



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of April 18th, 2018

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Minister's Musings – What /Who/Why is the Sabbatical Minister???

The Board of Trustees, with my strong recommendation, has proposed that the congregation contract with a sabbatical minister during my sabbatical time later this year. The cost of for hiring the sabbatical minister has been included in the draft budget the congregation will be voting on at the congregational meeting on May 6th. I thought it would help the congregation make an informed decision if you knew a little bit more about concept of sabbatical ministry and the person we've proposed hiring, the Rev. Kimberly Debus. She graciously agreed to answer a few questions for this week's newsletter.

Q: What is a sabbatical minister? What do they do?

A: When a settled minister takes a sabbatical, it is meant to be a time away from the day-to-day life of a congregation, to provide a time of rest and rejuvenation for the body, mind, and spirit, a chance to recharge and refocus. It is also a time for the congregation to recharge and refocus, with an opportunity to hear some new ideas and change up the day-to-day patterns for a few months. That's my job as a sabbatical minister - to bring some new ideas, to hold space for rest and rejuvenation, to ensure the day-to-day life of the congregation continues apace, and to attend to pastoral needs as they arise. As sabbatical minister, I am not a replacement for Rev. Craig, who you called many years ago to hold you in care; rather, think of me as a substitute teacher who doesn't assign homework... but does attend meetings.

Q. Why do you want to be UUSO's sabbatical minister?

A: Having just completed a sabbatical ministry on Nantucket, I can tell you that being with a congregation for a short time brings me great joy - I get to know you a little, worship with you, offer assistance as needed, and celebrate you. I also take joy in assuring Rev. Craig that the congregation is in good hands while he recharges. I have a particular affection for Oneonta, as I attended SUNY Oneonta for a few years, and knowing your commitment

to justice and spiritual deepening, I am especially excited to spend time with you this summer and fall.

Q. How would you describe your ministry?

A. My ministry is a bit unusual - many community ministers work as chaplains or run social justice organizations. My community is anyone involved in worship and the arts - ministers, religious educators, music directors, worship committees, lay preachers, and of course performing and visual artists in our congregations. I work to build artful and art-filled worship in congregations of all sizes, provide new and creative ways to understand our faith and the world, and to ensure the creative voice of our spirits is awakened and energized so that we may answer the call of love.

Q. How can UUSO members learn more about you?

A. You can learn a great deal more about me and my ministry at <https://artofmeaning.org/> - which includes links to selected sermons and my 16-month exploration of our hymnals. If you'd like to see me in person before August, I'll be preaching with Rev. Craig at UUSO on June 10th - along with services in Bennington, VT (May 6) and Mount Kisco, NY (May 27). And if you are attending General Assembly - in person or online - I will be leading Friday morning worship.

Rev. Kimberly is also a regular attendee at SUUSI (the Southeaster Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute) where she coordinates music for the morning worship services and helps me with Pair-a-Dice, the dedicated gaming space. (She design all of the artwork for our game cards and t-shirts.) Rev. Kimberly loves to sing, is a West Wing fanatic, and loves to play games. I consider her to be a great colleague and a good friend. I'm confident that she will be a fabulous resource and an inspiring, engaging worship leader if the congregation approves hiring her for the sabbatical ministry.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times,
if one only remembers to turn on the light."
-Albus Dumbledore (J. K. Rowling)*

It is time to begin to look at next year's religious education classes. Would you like to make a difference in our troubled world by working with UU children and youth? Teachers often say they find "spirit" in the words and actions of our young UU's. Classes are active, engaging, and thought provoking. They are fun!

Teaching in RE is a bit different than it used to be. The goal is for each class to have a team of four adults who work together. They support each other. They each bring their own unique skillset to the classes. Each person teaches approximately twice per month so that everyone has a chance to attend services or to just have half of their Sunday's "off". You don't have to know the material beforehand or to know all about Unitarian Universalism. We are all learning together. We work from Unitarian Universalist curricula. I set up all the supplies you will need each Sunday. We can arrange the schedule around all of our availabilities. Classes begin sometime in October and end sometime in June. Your fellow teachers and I are always ready to help if needed. Being a part of the lives of our UU children is one of the benefits of being a part of our church community. We encourage, support and respect them to be whoever they are as people. I am continually inspired as I watch them they grow to be confident adults, spirited changemakers, and kind people who work for fairness in our world - each in their own way.

Please speak with me or email at dre@uuso.org if you would like more information or if you already know you would like to be a part of this religious education experience.

"It's important to remember we all have magic inside us." -Albus Dumbledore

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTES FROM THE SABBATICAL COMMITTEE:

The Sabbatical committee, established by the Board of Trustees, had its first meeting this month. The committee is made up of John Bagby, Chair; Suzanne Beddoe, Pastoral Care Coordinator; Amy Forster Rothbart Board liaison; Evelyn Warren, staff liaison; and Pam Strother Worship Coordinator.

We are all very excited about working on this project and supporting our minister and the congregation during this sabbatical. Sabbatical is an important part of one's growth as a minister, a professor, or in any other profession that supports this kind of professional development. It allows for new and exciting ideas and discoveries to be brought forward for both the person on sabbatical and the organization as well. It allows for time to refresh and recharge so that energy and excitement about what we are called to do does not wane, wear us down, or diminish our dedication to that calling.

The committee has a strong and vibrant plan in place to support and continue our congregational ministries in Reverend Craig's absence. We are currently putting together the "Sabbatical Handbook." When it has been finalized, we will publish it in hard copy and on the website. We will be meeting regularly over the next few months, prior to the sabbatical starting, to continue our planning to ensure that, in Reverend Craig's absence, we remain a healthy, vibrant and engaged community. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email me at John.Bagby@oneonta.edu.

UU GOODS AND SERVICES WRAP UP

Thanks to a multitude of UU Members and Friends, we had a great time last Saturday at the auction and raised more than \$8300 at the same time! We have to take some expenses out of that amount, but we will still clear over \$8000.

More than 100 people attended the event and we had 53 active bidders. The average total amount for each bidder was about \$150, but most bidders spent less than \$100. We had lots of items with low starting bids, so everyone could join in on the fun of bidding.

And, there's still more going on! Some of the Wall items did not completely fill up. Those sheets will be up on the bulletin board in the sanctuary through Sunday April 22, so take a look and sign up for something – classes, meals, field trip, bread and more! If we can get all of those slots filled, our total income will go well over \$8500.

As always, lots of volunteers made this event a success. Thanks very much to all of the food volunteers who donated scrumptious and beautiful snacks for the event. Many grateful thanks too to all of you who donated items and services – we had an amazing array of quality items and all of the classic services, plus a few new ones!

And the biggest thanks to all of the volunteers who worked the event. Everyone did a fantastic job to make this event run smoothly. Here are the volunteers who made this auction so enjoyable for everyone:

Co-chair: Jane Bachman

Auctioneers: Rosemary Summers and Duncan Smith

Van's: Carl O'Shea and Rev. Craig

Spotter: Keith Willcox

Greeters: Alice Siegfried, Kathy Shimberg, Kim Yousey-Elsener

Finance: Jenny Bagby, Jeanne Bennet-O'dea, Kari Reynolds, Sue Gates, Evelyn Warren

Kitchen: Julia Gregory, Tori Jackson, Barbara Agoglia, Amanda Osterhoudt

Silent auction: Jane Bachman, Rhiannon Hamm

Set up/Clean up: Jane Bachman, Julia Gregory, Rhiannon Hamm, Amanda Osterhoudt, Robert McCaffery, Paul Agoglia, Tori Jackson, Kim Yousey-Elsener, Carl O'Shea

THANKS TO EVERYONE!



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 Youchaou's School in Mali*

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS RETURN

Mark May 5 (and May 6th!), 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

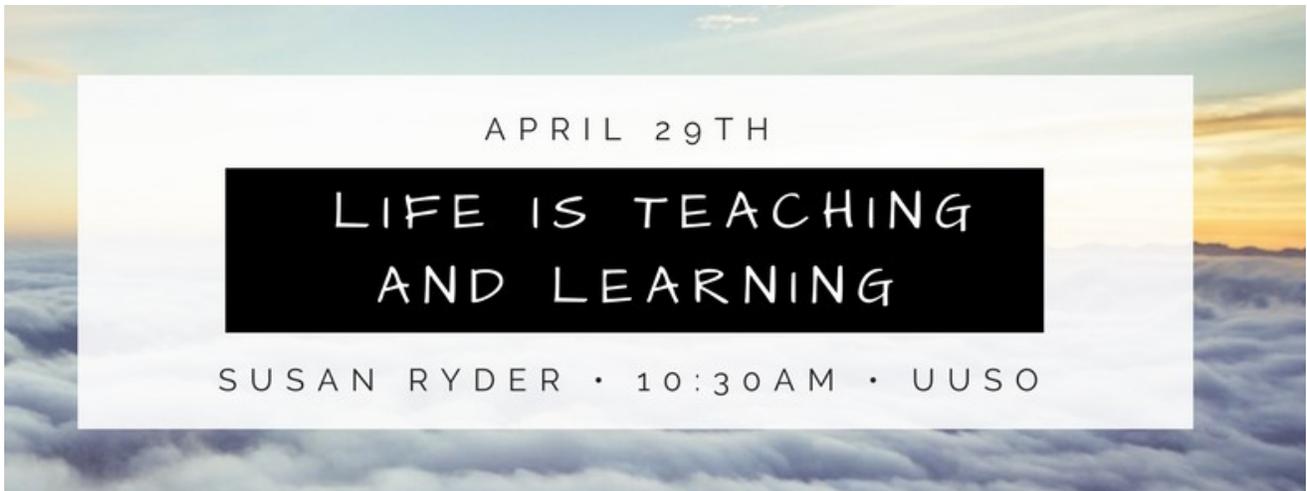
UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



UUSO Member, Ginny Scheer, will share the evolution of her mother’s belief system. “Ginny,” she would say, “It’s just science.”

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Elaine Downing & Steve Berman
Ushers: Mary Ruhoff
Chancel Table: Ginny Scheer
Sound System: Patrick Rost



Susan Ryder, Director of Religious Education and Religious Education Volunteers & Students RE Teacher Appreciation Graduating Seniors Bridging

**Stay Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Teaching and learning are central to life and to our faith. Join us in thanking our UUSO teachers and volunteers and honoring our graduating seniors.

Coffee Hour Hosts: Suzy Beddoe
Ushers: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Chancel Table: Deb Blue
Sound System: Paul Carter

**UNITARIAN
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SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for May 2nd issue
is April 30, 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

[The City of Oneonta announced](#) that starting April 6th residents can begin reserving Community Garden plots for the 2018 season., applications are available at the city clerk's office, located in City Hall at the corner of Ford and Main St. Plot fees are \$50 for city residents and \$100 for non-city residents. Reservations for non-city residents begin Friday, April 27. The City will be adding a number of raised garden beds this year.