

UU News

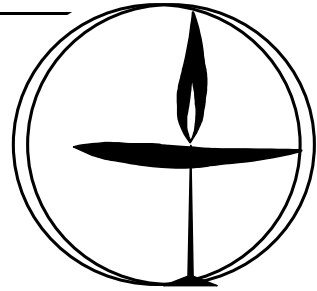
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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 27, 2016



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

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UUSO'S BLACK LIVES MATTER BANNER READY!

After nine months of deliberation, education, and deep engagement, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta is ready to install a Black Lives Matter banner on the front of the Chapin Memorial Sanctuary building. This Sunday, as part of the worship service focusing on “Who Are Our Neighbors?”, the congregation will be given a chance to join together in blessing the banner-- a symbol of our coming together to continue the hard work of identifying and dismantling the racist systems plaguing our society. After the service, the banner will be hung above the arch of our sanctuary's entrance as a declaration of our intent to be an anti-racism institution and as an invitation to the community to join us in this work. None of us can do it alone; together we CAN create a better world, a beloved community where all beings matter.

We recognize, in displaying this banner, that not everyone is at the same place in their understanding of and commitment to anti-racism work. The seeds of racism were planted hundreds of years ago and allowed, even encouraged, to grow throughout every aspect of our society. Racism is both shocking and subtle. Rooting it out, changing our institutions, will not be easy or quick. This banner is not the end of our work-- it is just the next step in a long process we hope others will join us in working on together. It is our belief that anti-racism work starts with us, with deep conversations about what it means to be white in our society. These conversations are challenging; transformation and growth always is.

--Continued on page 3

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

A Ministry of Fun

To paraphrase a famous line from Oscar Wilde*, “*Ministry* is too important to be taken seriously.” An important part of creating a beloved community, creating deep connections, celebrating life, and maintaining our mental and spiritual health is having fun. Play and laughter are essential components of spirituality, of being fully human. And so, one of our shared ministries in this congregation is creating opportunities to play-- to have fun with one another. (And we're pretty good at it, too!) Pizza and Games, Summer Picnics, Potlucks, Scrabble Games, Bowling, Secret Valentines, Baseball Games, Talent Shows-- they are all ways this congregation has practiced the ministry of fun.

When I came to the UUSO, many of these fun activities were coordinated by one person, Jane Bachman. Jane did a great job of promoting fun and community. After many years, she was ready to hand that responsibility off to someone else. The Membership committee took the baton and for the past three years, they have been planning and coordinating our social events. And while they have done a great job, it has become apparent that this work, this part of our shared ministry, is not what the Membership committee was charged to do for the congregation. They have their own important focus-- facilitating transitions of membership for the congregation. And so, with our gratitude, the folks of the Membership committee have stepped away from the work of coordinating our ministry of fun. (Never fear-- the Membership committee is still a fun committee-- they just aren't THE Fun Committee, now.) So, who will step up and help the congregation have fun together now? You will, I hope. I am creating a Fun Team. This team will work in much the same way our Fundraising Committee does now. There will be a team leader to help coordinate and schedule the various fun activities we do. Each fun activity will have one person who is responsible for organizing that particular activity. And everyone in the congregation will be given an opportunity to volunteer and contribute to the fun activities they enjoy most. So-- if you are a fan of one of the fun activities we have done in the past, and would like to see it happen again, let me know. If you would like to be a part of the Fun Team, drop me a note. It is easier than you think and will be...no surprise... a lot of fun!

* Oscar Wilde's often misquoted text is “Life is far too important a thing ever to talk seriously about.”

Congratulations to our Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee has been working hard on many causes. Often, it is challenging to see the effects of all of that work. Successes are usually incremental and change is often subtle and long-term. This past week, however, a tangible result of their

hard work was announced. The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation denied the water quality permits required for the Constitution Pipeline project. This effectively halts the project. Our SAC has been working against the fracking industry and then against the Constitution pipeline for many years. They have educated the congregation, shown films, brought in guest speakers, distributed petitions, and invited us to send letters and post cards to our government officials. While our SAC folks were not alone in this fight, they were our representatives in this movement. It is with great joy and deep gratitude that I celebrate their success. I hope you will join me in thanking them for all of their work. If you ever doubt the importance, the effectiveness of their ministry with us and for us-- remember this victory. We can-- we do-- make a difference.
--Rev. Craig

(continued from page 1) --UUSO's Black Lives Matter Banner Ready!

These questions about race and the answers we find are best explored in a safe place with people ready to listen, ready to accept, and ready to forgive. Our congregation wants to be that place. We want to be those people. We want to create that beloved community.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, whatever your understanding of these issues may be-- we hope you see our Black Lives Matter banner as an invitation to join us in this work of exploration, discovery, and transformation. We are doing our best to stand on the side of Love and Justice-- and we want to stand with you.

--Rev Craig



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 Islamburg 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: 607-432-5850

Religious Education News

It is finally feeling like spring! I have only just started hearing spring peepers (frogs) where I live, although I've been told that some of you have been hearing them already. I follow the app "Journey North" on my phone each day to see a map of reported sightings of hummingbirds and Monarch butterflies. The hummers are already at the NY border while the Monarchs seem to be stalled at the border between North Carolina and Virginia. This means to put out hum water soon and that there is still time to plant some milkweed if you are so inclined. I have many seeds saved from last year so let me know if you would like some.

I am compiling information about summer camps that reflect our UU values. I would like to write a newsletter article soon with as many local options as I can find. Please email me if you have any camp ideas that you think I might not already know about.

Here is the rest of the year's schedule for RE:

May 1st: Classes start at 10:30.

May 8: Classes start at 10:30.

May 15: Children's Worship at the Olympia Brown House at 10:30. This is "Bring a Friend Sunday"! We will hold a **Celebration of the Animals** so it is also "Bring an Animal Sunday". We will celebrate the animals in our lives. Friendly, contained pets are welcome. Dogs and Cats must be leashed. Other pets need to be contained in crates, tanks, or cages. Please make sure you bring a water dish or any other supplies your pet might need for that morning. Pets that would be upset in a crowd are asked to stay home. If you don't have a pet, come to enjoy the animal visitors. You could also bring a stuffed animal or a photo of a current pet or a pet that has died that you would like to remember. In addition to carrying all these things, please bring a donation of a pet item for the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society. We welcome donations from adults too! There will also be a collection box at the sanctuary.

**Heart of the Catskills
Humane Society Wish List:**

- Dishwashing gloves
- Washcloths
- Dog & Cat shampoo
- Towels, blankets, sheets,
- Non-clay clumping litter
- Canned cat food
- Dog biscuits
- Cat treats, catnip, and safe toys
- Good strong puppy toys
- Collars and leashes
- Antiseptic wipes (unscented)
- Copy paper, folders, post-its

May 22nd: Classes will begin at 10:30.

May 29: There will be no RE Classes because of Memorial Day Weekend. Childcare will be available in the nursery.

June 5th: The Intergenerational Flower Sunday for all in the Sanctuary.

It is a Stay-Together Sunday. Each person will bring a flower and choose another to bring home. (Extras will be available should someone forget to bring one).

June 12th: Classes will begin at 10:30. This is the last class for the Explorers and Seekers. This is also the Canoe Trip for UUSO Youth!

June 19th: Annual All RE Ice Cream Party at the Olympia Brown House!

Remember to check the uuso.org webpage for class information by clicking on “Children/Youth” at the top of the page and then “Next Sunday’s Classes” in the drop down menu. It will be updated by each Wednesday with information for the following Sunday.

Here’s to Spring!

Susan Ryder

UUSO Director of Religious Education, dre@uuso.org

SUPPORT SAVE THE CHILDREN BOLIVIA THROUGH UUSO AND SUNY CONNECTION

SUNY Oneonta students are going to Bolivia to do service with Save the Children and are raising money in the Oneonta community to donate to the organization. Two students were at UUSO social hour last Sunday to talk with people about the project. This Sunday, May 1st, there will have be a second collection that will be used to support Save the Children projects in Bolivia, where Daphne Sorenson, formerly part of UUSO, is director. If you would like to donate, but will not be at the service on Sunday, you can send a check made out to OAS/Student Association, 108 Ravine Parkway, 9 Hunt College Union, Oneonta, NY 13820. Put "Political Science Club/Bolivia" in the memo section. Thanks for your support.

--Suzanne Miller, Social Action Committee

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE BY LAWS REGARDING THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Over the last year, the Committee on Ministry (COM) has changed its focus from ministerial concerns to keeping the mission of our Society at the forefront of our thoughts and actions. We’ve become a committee that is responsible/accountable to the whole

congregation, rather than to the minister or the board. We have spent considerable time reviewing how the role of this committee is changing in UU churches across the country, and have created a model that we hope will work for our own UUSO. We are proposing the following changes to the bylaws to insure that the committee will continue to function in this new way over time. Please bring any and all concerns to the members of the COM (Kevin Shultz, Patricia Engel Lafata, Carolyn Wolf-Gould). These changes to the bylaws will come up for a vote at the next congregational meeting on May 15th.

--Carolyn Wolf-Gould, for the Committee on Ministry

7.6.1 The Committee on Ministry (COM) shall consist of three (3) Society members. In odd numbered years three (3) members will be elected by the Society, each for a term of two (2) years. A member of the COM may serve for only two (2) consecutive terms. A member of the COM may not be a member of the Board of Trustees or the Chair of any other committee.

7.6.2 In election years, the COM will give the Nominating Committee the names of six (6) Society members, three (3) of which will be placed in nomination and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

7.6.3 The purpose of the Committee on Ministry is to keep the mission of our Society in the forefront of its thoughts and actions, to facilitate cooperation among ministries, to mediate conflicts which interfere with its ministries or mission, and to monitor the effectiveness of all of the ministries of the Society in light of its mission. Ministry, here, is defined as all that the Society does in fulfillment of its mission.

7.7.1 The term of each member of a Standing Committee begins at the start of the fiscal year following the Annual Meeting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION IS UPON US, AGAIN

General Assembly (GA) is an annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. This year, it's being held in Columbus, OH, on June 22-26. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend, and we would like to encourage our members to do so, if they are able. Please see <http://www.uua.org/ga> for more information. Anyone interested in being a delegate should contact the minister or a member of the Board.

CALENDAR

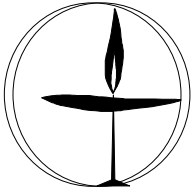
May

May 1	Sun	10:30 AM Service: "And Who Is Our Neighbor?"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
		2:30 PM - 4:30 PM NAACP Anti-Discrimination Meeting/CM
May 2	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
May 3	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
		6:00 PM Social Action Cmte/67 Church St
May 4	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		7:00 PM Web Cmte Mtg/OBH Dining Rm
May 5	Thu	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Building Use/CM Loft
		7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Membership Cmte/OBH Living Rm
May 6	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
May 7	Sat	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM New to UU Class/OBH Living Rm
May 8	Sun	10:30 AM Service: "A Spiritual Recipe"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm
May 9	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline
		6:30 PM RE Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
May 10	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm

May 11	Wed	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
May 12	Thu	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
May 13	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		5:30 PM Pizza & Games/CM
May 15	Sun	10:30 AM Service: "Are You a UU?"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/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
		2:30 PM - 4:00 PM Building Use/Set-up/CM
		4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Catskill Chamber Singers Concert/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dining for Women/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

May 1, 2016

“AND WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?”

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” said Jesus.
“And who is my neighbor?” asked the
lawyer.
Jesus answered the question with a story.
How might he have answered in the
modern day.

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

**Music provided by
Music Director Tim Horne**

*Ushers: Sandy Smith & Susan Turell
Coffee Hosts: Clark Rhoades & Kathy
Shimberg*

*Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
(Please submit announcements to
Kevin via email by 4/29.)*

May 8, 2016

“A SPIRITUAL RECIPE” MOTHER'S DAY

Children to Classrooms at 10:30

I first learned to cook from my mother.
Though, it wasn't the techniques she taught
me that stuck with me into adulthood; it
was the act of cooking as an expression of
love and service.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
Music Director Tim Horne
& the UUSO Choir**

*Ushers: Joe Stillman & TBA
Coffee Hosts: Pat Donnelly & Stan Maricle
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
(Please submit announcements to
Kevin via email by 5/6.)*