

UU News

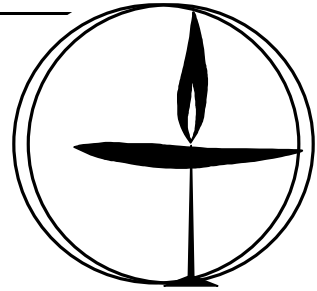
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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

May 25, 2016



Minister: Rev. Craig Schwalenberg—432-3491 or 287-7906

revcraig@uuso.org

Board President: Karen Palmer—267-4793

Music Director: Tim Horne—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

The UUSO Book and Plant Sale June 3-4

The sale is open to the public on Saturday from 10-2, and the members and friends sale is Friday, from 5-9PM. The Bag Sale will begin at noon, Saturday. Please bring donations of books, music, and movies to the church any time after the service on May 29. No textbooks, encyclopedias, moldy books, or Reader's Digest Condensed Books, please. Plants can be dropped off that Friday or Saturday before 10 am. Please be careful to label your plants. If you have questions about the Plant Sale or need pots or labels, contact Julia Gregory at 563-2924. For questions about the Book Sale or if you need books picked up, please contact Deb Bruce at 433-0356.

Transgender Town Hall, June 10th at 5:30PM

Join us for an "open mic" event! Meet & Greet with Refreshments at 5:30 PM Town Hall Meeting 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Created, Organized, and Led by the NYS Trans & GNC Town Halls Project

For more info, please see the Facebook event, <http://tinyurl.com/transgendertownhall>

From the Mission Statement for the NYS Trans & GNC Town Hall Meetings Project:

The purpose of holding statewide Community Town Halls is to bring together transgender and gender non-conforming people, their family, friends, and allies to create connections within the various communities around the state. We hope these meetings will be a springboard to introduce networking opportunities that will create a movement that works for social, economic and racial justice for all transgender and gender variant people in New York.

Minister's Musings

UUA General Assembly 2016

Every year, the congregations of our Unitarian Universalist Association gather together in one place for a General Assembly. There we conduct the business of our association, we worship together, we learn from one another, and we make new connections and new friends. This year, our General Assembly will be in Columbus, Ohio, and will take place June 22nd through June 26th. The theme this year is "Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect." Our Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta is allowed to send four member delegates to General Assembly (in addition to a minister delegate.) If you would like to be a UUSO delegate, please contact our Board President, Karen Palmer. Delegate credentials are being done on on-line this year. You don't have to actually travel to Columbus, OH, to be a delegate, either. The last couple of years, the UUA have allowed virtual delegates. All you need is the time and a good internet connection.

Highlights at this year's General Assembly include:

- Opening Ceremony with Banner Parade 6/22 at 7:30 p.m.
(Who will carry UUSO's banner in the parade this year?)
- Service of the Living Tradition 6/23 at 7:30 p.m.
(Sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Bill Sinkford, former UUA President.)
- Ware Lecture: "The Mystery and Art of Living" by Krista Tippett 6/25 at 7:30p
(Krista Tippett is an author and radio host of *Speaking of Faith/On Being*.)
- Workshops on stewardship, racial justice, leadership development, and much more.
(I'll be participating in a workshop for the UU Trauma Response Ministry.)

I highly recommend attending at least one General Assembly. There is something quite moving about being surrounded by thousands of other Unitarian Universalists. If you can't make the trip, I encourage you to attend the events and even some of the workshops on-line.

Hope to see you there!

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Religious Education News

Almost two weeks ago I was called away to help my family and needed to travel quickly to Chicago. I was able to leave within two hours and be there in about six thanks to all the people who quickly jumped in to help with my RE duties! Thank you all for this help as well as for your kind words. I was able to support my mom through a hard time and then to quickly zoom to Providence to attend my son Colin's graduation from Johnson & Wales University. I am now home but am waiting to see if I will need to head back to Chicago. I am grateful and blessed to be among this caring community.

The RE Program is quickly coming to a close. There will be no RE on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 29. June 5th is an Intergenerational (Stay-Together), Flower Communion Service in the Sanctuary. (Everyone brings a flower and brings another flower home. There will be extras should anyone forget.) Explorers and Seekers (Grades K-6) have their last classes on June 12, and we finish with RE's Annual All-RE Ice Cream Party at the Olympia Brown House on June 19th. As always, you can see what will be happening in RE by looking at the "next week's classes" part of the Religious Education Page on uuso.org. It is updated by Wednesday morning for the following Sunday.

I am so thankful for each of you and for being together in our caring community!

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

From Our UUSO Youth

This is the text of the words that Caroline B spoke during the RE Church Service on April 10th. She was asked to speak as part of the Stewardship Campaign. I was very moved by what she said and I wanted her words available to everyone, even those who were unable to be at the service that day. Enjoy!

-Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education

In February 2015, Susan Ryder introduced me to the idea of attending district youth cons. Youth Cons are a gathering of high schoolers from around the Saint Lawrence district to engage in fellowship, worship and friendship. Tinsley B. and I went to our first con in March 2015; during that Con I met Addy, Drew, and Elena three seniors who became my

very close friends that weekend. The last con of the year was in April; it was an extremely emotional experience because I had to say good-bye to some of my very close friends. This was upsetting but we still keep in touch today. I wouldn't have had the chance to meet these wonderful people if I hadn't talked about this church to my parents back in 2008. I had attended an RE service planning party that December and I was cast in the play for that Sunday's service. It was those moments that lead to my family's beginning in this society.

Since then I participated in all of the RE classes, Comets, which is now called The Explorers, the Hogwarts classes, OWL, Our Neighboring faith, and my personal favorite COAST. I was able to participate in COAST, and go to Boston with some of my favorite people in the world. I learned about what I truly believe in and learned different values for life from members of our congregation, revisited my childhood with a letter from my parents, and thereby reestablishing my child-like wonder. I couldn't have done that without you, this lovely congregation. You are why I love the UUSO, I would not be the person I am today without you. The reason I believe in UUSO is because everyone can believe in what they like without judgment from others. I don't think I've ever been to another church that is so accepting. We should all be very proud and supportive of the work we do for the greater good in our world.

I feel that the youth are an important element within this society; they set an example of leadership and bring a youthful spirit into our sanctuary. They work to collect cans for the food bank at Easter, help to raise money for UNICEF at Halloween, and work to think of ideas to help the environment both locally and abroad. Tinsley and I are leading the way for our younger peers to experience district youth cons, help with childcare and work with various church fundraising events. With the support of our entire society we can continue to explore and engage in the marvelous opportunities and experiences waiting for us in the future. Tinsley and I are leading the way for our younger peers to experience district youth cons, help with childcare and work with various church fundraising events. With the support of our entire society we can continue to explore and engage in the marvelous opportunities and experiences waiting for us in the future.

-Caroline B.

Sawdust from the Board

May 2016

The Trustees of the UUSO Board express our heartfelt gratitude for the congregation's generous response to our letter regarding our stewardship status. Approximately 30 pledges were increased. We have now exceeded our basic pledge goal and it is clear that UUSO is ready to forge ahead with the necessary resources to cover all necessary expenses, offer our staff well-deserved raises and strengthen the programs that serve our Mission. Various members of the congregation have offered valuable feedback regarding the Stewardship campaign and we will definitely pass these ideas on to next year's Stewardship Committee. We applaud Stewardship Chair, Karl Seeley, and this year's committee for their hard work and creativity entreating us to "'Sound the Call, Lead the Way"!

At our May 18 Board meeting, we updated the Board job description and approved the following new, revised, or reviewed policies:

- Raising of Funds
- No Partisan Politics
- No Pay for Officers' Duties
- Public Relations

They appear in this edition of the Newsletter and will eventually be permanently located in the Member section of our website along with other approved policies.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, June 15, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Following the regular meeting, the 2016-17 newly constituted Board will elect officers. The Trustees are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions and two of us will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service on June 12. Congregants may contact any Trustees, Rev. Craig, or the members of the Committee on Ministry at any time to express your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

Karen Palmer, President
UUSO Board of Trustees
kpalmer14@hughes.net/607-267-4793

UUSO Newsletter—5/25/2016
Revised, Reviewed, and/or New Policies:

UUSO Policy on Raising Funds
May 18, 2016

1. **The Congregation** may vote to raise money through UUSO toward special projects to benefit UUSO or other organizations that support our Principles, Mission, and Vision.
 2. **The Board of Trustees** may adopt additional methods of raising money for the benefit of UUSO such as, but not limited to, a capital campaign, new endowment fund(s), grants, planned giving, or a year end or special appeal.
 3. **The Minister and Director of Religious Education** may raise money and request donations related to their respective programs that support UUSO's Principles, Mission, and Vision-unless the Board of Trustees votes to oppose.
 4. **The Stewardship Committee**, with the oversight of the Board and guidance from the Finance Committee, conducts the Stewardship Campaign to receive financial pledges from UUSO members and friends support the UUSO operating budget.
 5. **The Fundraising Committee**, with the oversight of the Board, determines the means for raising money to support the UUSO operating budget.
 6. **The Endowment Committee**, guided by its bylaws, raises money through UUSO for the Endowment Fund; then awards grants that support UUSO's Principles, Mission, and Vision.
 7. **The Finance Committee**, with input from the Board, may raise funds through loans for special projects, pursuant to the Bylaws.
 8. **There are no other people** or entities at UUSO that may approve or determine the means by which money is raised through UUSO for any purpose. Any member or friend may submit a request to one of the above people or entities to raise money through UUSO.
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Partisan Politics Policy

May 18, 2016

As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, the UUSO is specifically prohibited from engaging in partisan politics. The organization – and its members, when they are acting as representatives of the UUSO, not as private citizens – are prohibited from specifically endorsing any candidate for public office or any political party. Further, there may be no campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office or any political party on UUSO property or at any UUSO function or gathering. This includes, but is not limited to, distribution of campaign materials, circulation of petitions, or fundraising on behalf of any candidate or party. There will be no written and/or spoken partisan advertising at the UUSO.

However, the UUSO may engage in general non-partisan political activities such as promoting voter registration, and its representatives may distribute non-partisan election material, such as that provided by the League of Women Voters. Candidate forums at which all candidates are invited are also allowed.

The congregation and its representatives may engage in issue advocacy through such activities as educating and mobilizing congregants and the general public, without limit.

Policy on Pay for Officer Duties

May 18, 2016

The President, Vice President, Clerk, and Moderator may not be paid for their specific duties as delineated in the UUSO Bylaws.

The Treasurer may receive a stipend for their specific duties.

PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY

May 18, 2016

The Minister and the President of the Board of Trustees are the only persons authorized to speak or act on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta. Others may speak or act in the name of the Society only when authorized to do so by the Board of Trustees or the Minister. All statements and actions must be in accordance with Society guidelines and Unitarian Universalist principles.

Food and Toiletries Collection, Sunday June 5th

We will, again, collect personal care items and non-perishable food items for our Backpack Buddies/Personal Care Products Program on Sunday, June 5. 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.

Food items will be collected for local community school backpack pantries that send food home with children on weekends and school vacations. Kids 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.

Backpack Pantries get food through the local food banks and through direct donations. You can donate money for the food banks-they can buy food cheaper in bulk, so the money goes further or by donating food for direct distribution by the schools. There are specific kinds of foods that are acceptable for this program- “kid-friendly”, nutritious food is needed.

Here is a suggested list: small cereal boxes, mac and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, tuna lunch packs, soup, individual containers of main entrees, snacks, pudding, cereal, oatmeal packs, fruit 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 to help kids in our community. It can be very eye-opening to learn that facing a weekend or school vacation is a hungry prospect for many children. Collection containers will be at the front of the sanctuary.

-Dawn F. Kilts for the Social Action Committee
dawn.kilts@gmail.com/607-432-3404

This was posted to our Facebook page ([facebook.com/UUSOneonta](https://www.facebook.com/UUSOneonta)) this week by the people over at *Saturday's Bread*:

"Congratulations to Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta as one of this year's Apron Award winners for all their help over the years! Thanks guys! "



Poetry Sunday, June 26th

We are bringing back Poetry Sunday this year on June 26th. Our theme is “UU Haiku: A Spiritual Practice in Three Lines.”

Using the traditional haiku form of three lines composed of 5, 7, and 5 syllables that relate humankind and nature, members from the congregation are asked to craft one or more haiku based on one of our seven principles. The principles can be found in the front of our hymnal and on-line.

Please be in touch with me ASAP if you would like to present some haiku at this service, or if you have questions.

-Pam Strother

pstrother@stny.rr.com /607-267-4280



Candle of Joys and Sorrows

Susan Ryder and Dorothy Frye Hunt are both celebrating birthdays. Here's to many more! Virtual cupcakes for everybody!

Happy 15th wedding anniversary to **Michael and Amy Forster Rothbart**.

Wishing the two of you many more years of happiness!

If you know someone who should be celebrated or remembered in this column, please send the editor a note, at uusou@uusou.org, message our Facebook page, or via mail.

From the Editor: *Article submissions are always welcome. Please keep articles generally under 100 words. No advertising permitted. Deadline for submission is 9am on the Monday before publication. Articles may be edited for space, grammar or content. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines will be published at the discretion of the editor.*

The following are letters of gratitude from local organizations for our various donations this spring.

The NAACP Oneonta Area Branch would like to take this opportunity to thank the UUSO Endowment Fund for your generous grant of \$350.

The check of 350 was mailed to Mr. Dan Maskin, CEO of Opportunities for Otsego. With this grant money, OFO was able to assist thirteen households exiting from the homeless program with [nearly 30 articles of bedding].

We again want to thank you for your generous grant making it possible for families to set up in their new homes without stress.

Sincerely,

Regina Betts

Vice President

Oneonta NAACP

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and the thousands of people in our community served by Family Planning of South Central New York, Inc, thank you for your generous donation of \$160.28.

Your support makes it possible for us to provide high quality reproductive healthcare, including family planning and cancer screening to the thousands of women, men and teens who come to our health centers this year. It will also enable our educators to provide resources to thousands more individuals, families, and organizations.

Your support is essential to achieving our mission, and we are very grateful for your gift. Thanks for your continuing support!

Sincerely,

Debra Marcus

Chief Executive Officer

Family Planning of South Central New York, Inc.

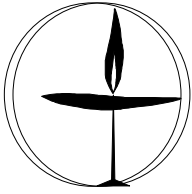
Carol Robbins's Memorial Service will be held Sunday, June 5th at 3PM, in the Chapin Memorial Sanctuary at UUSO and will be officiated by Rev. Craig Schwalenberg. All are welcome to attend. There will be a reception after the service. If you can contribute to or volunteer at the reception, please contact Beth Small at 432-1589.

CALENDAR
May-June

May 29	Sun	10:30 AM Service: "For Our Freedom..."/Rev. Craig/CM
May 30	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Music Lessons/CM Loft
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
May 31	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		4:00 PM - 5:30 PM SGM Facilitators Mtg/OBH Living Rm
Jun 1	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Web Cmte/OBH Living Room
Jun 2	Thu	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Membership Cmte/OBH Living Rm
Jun 3	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Building Use/CM
		5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Book & Plant Sale/Members & Friends/CM
Jun 4	Sat	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Building Use/CM
		10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Book & Plant Sale/CM
		2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Building Use/CM
Jun 5	Sun	10:30 AM Service: "A Flower By Any Other Name"/Rev. Craig/CM
		12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Building Use/Robotics Team/CM/Explorers Rm

		3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Memorial Service/CM
Jun 6	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline
		3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Music Lessons/CM Loft
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
Jun 7	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Small Group Ministry/CM Loft
		4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Team/OBH Living Rm
		6:00 PM Social Action Cmte/67 Church St
		7:00 PM Web Cmte/OBH Dining Rm
Jun 8	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Scrabble & Potluck/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
Jun 9	Thu	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		5:30 PM - 8:00 PM NAACP/OBH Living Rm
Jun 10	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Transgender Town Hall/CM

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House
Rev. Craig's Office Hours: by appointment
Office Administrator's Hours: M-F,9-3



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
12 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

May 29, 2016

"For Our Freedom"

(No Religious Education Classes)

This Sunday before Memorial Day,
let's take some time to remember those who
served and gave their very lives for us.
How best shall we honor their sacrifice?

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

**Music provided by
Michael Frye-Hunt**

Ushers: Caitlin Kilts & TBA

Coffee Hosts: Shirley Ferguson & TBA

Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

*(Please submit announcements to
Keith via email by 5/27.)*

June 5, 2016

"A Flower by Any Other Name"

(Stay Together Sunday)

Flower Communion/Graduate Recognition
As we celebrate our annual flower communion,
rejoicing in the beauty and diversity around us,
we might pause to consider our standards,
and their costs to us and those around us.

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

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

Ushers: April Gates & Judy Tator

Coffee Hosts: Leah Bridgers

& Julian Pecenco

Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

*(Please submit announcements to
Keith via email by 6/3.)*