverAgain, and #AllWomen cre-
ated vast movements,
greater awareness, action.
How do we live our faith in the #NewWorld?

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*

With Music provided by Michael & Dorothy Frye-
Hunt

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patricia Engel LaFata & Jesse
Schwabe

Ushers: TBA

Chancel Table: Sue Hutchinson

Sound System: Paul Carter

SUNDAY SERVICE AT UUSO
APRIL 15TH

"COOKING,
CONVIVING, AND
COMMUNING"

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG



Everyone knows that breaking bread is a spir-
itual practice; but, so is
baking the bread in the first place.
Come, let's geek out over the making of com-
munal meals.

**Start Together Sunday*

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

Worship Associate: Caroline Bagby

Coffee Hour Hosts: Carol Malz

Ushers: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Chancel Table: Grace Smith

Sound System: Scott Segar

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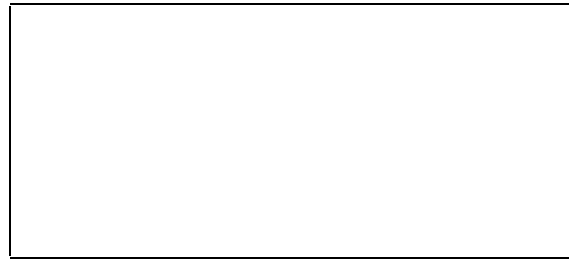
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Evelyn Warren Recording Secretary



UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for April 18th issue
is April 16, 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

COMMUNITY SOLAR PRESENTATION

On Thursday, April 12, 4:30pm to 5:30pm, Jackie Burke from Solstice, a community solar company, will offer a presentation in the Chapin Sanctuary to inform us about an opportunity for residential households to be powered by locally generated solar energy for no up front cost and 10% lower costs for electric bills PLUS \$100 will go to the church for each person who subscribes! This is available for NYSEG customers. You can bring your electric bill or your POD ID # on page 3 of your NYSEG bill to find out how much you will save. There are limited spots left for this local solar "garden" so don't miss out on this amazing way to steward the Earth AND save money!

The Green Sanctuary Task Force