



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

April 12, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Spring Worship Calendar

The Spring Worship Calendar has been published and is available online and in paper-form in the OBH office and the Chapin vestibule. As always, we have some great services planned with some fabulous pulpit guests. Highlights of this spring include:

• Pulpit Guests

Jeane Bennet-O'Dea sharing her spiritual path to Buddhism (4/23)

Sandy Smith speaking on the power of one person to make a difference (4/3)

Rev. Jo VonRue, newly ordained UU minister, reflecting on women's liberation (5/14)

Scott Segar explores the potential of his family's unique philosophy and motto (5/28)

Patrick Rost celebrates the Summer Solstice (6/25)

• Holidays and Special Services

We celebrate Easter with traditional hymns and a Christian reflection (4/16)

Our UUSO Children and Youth present a service about finding community (5/21)

At this service, we'll welcome new members, recognize our R.E. volunteers, and honor our graduating seniors.

The annual Flower Communion service celebrates the end of the church year (6/4)

Mini-Sabbatical

I will be taking a mini-sabbatical from May 10th through June 7th. The congregation kindly grants me one month of sabbatical for every year of service. In August, I will have earned eight months of sabbatical time and have used four of them (in the fall of 2014). With the Board's approval, I scheduled a month-long sabbatical for this spring/summer. While I will be taking a few minor trips during that time to visit colleagues and attend some retreats, most of my time will be spent here in Oneonta. I will still be leading the New UU classes, attending the Board meeting, and responding to emergency pastoral care requests/needs. It is my hope that by taking this mini-sabbatical, I will renew my spiritual reserves and accomplish some professional goals with little cost to the congregation. While I am on sabbatical, I will only be checking my phone messages daily and my email weekly. For non-emergency issues, please contact our Office Administrator, Evelyn Warren, or our Board President, Karen Palmer. My thanks to the pulpit guests and the UUSO staff for providing the coverage and support that makes this mini-sabbatical possible. And, my deep appreciation to all of the members of our UUSO community for this gift of spiritual exploration and renewal.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Those of us in the UUSO Religious Education Program have been coping in creative ways with the many illnesses that seem to have come into our lives this March. I (and others) have been laid low with the flu. Teachers, parents, and children have seemed to have more illnesses than usual and attendance has been low. Some days we have cobbled together classes and class activities in order to have enough teachers and/or students to maintain the excellent quality of our time together. I am grateful for all the many people who have pitched in to help, often at the last minute. I look forward to being through with these illnesses and to celebrating the springtime together in RE.

April 15th will be our Easter Party and Can Hunt. We will also take our group photo. It is important that participants dress for the weather. Should it be too rainy outside we will have our can hunt inside at the Olympia Brown House. We are still looking for donations of cans and other non-perishable foods that will ultimately be donated to local food pantries. We will be hiding these right at 10:30 on Sunday, April 15th, so if you would like to donate cans we will need them before that time. Please leave donations in the marked box on the Office Porch at the Olympia Brown House. We have great fun hiding, finding, assembling, and then packing these for donation. This is one of the important ways that we help people in our community each year.

We can all begin thinking how we would paint what “Peace” means to us. Bring your ideas to one of two “Plates for Peace” painting parties hosted by the UUSO Social Action Committee with help from the Carriage House Art Studio. This will be a way for children and adults of all ages to have fun together while helping others in our world. The first painting party will be in the sanctuary at Chapin on Sunday, April 23, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. There will be another chance to paint plates at The Carriage House Art Studio across the street from our church on Sunday, April 30th from 1pm-3pm. Finished plates will be glazed and beautiful! Space is limited at these events so it is important that you sign up if you or your child would like to participate. The sign-up sheet is on the social action table in the sanctuary. It will cost \$10 per child and children will be able to keep the plate they painted (once it is finished and glazed). All other plates will be sold at the fundraiser luncheon. (see below)

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 11 at 1PM at Chapin. This will be the delicious Plates for Peace luncheon fundraiser! You will have the chance to purchase a decorated plate (even if you weren't part of a painting party) for \$20. Children will be able to purchase their own plates for \$10. The lunch itself will cost \$5 should you choose not to purchase a plate to take home. All money raised will be given to the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) to assist Syrian and other refugees in Croatia. The children's painted ideas of peace will be an important part of this project.

Here's to a Happy, Healthy, Spring!

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

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

I neglected to mention in my previous Sawdust Article that the Board accepted the resignation of Grace Smith as Chair of the Endowment Committee with our sincere thanks at our 3/22/17 Board meeting. Grace has held numerous leadership positions and has participated in various committees and projects throughout the years. She's taking a break from leadership for now but will continue to be an active member of UUSO.

It is a good time to acknowledge all of our UUSO leaders. Soon we will hold our annual meeting on May 7 and everyone will be able to read the Annual UUSO Report to witness the myriad of work that our volunteer leadership accomplishes. Do read it and enjoy being part of a faith community that actually fulfills its Mission year after year because people step up and make it all happen! I would encourage you to say thank you to a leader of our congregation when you get a chance. A leader is not just a chairperson or board member. A leader is anyone in our congregation who has helped to organize any small or large project or group. This includes a great number of people in our congregation!

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, April 19, 2017 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. (Please let the office know if you will need childcare.)

Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions and a Trustee and member of the Committee on Ministry will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service on Easter Sunday April 16, 2017.

Karen Palmer, President
UUSO Board of Trustees
607-267-4793
kpalmer14@hughes.net

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

GAME DAY POTLUCK AT UUSO April 29th, 2PM - 8PM

Celebrate International Tabletop Game Day at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta. Bring your favorite games and a dish to share to our first annual GAME DAY POTLUCK.

All ages are welcome! UUSO members, friends, guests, and visitors welcome!

To assist UUSO in our mission to be environmentally friendly, please bring your own place setting (plates, silverware, glass). If you can't bring your own utensils, we have plenty in our newly cleaned, organized kitchen-- but bringing your own will make clean up much easier for the organizers.

Staff from the Bearded Dragon game store will be there with games to demo and prizes to give away.

Come, have fun. Make new friends. Learn new games. Play your favorites. Roll the dice. Deal the cards. Let the games begin!

Hosted by Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Prophetic Advocacy/Indivisible Workshops

Last Session: We discussed effective ways to communicate with both the spoken and the written word. We also discussed how best to address positions and arguments based on fear. The best counter to fear is with connection, empathy, and love.

Next Session: The workshop scheduled for April 21st was cancelled due to all of the Earth Day weekend events scheduled for that evening and the following days. Our next workshop will be held on Friday, May 5th from 6:30p - 8:00p. The topic will be "Face-to-Face Lobbying/Advocacy With Our Representatives."

All are welcome. Meets in the meeting room in Chapin basement.

Note from the UUSO Office:

The new office hours are Tuesday—Friday, 10AM-3PM, with a lunch hour from 12-1PM. Evelyn will also be in the Office for the same hours on Mondays, however, the office will be closed to minimize interruptions and allow more time for special projects.

The UUSO Office will be closed on Tuesday, April 18th.

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.

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS



From last week's Mali Dinner Fundraiser

Last week's chancel table with plates for the upcoming Plates for Peace luncheon, decorated by Lisa Barr, Dotty Hudson, Kathy Shimberg and Janet Sutta for the Social Action Committee, with flowers from Grace Smith.



Chocolate and Child Slavery

As we get ready for Easter and chocolate bunnies, stop by the Social Action table after the service on Sunday and learn more about child slavery in West Africa and its connection to the chocolate industry. Learn sources of Fair Trade and slave free chocolate and sign a petition to the chocolate companies to change their practices.
-Suzanne Miller for the Social Action Committee

Plates for Peace

If the plates you saw on Sunday, April 9th, inspired you, please join us for a painting party in the sanctuary on April 23rd from 12:30 – 2:30 pm or at the Carriage House on April 30th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Sign-up sheets are on the Social Action Committee table at the back of the sanctuary. And don't forget to mark your calendars for "Plates for Peace" on June 11th. Plates will be sold, and Croatian and Middle Eastern food will be served, to raise money for the two Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/UUSC projects assisting Syrian and other refugees in Croatia. To learn more about the projects, please visit: <https://www.ngoaidmap.org/projects/17471> and <https://www.ngoaidmap.org/projects/20601>.

Sign the UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience at uua.org

The Declaration of Conscience by our UUA/Unitarian Universalist Association and UUSC/Unitarian Universalist Service Committee "affirms our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society." The Declaration was developed in the face of threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes. For more information about this and about transforming our values into action go to, stop by the Social Action table and pick up a handout on the Social Action table.

WED APRIL 26

LAST WEDNESDAYS FILM SERIES

AGAINST MILITARISM

JOIN US THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR A VEGETARIAN DINNER AT 6:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY A FILM SCREENING AT 7:00 PM, NO CHARGE. DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW AFTERWARDS

APRIL 26

A TIME OF BURNT ORANGES

TESTIMONIES OF RESISTANCE, TRANSFORMATION, AND HOPE MAKE A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ARGENTINA'S 1970 U.S. -SUPPORTED STATE TERRORISM A REVELATION. FILM-MAKER SYLVIA MALAGRINO WON THE CINE GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD BY ESTABLISHING LINKS BETWEEN THE STRUGGLES OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WITH TODAY'S NECESSITY TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESERVE HUMAN DIGNITY WITH DEMOCRATIC VALUES. NOT RATED.



RSVP REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
CHILD CARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST,
PREFERABLY BY EMAIL, UUSO@UUSO.ORG,
OR CALLING 607-432-3491.
PLEASE CALL BY 4/24/17, WITH AGES/NUMBER OF CHILDREN.



SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA (UUSO), 12 FORD AVE.

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Film

12 Ford Ave. Oneonta

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY'S

ANNUAL
Goods and Services

AUCTION

LIVE & SILENT

April 22 - 5:30PM

12 FORD AVE., ONEONTA
VARIETY OF FINE ITEMS



Spa Day, Restaurant and Massage Gift
Certificates, Phish Concert Tickets, Family
Portrait Session, Vacation Getaways, Yoga
Classes, Art, Fine Jewellery, Cakes & Pies,
Canoe AND MORE!

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

*Father,
Forgive Them..*



April 16 • Easter Sunday • Rev. Craig
Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

Easter Sunday

While he was hanging on the cross in agony,
Jesus beseeched his father to
forgive his tormentors,
for they knew not what they were doing.
Can we offer that same forgiveness
and absolution?

**Start Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
and the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey
Coffee Hour Hosts: Lisa Barr
Ushers: Need Volunteers!
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Julian Pecenco

"HELP!
...A START OF MY
BUDDHIST PATH."

JEANE BENNETT-O'DEA

04.23.2017 | 10:30AM

Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

Recognizing our need for help,
and asking for it, is an act of bravery.

*Jeane is a practicing Buddhist and a member of
UUSO.*

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim
Horne
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
Coffee Hour Hosts: Need Volunteers!
Ushers: Julia Gregory
Chancel Table: Dotty Hudson
Sound System: Paul Carter

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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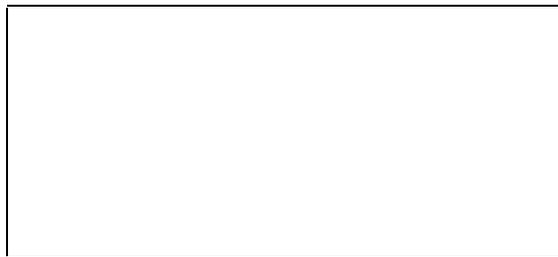
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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for April 26th issue is April 24th.

Order of Service Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



Earth Day (April 22) is coming soon. How about celebrating Earth Day all year long by making an effort to “B.Y.O. bag”.

UUSO Board of Trustees

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Sandy Smith Vice President
Amy Forster-Rothbart Clerk
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Keith Willcox
Jeane Bennett-O’Dea
Suzy Beddoe

Lynn Beken Treasurer
Evelyn Warren Recording Secretary

The website www.earthshare.org states: “If you grocery shop once a week, in five years you’ll have kept about 250 to 1,000 grocery bags out of our landfills. When one ton of plastic bags is re-used or recycled, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved! By bringing your own bag to the grocery store, you can save thousands of plastic bags from ending up in landfills, or even worse in ecosystems where they can harm living creatures.”