



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

October 11, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Responding to Evil and Tragedy

One of the most challenging things for our faith tradition, and many liberal religions, is how best to respond to evil. Some of us aren't even sure such a concept exists. As a people that affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people and believe the moral arc of the universe bends towards justice, the idea of evil is challenging at best. And yet, we can't ignore the truly heinous acts of violence that humans commit. It is hard to explain the motivations of mass shooters or the actions of white supremacists without delving into questions of morality. It is important that we don't shy away from these questions and challenges. Our beliefs about human nature and the source of human violence and suffering can and should inform our responses to these tragedies. They will form the basis of the policies we make that govern our society.

Another challenge with facing ongoing or repeated tragedies is the tendency to grow numb from them. Humans are blessed with the ability to adapt to almost any condition. Unfortunately, this adaptability also allows us to accept things as the new "normal." We accept things as "just the way they are" and with that admission, we give up any hope of changing them. It is a self-imposed helplessness. While this may be helpful in some ways, it might reduce stress in some cases, it is absolutely detrimental to our shared efforts to make things better. We must have hope. We must feel we can make a difference.

Here are several ways we can respond to the recent tragedies that will help make a difference:

UUA Disaster Relief Fund - The Unitarian Universalist Association has repurposed the Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund to provide assistance to congregations, their members, and local communities that have been adversely affected by the hurricanes in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, or to make a donation, follow this link: <https://giving.uua.org/disaster-aid>

Tri-County Women's Coalition - One of several local organizations (actually an umbrella organization of local activist groups) working to respond to the ongoing political attacks on our environment, women's rights, LGBTQ issues, and other issues of social justice. Active on Facebook. Can be contacted at tcwcoalition@gmail.com.

UU Response to Gun Violence - Sadly, the UUA has had a full page of resources for those hoping to address the tragic incidence of gun violence in our country for more than five years. On it, you will find articles, worship services, movies, and organizations working towards reducing gun violence in our country. The page can be found at <https://www.uua.org/liberty/guns>

Whether you act locally or globally, get involved or send financial support, every act of resistance is a spiritual statement. It says, "We do not accept this is the way things have to be. We believe we can make a difference. We believe there is a better way. And each of us has the power to make things better."

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education (RE) classes are all underway. Participants are getting to know each other and creating the unique group that will be theirs for the next nine months. Groups develop familiarity yet they remain flexible as they can expand to include new members at any time. They are learning how to deeply listen to each other and experiencing how it feels to be listened to by their group. They are learning the fine arts of inclusion and welcoming difference.

This year's classes will be (among other things) looking at their human relationship within the interdependent web of life (grades K-3); discussing morality, ethics, and Unitarian Universalist values (grades 4-5); looking closely at their own sense of spirituality (grades 6-7), and creating their own relationships with our UU society here in Oneonta as well as in the wider, regional and national UU community (grades 8-12). All groups work on social justice issues. Children and youth will learn to be peacemakers from any class they are able to attend this RE year.

They will learn the best if they attend often and can work with their classmates to increase their skills. It is helpful if UU lessons extend beyond Sunday school into family discussions and projects. Some families light chalices before meals or for special events. Some do a social justice project together. Some spend sacred time together in nature. There is much to discover about our own and each other's sense of spirit. Listening deeply is an important skill for all of us!

Please help your children get to church as often as they can. The more they come, the more they will benefit from the RE Program. This is a place where they can be part of a supportive, questioning, accepting, justice seeking community of friends that can prop them up in ways that aren't found anywhere else in their lives. However please don't worry if attendance must be

sporadic. Everyone is always welcome here!

Finally, please register your child(ren) for RE. Forms can be found on the foyer table and in the brochure display in the downstairs hallway at Chapin. They can be downloaded from our church webpage at uuso.org. Completed forms can be left in the "Office" wall pocket by the mailboxes at Chapin or the "RE" wall pocket in the hall at the Olympia Brown House (16 Ford Ave). They can be mailed to Religious Education, UUSO, 16 Ford Ave., Oneonta NY 13820.

Religious Education is a ministry for our children and youth.

May we who are gathered here
Be empowered by love
To weave new patterns
Of Truth and Justice
Into a web of life that is strong,
Beautiful, and everlasting.
Adapted from Barbara W. ten Hove

In Peace,
Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education



FALL RUMMAGE SALE: NOVEMBER 1ST-3RD

The UU society organizes the rummage sale for two main reasons:

As a service to the community to provide good quality clothing and household items at very reasonable and affordable prices for people with fewer resources.

As a service to our congregants to provide an easy way to move stuff that they no longer use out of their houses and offer it to others who need it.

Now is the time to start going through those boxes in the attic, closets and basement to find items you are no longer using but could be of use to someone else. We are asking for fall and winter clothing for all ages, accessories, jewelry, and good quality small items for the boutique, plus curtains, linens and bedding (all cleaned with no mold or musty smell, please). Children's toys in good, working condition are always a big sale item, too. Small pieces of furniture in very good condition are acceptable, but please no large desks, cabinets, sofas, chairs, etc.

We will accept kitchenware and housewares in good to excellent condition – no broken or missing pieces and no rust. Small electronic items (clocks, radios, irons, blenders, tools, lamps, etc) will be taken, but PLEASE – no TV's, computers, lawn mowers, or other large electronics. All electronic items will be plugged in and tested at the front door; anything that does not work properly will not be accepted.

Save your books, records, CD's, DVD's and VCR tapes for the Plant and Book sale in June next year!

We will begin set-up for the rummage sale directly after coffee hour on Sunday October 29, and begin accepting sale items that day from 2 to 6 pm. We will also be accepting sale items on October 30 and 31, from 11 am to 6 pm. Please do not bring items to the church at other times when we are not there to accept them, and please do not bring items to us while we are working the sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

If you feel that you need to make special arrangements to bring sale items to the church, please contact Arlana Young at 202 839 6475 or Julia Gregory at 563 2924.

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the rummage sale. We need at least 5 strong and able people to help with the set up on Sunday from 12:30 to 2 pm, and 3-4 people each on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday for accepting items and setting them out on the tables and racks. During the sale days, we'll need 4-6 people each day to work 2, 3, or 4 hour shifts, and then on Friday November 4th, from noon to 2 pm, we'll need 3 people to pack up what's left and those 5 strong and able people again to break down the fixtures and bring it all back down to the basement.

Please consider donating a few hours to help with this worthy and important service event. Thank you!

ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

<http://uuso.org/members/endowment-documents/>

The applications for grant money from the UUSO Endowment Fund are now available. The committee is eager to receive completed applications by the deadline of October 15. The grant information and application forms are available online at the church website, www.uuso.org, in the church office, and in the foyer of Chapin Memorial. The UUSO Endowment Fund supports community activities and programs that further the realization of the Principles of Unitarian Universalism.

Start dreaming about the good you or your favorite organization could do with a little extra money and check out the guidelines and a list of previous recipients and projects on our website. Reach out to your community friends who have projects in mind. All are encouraged to apply.

The rummage sale hours will be:

Wednesday, November 1

10am to 6pm

Thursday, November 2

9am to Noon & 1pm to 6 pm
(Half Price Sale!)

Friday, November 3

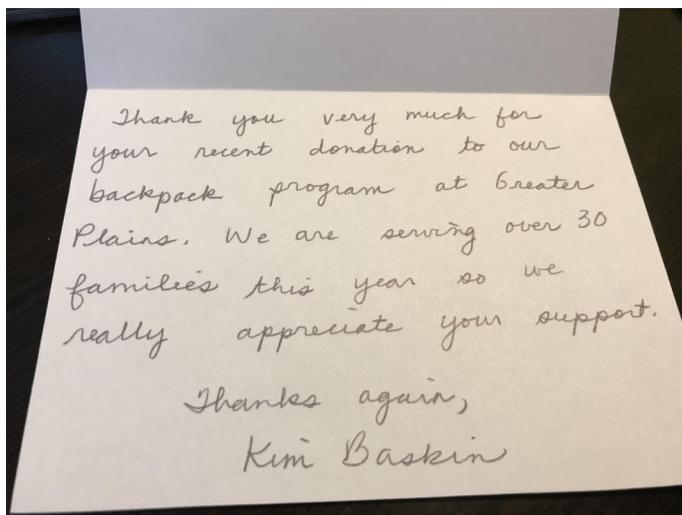
9am to Noon
(All Items 10 cents each!)

COMING UP AT UUSO: THE NEXT STEPS WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 17 – 19.

We are looking forward to a special weekend with Stewardship for Us, a UU-affiliated consulting team, to work with us to advance our goals and aspirations through a strong stewardship culture. At the request of UUSO's Board of Trustees, SforUs team member Liz Coit will be joining us for an examination of our Society's strengths, challenges, untapped talents, and opportunities so that we ensure the continuing health and sustainability of UUSO through our stewardship program.

Many of us will be involved! Liz is in the process of learning about us through documents; and will meet with Reverend Craig, a wide range of committees, individual members of the Society, staff members, and the Board. She will share findings, recommendations, and ideas for a pathway to an empowered UUSO stewardship program on Sunday, November 19th.

If you are on Stewardship, Finance, Fundraising, Connections, Endowment, Religious Education, or Social Action Committees, please plan on participating in at least one 50-minute meeting. These meetings will be scheduled at different times of the day on Saturday, November 18th. Karen Palmer or Amy Forster Rothbart will be in touch with you soon with an invitation



“THANK YOU!”

Thank you very much for your recent donation to our backpack program at Greater Plains. We are serving over 30 families this year so we really appreciate your support.

*Thanks again,
Kim Baskin*

CHANCEL TABLE

The Chancel Table calendar is ready for people to sign for Sundays in November—and the rest of the year. Perhaps you would like to honor a person or occasion with flowers, objects, posters. Or maybe you have a visual interpretation of the sermon. Just call Alice at 432-8673 or email alice.pott@icloud.com.

Many thanks, Alice Siegfried

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

The Fall Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 15, 2017, at noon in the Chapin Memorial sanctuary. The final budget will be presented and voted on. In addition, there will be consideration of a motion about posting Congregational Meeting Minutes in a more timely fashion. Only Members of the Congregation may vote at the meeting.

—Mary Ruhoff, Moderator

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

I, Thou, We

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

OCTOBER 15, 2017 · 10:30 AM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

(Congregational Meeting at 12:00 p.m.)

**Start Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne &
the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Martin Buber believed that meaning and the
holy were found in our relationships to one
another;
but, our relationships are even more than that.

Coffee Hour Hosts: Suzy Beddoe
Ushers: Molly Swain & Sue Troost
Chancel Table: Alice Siegfried
Sound System: Paul Carter

10.22.17

*With Liberty and
Justice for All*

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

According to the Pledge of Allegiance,
our country is indivisible, with liberty and
justice for all.
Oh, that it were so...

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

Coffee Hour Hosts: Beth Small
Ushers: Kim Yousey-Elsener (Need more Volunteers!)
Chancel Table: Jeane Bennett O'Dea
Sound System: Beth Small

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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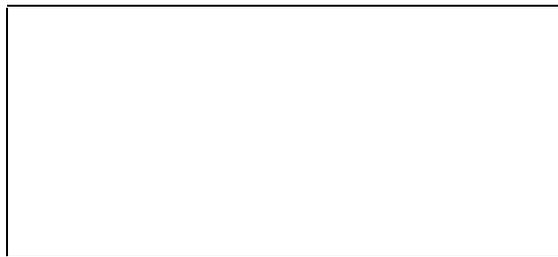
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Music Director
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[Facebook.com/UUSOneonta](https://www.facebook.com/UUSOneonta)

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for October 25th issue
is October 23rd, 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



Water Wisdom—make the right choices!

Older showerheads can use 3 gallons per minute or more. New, efficient models use 2 gallons per minute or less. A family of four using low-flow showerheads instead of full-flow models can save about 20,000 gallons of water per year.

Letting your faucet run for 5 minutes uses about as much energy as a 60-watt lightbulb consumes in 14 hours.

A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.

Source: www.worldwildlife.org