



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

November 9, 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Minister's Column</i>	1
<i>Religious Education</i>	2
<i>Worship Services</i>	3
<i>News and Announcements</i>	4-5

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

**"Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."
~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Loving the Hell Out of the World

In last Sunday's sermon, I said that after the election, we would need to practice empathy, understanding, and active listening to heal the divide in our country and the wounds of the hateful, fearful rhetoric. Tuesday's election results shocked many of us. For some, the election of Donald Trump was taken as a repudiation of their existence and a threat to their safety. Wednesday, I opened the sanctuary to all who needed solace and support. We hugged, cried, and expressed our anger, shock, and fear. I said to everyone who came, "You are loved. You matter. We will stand with you." Love and healing were the goals that day. Love is our greatest power and our deepest calling right now. We must express and show our love for one another-- to remind people they are not alone, that they matter. We must also love those that voted for Donald Trump. We all know people who did. Some of our fellow congregants voted for him. They did so, I believe, out of fear, rather than malice. They voted in reaction to the many changes in our society and the feelings of being unheard and left behind. We are never our best when we act out of fear. And so, we must practice love. For everyone, as best we can.

Working for Justice

At the same time, we can not ignore the threats many of our fellow citizens face. While many people, on both sides, voted out of fear-- there were some who directed their fears into anger and prejudice. Incidents of harassment and violence directed at minorities and the marginalized have already been reported. Many of the promises made by our President-elect would harm already vulnerable segments of our society. Some worry their marriages will be invalidated, some worry they will be deported, some worry they will lose their health insurance, some worry for their physical safety. Love can not be our only response. We must also commit ourselves to working for Justice. We must be vigilant and prepared to act on behalf of those who may be targeted or threatened. Be it on the job, in the street, at the grocery store, or in the halls of political power-- we must be willing to put our own lives and liberty on the line to protect the their rights. This is also our calling, our responsibility, to one another and to this country we all love.

**"The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice."
~ The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. , 1958
(Inspired by the Rev. Theodore Parker,
Unitarian minister, 1853)**

With Love,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*"Beloved Ancestors, We remember you.
Feast and Celebrate with us.
We love you!"*

-Traditional words from UUSO RE *Dia de los Muertos* Worship Service

This week, the children and youth from K-6th grades celebrated an RE Worship Service about Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead. This celebration is an annual popular tradition for us. Participants said that they like the sugar skulls the best but I noticed how eagerly they decorated our ofrenda (an altar to welcome those who have died to our celebration), participated in the readings and listened when I read the picture book, [Ghost Wings](#), by Barbara M. Joosse aloud. These are all as familiar to them as is my own family's box of Christmas ornaments which comes out once a year to decorate our tree. When the ofrenda is finished it is quite beautiful. There is a time in our service when any who wish can place a memento of something or someone who had died and/or speak about them.

One year I tried to skip this worship service and to schedule something else. I ended up facing a barrage of complaints. It is not OK to skip this one. I'm glad they expect this experience each year. We do have loads of fun but it also gives them a positive way to approach the hard topic of death. It is sacred work for us to find normalcy in death and to look at death as a part of all life. Learning about and accepting death helps us celebrate life. Our celebration very lightly touches on these topics. It is especially important to give children this opportunity when much of our culture either doesn't discuss death (which can make it frightening), deliberately sensationalizes it (such as in the news), or sometimes numbs us with an unreal body count (such as in the movies and in video games).

At our service we remembered grandparents, aunts, uncles, cats and dogs. I told them about the recent death of my mother and I would like to share this story with you as well.

Many RE participants (as probably many of you) know that I maintain a Registered Monarch Butterfly Waystation in my yard. I have often shared caterpillars, chrysalides, and released monarchs with RE children. I tell and retell how they migrate to Mexico each year. The children all seem to appreciate this about me and there is no eye-rolling at all (that I have seen). Today when I asked if they remembered that I like Monarchs they even seemed a bit proud of me!

I prepare a garden feast for Monarchs each year yet have seen their numbers dwindle down to only one or two fly-bys. This year I didn't even check my milkweed for eggs as it had been months since I had last seen a Monarch.

When my mother died I was here and she was in Illinois. I went to my garden to pick some flowers for a bouquet to honor her. I looked up from sitting in my garden to see a great big monarch caterpillar practically in my face climbing a stalk of (mostly eaten) milkweed. I found my screen house and other caterpillar-raising gear and put the caterpillar inside with milkweed to eat. It turned into a chrysalis and after two weeks emerged as a female butterfly.

It walked onto my hand but didn't want to fly away. I found myself saying the same things to the butterfly I had said to my mother: "It's ok. It's time to go. I will follow you on your journey some day." It finally flew. I had reports from friends who had seen a monarch that day as well as from my husband who saw one fly past his office window at SUNY Oneonta. I think she was making the rounds.

In the story we read, [Ghost Wings](#), a girl in Mexico stands in one of the special spots that Monarchs roost at the end of their migratory journey. They swirl around her. They arrive around the time of the Dias de los Muertos celebrations at the end of October. This girl has spent many happy times there in the past with her grandmother. Her grandmother has recently died. Her grandmother had told her, "The butterflies carry the souls of the old ones and the old ones never really leave." It is believed that by remembering and celebrating those who have died are never really lost to us.

In our service we thanked Mexican, Hispanic, and Native American peoples for the chance to learn some things about their holiday. We are grateful to have this opportunity to create what has become our own UU tradition of celebrating and remembering.

May we always have an altar to life in our hearts.

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

November 13th
"God's Own Image"
A Transgender Day of Remembrance Service
 Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

"And God created the human beings in God's own image..." Genesis 1:27

On this day, as we remember those killed for the "sin" of being truly who they are, transgender, let us consider the true sin of placing God in a box, and making others pay so dearly for our mistake.

**Start Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Kathy & Spike Paranya

Ushers: Molly Swain & Alice Blu

Chancel Table: Elaine Downing

Sound System: Scott Segar

Sunday Service at 10:30AM
 Childcare provided. Hearing assistance available.

Please consider volunteering to help out Sunday mornings! We ask that every member volunteer with coffee hosting and ushering duties, but we could also use volunteers in Religious Education!

There are lots of ways to get involved with our community here at UUSO. Speak with our minister, Rev. Craig, or ask a board member during coffee hour after service. They're identified by gold name buttons; they're friendly folk.

November 20th
"Our Gratitudes"
Thanksgiving Service
 Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Jesus articulated eight blessings that day on the mount, commonly known as the Beatitudes. This Thanksgiving let us count our blessings eight times, and share our Gratitudes.

**Stay Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Time Horne, Music Director

Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Peter & Eileen Hill

Ushers: Elayne Mosher Campoli

Chancel Table: Mary Krupp

Sound System: Julian Pecenco

Sounds System: Paul Carter

November 27th
"Warmth and Sincerity"
 Cheryl Petersen

Although cold propaganda can be in our face,
 warmth and sincerity are intact.
 Let's watch it and spread it to unexpected places.

No Religious Education Classes Today

With Music provided by: Paul Carter

Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Deb Bruce

Ushers: Julian Pecenco & Leah Bridgers

Chancel Table: Vickie Andritz

Sound System: Beth Small

Deadline for November 23th issue is November 14th, 9AM.
OOS Announcements for the Nov. 27th service are due Nov. 16th.



UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Dinner at UUSO

The annual UUSO gala Thanksgiving dinner will once again be held on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24. Leah Bridgers and Julian Pecenco will be coordinating the event again this year. This annual tradition is a wonderful way to spend the Thanksgiving holiday. You'll get a sumptuous meal without having to cook it all yourself, and you'll get to spend the afternoon in the company of UUSO family and friends.

We'll gather in the sanctuary at Chapin Memorial at 2 p.m., starting with appetizers and beverages, followed by a full sit-down dinner buffet at 3 pm. All who wish to attend are welcome at the feast.

We need all parts of the meal, from beverages and appetizers to desserts. Bring a family favorite, or try something new. (If at all possible, try making your dish gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, and/or nut free, so that guests of all dietary needs will be able to enjoy the bounty.)

The sign-up sheet for attendance at the dinner is now on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Sign up now so we can plan for enough tables, chairs, and food. We need several more people to help with set-up (at 12:15 p.m.) and as many as possible to stay after the meal to help with cleanup.

If you'd like to sign up via e-mail (jp.pecenco@gmail.com), please provide the following information:

Name(s)

Number of People Attending

Any dietary restrictions

Your contribution(s) to the meal

If you are able to help with either set-up and/or clean-up.

If you have any questions or you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julian (jp.pecenco@gmail.com) or Leah (LCbridgers@gmail.com).

The next Anti-Racism Task Force Food for Thought will be "White Privilege and Me" on Sunday, Nov. 20, Noon to 1:30, in the OBH Living Room, with Duncan Smith facilitating.

Does whiteness by itself come with advantages not accorded to people of color? Can recognition of inherent privilege help us understand the life experience of others? Please come and share your perceptions of the ways you have, or have not, benefited from your racial identity.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to be hosted by UUSO

The Oneonta Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held at UUSO on the evening of Tuesday November 22. If you would be able to help with providing food for the reception that follows please send me an email with what you will

bring. (lunagaggia@gmail.com)

Suggestions include desserts, cheese and crackers, fruit and dip, vegetables and dip, cider. Let's show our community what kind of cooks we are! I would need food to arrive by 6:30pm the day of the event.

As always, my thanks. It is great to be a part of this caring community.

-Patricia Engel LaFata

Order Now!

It's time to order fruitcakes for the holiday season. As usual, they come in two varieties—light honey rum and dark brandy molasses. Each weighs approximately a pound and will be the same price as last year--\$15 each, all of which is donated to UUSO. **Your order must be received no later than November 15th.** The fruitcakes will be available at Cookies and Crafts on December 3rd. Or arrangements can be made for delivery at another time, if necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact me at pstrother@stny.rr.com or 607-267-4280. Looking forward to receiving your orders. -Pam Strother

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dining for Women

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, November 13 at a new time, 2:00 pm in the UU sanctuary. Each month the group learns about and supports organizations that help women and girls in developing countries improve their lives. The featured organization this month is the Anman Inman: Water is Life, in the Arawak Region of Niger, West Africa. Their HERd project is a livestock lending program and fodder bank for Tuareg women forced to give up their nomadic lives and live in villages. All are welcome. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. For more information, call Linda at 433-2985.

Endowment Committee Approves 2016 Grants

The income from the UUSO Endowment Fund provided \$4160.73 for 2016-2017 grants, and the committee allocated money to nine projects. After considering the proposals during two meetings, we are now happy to announce which UUSO and community projects will be the recipients:

Back Pack Buddies to meet the needs of students at Charlotte Valley Central School
Oneonta World of Learning toward upgrades to their new center in Fortin Park
UUSO Music Committee to purchase approximately 30 "teal" hymnals
Valleyview School's Girls on the Run to help with event registration fees
The Oneonta Community Health Clinic toward funding patient dental care
UUSO Properties Committee toward the cost of landscaping front yard of Chapin
Girl Scout Troop 30043 for a community project with the SPCA
Literacy Volunteers of Otsego/Delaware Counties to continue their services
Trout Unlimited for a 5th grade project to raise trout and explore their environmental needs.

The work done by the Endowment Committee is a joy. What could be better than to learn about community and UU Society projects and be able to extend support. Check out the next newsletter for information about our exciting new bottle collection program and check out how few bottles remain in the kitchen.

-Grace Smith, Endowment Co. Chair

From The Mali Committee

The long anticipated annual MUFFINS FOR MALI bazaar will have its grand opening for your viewing and purchasing pleasure on Sunday, November 27, following the service. Delicious Home baked muffins will be on sale for \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00. As always, original African jewelry including stunning bracelets, earrings, and necklaces will be available to give as gifts or to treat yourself! In addition, many creative gift items for the holidays will be on sale to tempt and delight you! A fun and yummy way to begin your holiday shopping! Stop by our table, and munch on a muffin while you decide on which unique item or items to purchase as you check off names on your shopping list. Join us on November 27 after the service and every Sunday thereafter through December 18. Every dollar taken in goes to support Youchaou's school in Mali.

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

16 Ford Ave
Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: 607-432-3491
Email: UUSO@uuso.org
www.uuso.org
Sanctuary at 12 Ford Ave

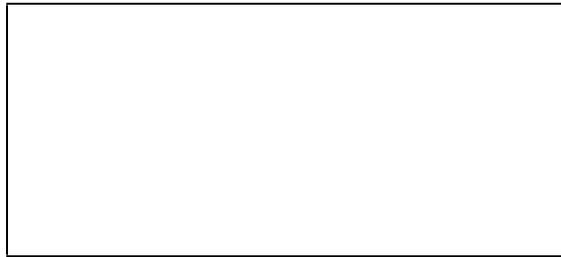
The Rev. Craig Schwalenberg
Minister
Office Hours by Appointment
Email: revcraig@uuso.org
607-432-3491/607-287-7906

Evelyn Warren
Editor & Office Administrator
uuso@uuso.org
Tuesday-Friday 9-3

Susan Ryder
Director of Religious Education
607-643-1927
dre@uuso.org

Karen Palmer
Board President
607-267-4793

Tim Horne
Music Director
607-432-7323



UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for November 23th issue is
November 14th, 9AM

Order of Service Announcements:
Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:
Contact worship associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



Green Living Matters:

For our UUSO Green Sanctuary assessment and accreditation, we are committed to caring for our environment in our Society's buildings, our congregational activities, our wider community, and our own individual lives and households. Here's a question to ponder:

Even when we as individuals are committed to this important effort ourselves, how do we approach a family member, kindly and compassionately, who consistently resists the importance of our household efforts to Reduce/Refuse/Reuse/Repurpose/Recycle?

Suggestions, tips, ideas, items for this space? Please send to Kathy Shimberg.

UUSO Board of Trustees

Karen Palmer President
Sandy Smith Vice President
Paul Carter Clerk
John Bagby
Kate Seeley
Keith Willcox
Jeane Bennett-O'Dea
Amy Forster Rothbart
Suzy Beddoe
Stan Maricle

Lynn Beken Treasurer
Evelyn Warren Recording Secretary