



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of May 2, 2018

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Is it Spring yet? (Really? Truly? No fooling this time?)

Happy May Day, everyone! What a glorious day we had for the first of May. However you celebrate the day-- be it with a Maypole, or with a nod of thanks to the working class, or just with a walk in the sunshine - I wish you a happy and joyous Spring. With the warmer weather finally here, I'll be looking for people to go walking with. If you would like to go for a walk -n-talk with me (with or without Spirit and/or Harmony), please let me know. I enjoy the company and conversation and it improves my physical and spiritual health.

### NYSCU Leadership Grant

We applied for and received a grant from the New York State Convention of Universalists to fund leadership development here at UUSO. The grant money will allow us to members of the Board Trustees, Stewardship Committee, and Safety Committee to webinars and training workshops offered by our regional UUA staff. The grant also included money to send 1 or 2 people to the UUA General Assembly this year. The Board offered the GA scholarship to Deb Bruce and she has gratefully accepted the funds. Deb has never attended a General Assembly before and is looking forward to this opportunity to meet more Unitarian Universalists and learn more about our faith and the best practices of our congregations. Deb has been a volunteer in our Religious Education program for many years, chairs the R.E. committee this year, serves as the UUSO Librarian, and served on the Ministerial Search Committee that helped bring me to UUSO. Deb will be one of three UUSO delegates at General Assembly. (I will be the minister delegate and Suzanne Miller will also be a member delegate.)

Delegates have the opportunity to attend the plenary sessions, where the business of our wider UU Association is discussed and voted on. Delegates are empowered by our congregation to vote their conscience while at GA, but I'm sure they would be open to suggestions from UUSO members who are interested in the various issues. Our thanks to NYSCU for helping to fund these leadership development opportunities.

### UUA General Assembly - "All Are Called"

General Assembly this year will be in Kansas City, MO, from June 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year for GA is "All Are Called." Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join a thousand other Unitarian Universalists in Kansas City, as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. If you can't make it to General Assembly, you can still attend virtually as many of the workshops and events are streamed on-line on the UUA website. You can even be a virtual delegate if you like. (Registration for virtual delegates is \$175 now.) If you have any questions about General Assembly, please ask me (or any of the other UUSO folks that have attended a GA.)

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UUSO's Religious Education Program held our annual service in the sanctuary last Sunday. Many people came together to help with this service. The children and youth performed a short story called, "Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom", Rev. Craig read a poem by his mentor, Rev. Dr. Lyndsey Bates, which offered prayers and hopes for our children. Deb Bruce read a poem by Rev Gary Kowalski about the ways that children shape our lives. We honored the many people who work with children in our congregation. We have an RE greeter who helps families know where their children will start their day each Sunday. We have 5 teaching teams made up of 13 RE teachers. There are substitute teachers from our congregation who jump in to help at the last minute as well as a team of 3 paid nursery providers, 7 Religious Education Committee members, 6 Mentors for youth in our Coming of Age program, and drivers/advisors for teens who attend district Youth Cons (Conferences). There are adults from our congregation who visit classes as guest speakers and who work with them during the January Intersession. Many of you have given generously to support RE activities, including fundraisers for the Coming of Age group's pilgrimage to Boston. The children and youth in our congregation are blessed with the time, energy, and talents of many adults who work together to create a lively Religious Education program!

Please consider being part of the Religious Education program next year. It is a joyful opportunity to be a part of a dedicated team and to be an important person in the lives of our children. The time commitment is approximately two Sunday mornings per month. The theme for those in K-5th grade will be learning about Unitarian Universalist Heritage. Everyone who has ever taught this theme learns something new about our roots. Perhaps you already know some UU history and/or you can learn right along with your class.

Next year we will be offering OWL (Our Whole Lives) classes on Sunday mornings to 7-9th graders. OWL is an award-winning comprehensive sexuality education program. The goals of OWL are to help youth gain knowledge, interpersonal skills, and values that help them live healthier lives and treat others with caring, compassion, and respect. OWL teachers are certified by attending and completing UUA training courses. The curriculum was recently updated to include lessons on body image, social media/internet, bullying/bystander responsibilities, and consent education. The program recognizes that parents are the fundamental sexuality educators for their children.

OWL is non-denominational yet grounded in UU values of social justice. Information can save lives. We hope to extend the class to teens outside of our church community so please pass on this possibility to parents and non-UU teens you may know. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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

April Showers bring May Flowers, but what does April Snow bring? Let's hope the sunshine and flowers are soon to come. Sunday, May 6 is First Sunday and with it our collection for Backpack Buddies and Personal Care Products. With the nice weather, the children will be out playing and need the most energy possible so our contributions are more need than ever. In addition, the homeless and less fortunate are often in greater need of personal care products as they are outside and more active. Please bring your non-perishable, kid-friendly and vaguely nutritious food and personal care products to service on the 6th. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome—cash or checks. Please make checks out to NENY Regional Foodbank, with Otsego/Delaware Backpack Buddies in the memo. Thank for your continuing support. We make a real difference in our local community.  
—Dawn Kilts for the Social Action Team

# SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees met for our regular meeting on April 18. After approving minutes and hearing the Treasurer and staff reports, we discussed the Congregational Covenant on Right Relations. More focus groups will be organized to provide input and a draft will be presented to the congregation at the Fall meeting for a vote.

We reviewed the draft budget and made some suggestions for changes in preparation for presenting it to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting. The board is pleased with the congregation's generosity which has allowed for a draft budget that funds our Mission for the coming year. The budget includes the staff compensation recommendations from the personnel committee. The Trustees agree with the Finance Committee that the sabbatical coverage be funded by the reserve this year and that in future years we include a line for the minister's sabbatical in the operating budget that will build each year in preparation for the next sabbatical.

The moderator reviewed the final preparations for the Annual Meeting and we agreed that the notice would be provided by e-mail and be available on the website as well as sent by hard copy to those who do not have e-mail. The budget will be sent out ahead of the meeting but not at the time of the notice.

The Policy Committee is currently reviewing a Conflict Resolution policy proposed by the Committee on Ministry. Policies in the following areas are projected to be drafted in the coming year by relevant parties: Photo permission, Personnel, and Finance.

Congregants provided the input in through the Sounding Board. One issue is that we have been advertising our Sunday Services weekly in the Daily Star but there are frequent errors and omissions of information. The Trustees agreed to end the expensive weekly Daily Star advertising and only advertise in the paper for holiday services. We'll continue to advertise in other ways that we anticipate will reach more people, be less expensive, and be more accurate.

The sanctuary sound system during the Auction was also addressed. The system is designed for one person speaking at a time in a fairly quiet room and is not designed to overcome a lot of ambient noise in the room. This will be referred to the sound committee to do what is needed to promote better sound quality for next year's the Auction.

The board reserves time at the end of our meeting lift up the voices of people who need to be heard. We discussed those who feel left behind by the electronic age and emphasized the need to do what we can to keep those without internet up to date with our communications.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for May 16, 6:30pm in the sanctuary. UUSO members and friends are welcome to observe. The Sounding Board will be available May 13 following the worship service to hear input for the Board from the Congregation.

Karen Palmer, President  
UUSO Board of Trustees  
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**ANNUAL MEETING MAY 6TH AT NOON**  
Meeting docs available here: [uusoo.org/AM2018](http://uusoo.org/AM2018)

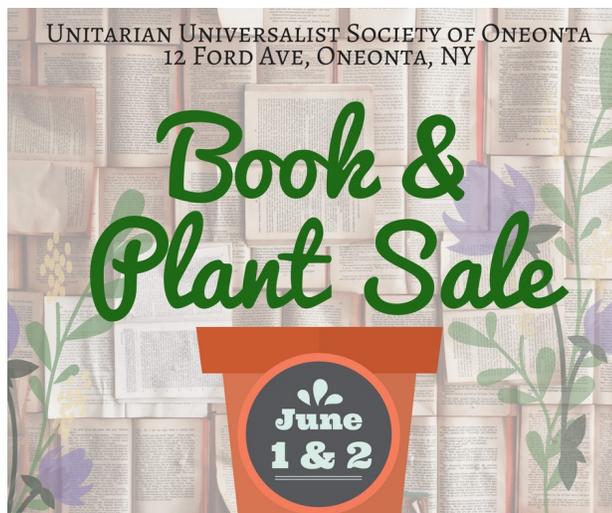
Limited copies will be made available at the meeting.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SAVE THE DATE! CONCERT FUNDRAISER FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AT UUSO ON SATURDAY, MAY 19TH @ 7:00 P.M.

Hear great folk music and support Syrian refugees in Croatia—it's a win-win evening for sure! On Saturday, May 19th, Anne Feeney will be at UUSO for a fundraiser concert to support refugees through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. According to an article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "There are few working musicians who have worn the title of rabble-rouser more convincingly and energetically than Anne Feeney. The folk singer-songwriter from Pittsburgh spent decades touring the country (42 states in all) and the world singing songs of social and political justice at union rallies, protests and in clubs." The Social Action Team is delighted to host her for this fundraiser concert.

The funds raised will go to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/UUSC partner project in Croatia which supports refugees through a variety of services including legal aid, humanitarian support, psychosocial support, employment counseling, a Croatian language program, and special empowerment programs focused on women and families, children, and young men. If you cannot attend the concert, you can make a donation by writing a check to UUSO and putting Social Action UUSC fundraiser in memo line. Thanks from the Social Action Team!



## THE BOOK AND PLANT SALE IS COMING!

Start collecting your books, movies, and music and keep an eye out for any plants that might be growing that you'd like to donate. Put June 1 and 2 on your calendar! Contact Deb Bruce for Book Questions and Julia Gregory for Plant Questions. More information to follow!

Thanks,  
Deb Bruce, UUSO Librarian



## DINING FOR WOMEN

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, May 6th at 6:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist church at 12 Ford Ave in Oneonta. The featured organization this month is The Botongo Foundation in Benin, Africa. The purpose of the Dining for Women project is to identify the most at-risk girls in the poorest areas and create 64 Girls' Clubs to improve their academic and economic opportunities by building their self confidence and assisting them in completing their education, and learning life skills. All are welcome to come to the monthly meetings. Bring a dish to pass and your own table setting if you would like. For more information, call Linda Wilcox at 433-2985.

# UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



There is a place, a crossroads of  
 joy & sorrow, hopes & fears,  
 humanity & the world;  
 a worshipful, musical intersection,  
 where we meet.

## **Congregational Meeting at Noon**

*\*Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*

With Music provided by Michael & Dorothy Frye  
 Hunt and Yolanda Bush

Worship Associate: Caroline Bagby

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patricia Engel LaFata & Jesse  
 Schwabe

Ushers: Kim Elsener

Chancel Table: Jennifer Hyypio

Sound System: Scott Segar



This Mothers' Day, let's celebrate  
 some of the founding women of  
 our Unitarian Universalist faith.

*\*Stay Together Sunday*

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

Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Cathi Wiltsey

Ushers: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas

Sound System: Nathan Elsener

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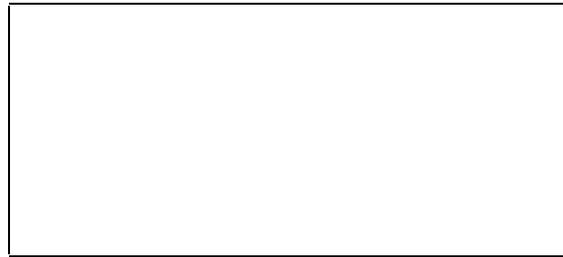
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**UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for May 16th issue  
is May 14th, 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 Green Sanctuary Task Force wishes to express our appreciation to all UUSO members and friends who responded to the Congregational Environmental Survey. The 74 responses represent over 40% of our congregation which is at the upper end of the usual expectations for online in-house surveys. The analyzed results are available at the following link:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RTKBzrvWs\\_ReUgQm35wxU0HyJeh0wUxwAn3SEE-W-m4](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RTKBzrvWs_ReUgQm35wxU0HyJeh0wUxwAn3SEE-W-m4)

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