

UU News

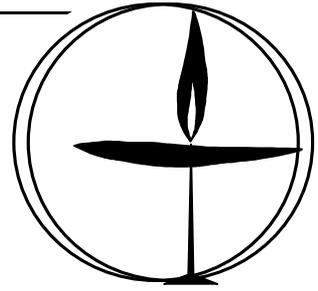
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

www.uuso.org uuso@uuso.org

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer

April 13, 2016



Minister: Rev. Craig Schwalenberg—432-3491 or 287-7906
revcraig@uuso.org

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Home—432-7323

UUSO Church Building—433-7329

Director of Religious Education:

Susan Ryder—643-1927—dre@uuso.org

Editor & Office Administrator: Evelyn Warren—432-3491
uuso@uuso.org

“WAR IS A LIE: WHAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS BUY” WITH DAVID SWANSON

April 24, 7PM

Troubled by the increased militarism of U.S. society? Want to hear ways to recognize lies that send the U.S. into war--time and time again? Want to learn about ways to help others refuse to accept these lies? Then please join us for a talk and discussion by author and peace activist David Swanson. Light refreshments and a book signing will follow his 7 p.m. talk in the Chapin Memorial building. At 5:30, he will meet and talk with college students.

David is touring the country with an updated version of his acclaimed book *War Is Lie*, because, he says “War is still a lie, and now we have bombed 7 Muslim countries.”

For such straight talk and well done documentation, Swanson has received acclaim from such luminaries as: Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, scholar Cornel West, and Thom Hartman, who says “The world needs more true advocates of democracy like David Swanson.”

This appearance is made possible by a grant from the New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU). He was invited by the UUSO Social Action Committee. The event is cosponsored by Schoharie County Peacemakers and the Social Justice Society and Africana Latino Studies Club of SUNY Oneonta.

--Lisa Barr for the Social Action Committee

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Black Lives Matter – What's Next?

At the special congregational meeting on February 28th, the congregation voted to become an anti-racist institution and to hang a Black Lives Matter banner on the sanctuary. Neither of these votes were unanimous. Feelings at that congregational meeting were running high-- and for some, on both sides of the issue, passions are still high. After that meeting, the Board created a small task force to discuss and prepare options for hanging the banner for submission to the Board for final approval. That task force met with members of the Properties committee, the Design committee, and interested members of the congregation. They did a thorough job and have submitted their recommendations to the Board. At the April Board meeting, our Trustees will decide what kind of banner will be hung, where, and when. If we can get a banner in time, I will be proposing to the Board that we install the banner and host a public event the weekend of May 1st.

As we move forward with this social justice action of public witness, I believe it is important that we, as a congregation, are walking together in love. It is my hope that we will be able to speak with one voice on this important issue. The Black Lives Matter banner is an invitation to the wider public to join us in a deeper engagement with and conversation about the issues of racism and white privilege in our country. If the conversation is about the Black Lives Banner or about the controversy around it, we will likely never get to the conversations on race we truly need and want to have. To aid us in finding a way to walk together in love, if not in complete agreement, I will be hosting several listening sessions in the next three weeks. These gatherings will be an opportunity for people to share their feelings about the congregation hanging the BLM banner and our work to fight racism in our wider society. These sessions will not be debates nor will they be opportunities for justifications-- they will be safe spaces for free expression and deep listening. I encourage everyone who is interested in what we are doing and what comes next to attend one of these listening sessions. If you can't make it to any of the times I schedule, please let me know and I'll work with you to schedule a time that works.

Our Stewardship Goal

The stewardship campaign has officially come to a close. As I write this, we are about \$30,000 short of our basic goal of \$180,000 (about 85% of our stated goal, let alone the stretch goal of \$183,000 we were hoping for.) This is the 2nd year we have struggled to reach our stewardship goal. I find myself both saddened and surprised at this outcome. Our basic goal this year was a modest 3% over last year's budget, the stretch

goal was a 5% increase. It is only natural, at this point, to ask why we have fallen short of our goal. A number of possible reasons come to mind.

- Concerns about the economy. People are unsure of their income and investments-- leading some people to pledge lower than they would prefer to otherwise.
- The transition from a pastoral size church to a program size church is challenging-- requiring increased staff funding and support before the corresponding increase in membership and pledges occurs.
- Taking a controversial, public stand on a social justice issue may cause some members to pledge less or even not at all.
- Common wisdom states that stewardship campaigns should change tactics significantly every few years or there may be a “leveling off” of pledges.
- The changing demographics of those that join and/or attend a church translates into lower financial commitments to congregations.

Any of these reasons are possible. It could be a combination of all of them-- or something we haven't even thought of. While figuring out the reason(s) is important, our first step will have to be figuring out what we are going to do next. The Finance committee will meet on the 17th to discuss the results of the stewardship campaign and make a recommendation to the Board on where we go next. We could extend the campaign, hoping that people who haven't gotten their pledges in will do so and that these last minute pledges will make up the shortfall. We could do a 2nd mini-stewardship drive to make up the difference. We could decide to create a budget with the numbers as they stand. I don't know what Finance will decide. I don't know where in the budget we can shave \$30,000. The biggest portion of our budget is our staff. As we grow in size and people have less time to volunteer, we are relying more and more on our staff. And we HAVE been doing more and more in this congregation. This past year has been an exciting one with more activities, more engagement, and a deeper level of commitment to our shared ministries. I hope we don't decide to scale those activities back. We have some hard decisions to make, now. We have to decide what kind of a congregation we want to be-- and what type of a congregation we can afford to be.

I still believe we live in an world of abundance. I believe our members support this institution, even when we don't all agree on the best course of action. I believe we are in the business of transforming the world-- one heart, one person, one community at a time. I believe we will figure a way through this challenging time-- and we will once again lead the way. I believe in us. I hope you do, too.

--Cooperatively and Hopefully, Rev. Craig

GETTING TO KNOW UU

Saturdays, April 16, April 30, and May 7 - 10am - noon

Do you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the UUSO? Are you interested in meeting other people new to the community? Are you considering membership? Then this class is for you.

The Membership Committee and Reverend Craig Schwalenberg will present this three part series to help you learn more about our congregation, its history, its present and its future. Whether you are planning to sign the membership book or are simply curious to learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism please join us for conversation and fellowship. Childcare will be provided upon request.

Please RSVP by contacting Rev.Craig or leaving a message at the office (432-3491). We are looking forward to seeing you. -- Florian Reyda

SHIFT FAIR

April 16 and 17 10am-5pm

Re-charge your body, mind and soul at the 12th Annual Spiritual Arts Fair to be held April 16th and 17th (10-5 both days) at the Holiday Inn, Oneonta. The Acronym, "S.H.I.F.T." stands for spiritual Holistic Integrative Festive Transformation. People are SHIFT-ing their awareness toward natural health and more meaningful spiritual lives. Go to www.shiftnewyork.com for a complete lineup of presenters, workshops and information.

-- Diana Friedell

GREEN SANCTUARY CHARTER

The UUA's Green Sanctuary program encourages congregations to address climate change and environmental justice. Congregations that complete the program are accredited as Green Sanctuaries in recognition of their commitment, service, and dedication to the Earth. The program focuses on environmental justice, worship and celebration, religious education, and sustainable living. The first step in the Green Sanctuary program is the creation of a covenant. The UUSO Green Sanctuary team has crafted this covenant and the Board has approved it. Look for future updates and posts about this new ministry of UUSO.

We, the Green Sanctuary Team of the UUSO, covenant with one another and with the larger congregation to commit to personal and community action to confront environmental degradation, especially climate change. With an active faith, we will develop plans and programs that call upon each person in the congregation to orient our individual lifestyles and community behaviors toward building a more sustainable world. We will be joined on this journey by UUSO members, friends, children, and youth. We will share our ministry with our wider community, our denominational community, and the world. We do this with all possible haste, knowing the scientific information available at this time. We will manifest our 7th Principle in honoring the interdependent web of life.

The areas of action include, but are not limited to, activities that :

1. Build a connection between spiritual practice, sustainability, and environmental consciousness.
2. Educate ourselves and others on societal environmental issues such as overpopulation, racial inequity regarding environmental protection, mismanagement of essential natural resources, excessive carbon emissions, and the proliferation of life- threatening toxins.
3. Generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
4. Motivate our congregation to community action on environmental issues.
5. Build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.
6. Build coalitions.

Members of the Green Sanctuary Team will represent many areas of this Society's life, including Worship, Religious Education, Social Action, Properties, and Membership. This team will conduct an environmental audit and create an action plan consisting of activities in the areas of worship and celebration, religious education, environmental justice, and sustainable living.

It is our intention to seek accreditation as a Green Sanctuary and then to continue our work in eco-spirituality, environmental issues, and sustainable living through our ongoing efforts.

We envision a world in which the way we conduct our lives is determined to a large extent by our respect and love for the Earth and our natural environment. In such a world, our highest priorities are not individual gains, but sustenance of this Earth, maintenance of the health of all of its inhabitants, elimination of destructive actions of humans including war, development of peaceful and sustainable living conditions for all

human societies, and preservation of the Earth and natural environment for future generations.

*Members of the preliminary Green Sanctuary Team:
Dotty Hudson, Kathy Shimberg, Deb Bruce,
Karen Palmer, Clarissa Stewart
(Approved by Board of Trustees: 3/16/16)*



EARTH DAY POTLUCK
April 22, 6:00PM

Come celebrate the earth and have a good meal with friends and members of the congregation. It will be held in the sanctuary in Chapin Memorial. There will be child care and activities for kids. The Wednesday night small group ministry will provide many of the basics. Bring your own dish to share and your own eco-friendly place settings.

--Jim Mills

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

There was much joy in our sanctuary as the Religious Education Program presented the annual RE Service this last Sunday. The service was the culmination of the work of so many people. There were beautiful sparkly decorations, outer space objects for our chancel table brought in from home, last minute role changes that upset no one, and lots of give-and-take among the performers. There were parts that required spontaneous sharing of activities and the performers did this with grace. Older ones looked out to make sure younger folk weren't overwhelmed or left out. Sabrina and Alex, our storytellers, kept everything flowing smoothly with subtle reminders and cues. For my parts of the service I was able to look out at all of the people who were looking back at us with sparkling eyes. I am so grateful to be a part of this community. We hold our children with respect, appreciation, and with love. We learn so much from each other as we journey on through our lives.

In the service, I thanked the teachers, RE Committee Members and others who have volunteered in RE this year. I will honor them here as well:

RE Teachers give their time, wisdom, and attention to those in Religious Education Classes. They help us explore what it means to be Unitarian Universalists. They remind us of our freedom to ask questions and love us into finding our own truths. The following are this year's teachers:

- Caregivers for our youngest UU's in our church nursery: Hailey Ahearn, Avalon McCaslin-Doyle, and UUSO Youths: Tinsley, Caroline B, and Caroline C.
- Teachers in the Explorer's Class for children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade: Barbara Agolia, Sallie Han, and Alexandra Tolin Schultz
- Teachers in the Seekers Class of those in fourth through sixth grade: Carolyn Cooper and Danica Sessions
- Trained advisers of the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum for those in seventh and eighth grades: Chris Wolf-Gould, Deb Bruce, and Amy Forster-Rothbart

This year there were many who worked with older teens. The following adults facilitated discussions, visioned together, and/or advised at Youth conferences: Jenny Bagby, Jen Buffington, Carolyn Cooper, Tiffany Dorris, Jim Mills, and Chris Wolf-Gould.

I would also like to raise up the names of those who have served this year on our Society's Religious Education committee: Co-Chairs: Sallie Han and Adrienne Martini and Members: Deb Bruce, Laura Reyda, Amy Forster Rothbart, and Alexandra Tolin Schultz.

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We in RE are also grateful to the staff at our church: Dave Ray creates a clean and safe space for us each Sunday, Tim Horne is always ready to help us learn a song. Robin Ahearn, our former office administrator juggled our RE newsletter articles, announcements, and schedules with love and grace. We welcome our new Office Administrator Evelyn Warren. We have already experienced her patience, skills, and helpfulness as we begin our working relationship together. As always, we thank Rev. Craig for his unwavering support for all we do.

We have been blessed with so many others who help out at a moment's notice. These are our substitute teachers, can hiders, last minute nursery helpers, pizza providers, stuff hefters, guest speakers, January session helpers, and guest group leaders. We truly feel the attention and support of all of the congregation at UUSO. We are held in the circle of our community of caring, wisdom, attention, and love.

--Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education
DRE@uusoo.org

NAACP ANTI-DISCRIMINATION SESSION May 1, 2:30pm-4:30pm

The Oneonta Branch of the NAACP is planning an anti-discrimination and unity session to support the community in Islamberg and to counter the Bikers Rally. The meeting will take place at the UU Society's Chapin Chapel for Sunday, May 1, 2:30 to 4:30. The whole community and surrounding areas are urged to attend.

--For questions, please call Lee Fisher: 432-5850

SUPPORT SAVE THE CHILDREN — BOLIVIA

Daphne Sorenson, one of our former congregants, is now the director of Save the Children in Bolivia, an organization that works to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and teenagers in that country. SUNY Oneonta students are going to Bolivia in a few weeks to do service with Save the Children and are raising money in the Oneonta community to donate to the organization when they go on their service trip. Two of the students will be at the social hour on Sunday morning, April 24th, to talk about the project. On the following Sunday, May 1st, there will be a second collection that will be used to support Save the Children projects in Bolivia.

--Suzanne Miller for the Social Action Committee

BACKPACK HELPERS AND HYGIENE BUDDIES

Gather all those hotel/vacation sample toiletries and bring them to church every first Sunday, starting May 1. The Social Action Committee is collecting toiletries to distribute to local charities (Catholic Charities, Family Service) for the homeless and those who cannot afford them. It is amazing how much being able to shower, shave, and brush your teeth can raise a person's self-esteem.

On the same first Sundays, we will also be collecting food for local community school backpack pantries. This is a project that sends food home with children on weekends and school vacations. So many local children go hungry when school is out of session. They receive breakfast and lunch while at school, but go home to little or no food and, often, no one who will prepare food for them. They need "kid-friendly" food they can prepare themselves or with minimal assistance.

There are two ways the Backpack Pantries get food. First, is the local food banks. Second, is through direct donations. We are going to collect for both sources. You can donate money for the food banks-they can buy food cheaper in bulk, so the money goes further. We also are collecting food for direct distribution to the schools who collect their own food. There is a specific list of foods that are acceptable for this program- again the "kid friendly" foods are needed. Here is the list: macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, tuna lunch packs, soup, snacks, pudding, cereal, oatmeal packs, juice boxes, Stewart's milk cards, canned veggies, granola bars, breakfast bars, and other foods that fit into these easily accessible groups.

This is a very easy way for us to help those truly in need in our community. It is very eye-opening and shocking to learn that facing a weekend or school vacation is not a happy prospect for many children in our communities. There is a fear of going hungry during this times. We will have two boxes at the front of the sanctuary, under the banner-one labeled toiletries and the other labeled Backpack Pantry. There will be a container to collect money for the food banks by the Backpack box. We would love to put out our boxes if you have an event where this type of collection would be appropriate. We also would love to have the children of our congregation start special projects to collect for this.

Contact Dawn Kilts at dawn.kilts@gmail.com or 607-432-3404 for further information. See <http://tinyurl.com/zcmvdx> for more information.

--Dawn F. Kilts for the Social Action Committee

UUSO Newsletter—April 13, 2016
NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Now that I've settled in to the office, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Evelyn and I am the new office administrator. For the past few years, I've been working for a publishing company as an editorial assistant. I traveled a lot for my job, and in each new place I visited, I always tried to find a local UU church and attend their Sunday service. There have been a lot of faces popping into the office this week to greet and welcome me, with open arms. Many have offered to help with our search for a new home, and unfortunately, a new vehicle. This is what I've been missing by only attending services and not becoming a member of a UU community. I'm excited to put down roots here and become a part of the UUSO family.

I would like to thank those who've helped out my start here at UUSO. I would be lost without the excellent notes of your previous office administrator, Robin Ahearn. I hope to fill her shoes well, in due time. While I have yet to meet her, if her excellent notes are any indication, she'll be a tough act to follow. I am deeply appreciative of the volunteers who covered the admin duties while the office was in transition.

If I step on anyone's toes, miss something, or even overlook something as simple as a typo, I would like everyone to feel comfortable approaching me and letting me know. I welcome questions, ideas, and input. I hope to be up to speed quickly.

Thank you Kathy Paranya, for orienting me and troubleshooting. You've made the transition much smoother. Dawn Kilts and her daughter, Caitlin, have been exceptionally kind and generous, providing rides, conversation, and company. Thank you to the ladies who welcomed me and my son, Henry David, to their weekly breakfast get-together at Morey's last Thursday. Your warmth has me feeling quite welcome.

I look forward to our future here, and I'm excited to contribute to the work of the church and the work it does supporting the community. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

--Evelyn Warren UUSO Office Administrator

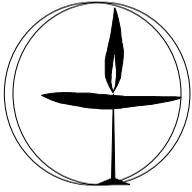
<p>REMINDER- COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE MONDAY, 4/18</p>

CALENDAR
April

Apr 13	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
	6:00 PM Scrabble & Potluck/CM
	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Apr 14	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Building Use/CM Loft
	5:30 PM - 8:00 PM NAACP/OBH Living Rm
	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Building Use/CCS/CM
Apr 15	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
Apr 16	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Building Use/CM
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM New to UU Class/OBH Living Rm
	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Building Use/Relay for Life Event/CM
	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Building Use/CM
Apr 17	10:30 AM Service: "Facing Our Fears"/Rev. Craig/CM
	12:00 PM Finance Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Mali Task Force/OBH Living Rm
	1:00 PM Free Hypnosis Clinic/CM Loft
Apr 18	Committee Reports Due!

Apr 18	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
Apr 19	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM White Caucus Mtg & Potluck/OBH Living Rm
Apr 20	5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Yoga/CM Loft
	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
Apr 21	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Board of Trustees/CM
	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Building Use/CM Loft
Apr 22	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Building Use/CCS/CM
	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Building Use Set-up/CM
	6:00 PM Earth Day Potluck/CM
Apr 24	10:30 AM Service: "Making Your Own Religious Community"/Kevin Schultz/CM
	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
	4:00 PM - 10:00 PM Building Use/SAC/CM
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Antiwar Author, David Swanson/CM

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House
Office Administrator's Hours: M-F, 9am-3PM, with an hour for lunch



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

April 17, 2016

"Facing Our Fears"

**Start Together Sunday*

Fear can motivate, inform and protect us; it can also distract, paralyze and even kill us.

What are we so afraid of, and why?
How might we befriend our fears?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
Michael Frye-Hunt**

*Ushers: Annemarie Hosnedl &
Caroline Wolf-Gould*

*Coffee Hosts: Cindy Miller &
Bernadette Ryan*

*Worship Associate: Keith Willcox
(Please submit announcements to
Keith via email by 4/15.)*

April 24, 2016

"Making Your Own Religious Community"

**Start Together Sunday*

Some come to Unitarian Universalism for a chance to build a Do-It-Yourself religion. What if the power of UUism isn't about Do-It-Yourself, but rather, Do-It-Together?

Kevin Schultz

*Ushers: Deborah Blue &
Julia Gregory*

Coffee Host: Karen Palmer

Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini

*(Please submit announcements to
Adrienne via email by 4/20.)*