

# UU News

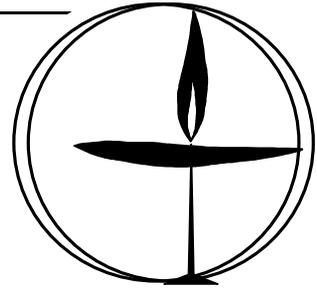
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA  
16 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-3491

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 11, 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

## **Rev. Craig's 'Fun Team' Needs Recruits!**

In recent years, the membership committee has focused on helping members transfer in and out of membership, as well as coordinate social gatherings such as 'Pizza and Games', the holiday workshop, secret Valentine, 'Pi Day' and candlelight dinners. The board, with full support of the membership committee, has decided to put all of our effort into the very important task of welcoming visitors on Sunday mornings, conducting the New UU classes, following up with visitors, and keeping track of people that are drifting away from the community and/or leaving the congregation.

For the fun activities to continue, Rev. Craig will be establishing a "Fun Team". Please let us know if you are up for being a Fun leader or volunteer. All of these activities are such a wonderful part of our community and offer inter-generational experiences. Let's come together and keep them going.

--Laura Reyda, Membership Committee

## **UUSO Online**

We've recently devoted a page on our website to the discussion of our stance on Black Lives Matter. Currently, you can watch a interview of Rev. Craig regarding BLM, see photos of the banner, and there are links to additional resources to learn more about the BLM movement.

We've also started to become very active on Facebook and Twitter, and are excited about the new ways to reach our members and friends in the community. Check us out!

**Twitter.com/UUSOneonta & Facebook.com/UUSOneonta**

Minister's Musings

“Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?”

~ hymn #1003 from *Singing the Journey*

This hymn is a popular one at General Assembly (GA), our annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists. I think it has been a part of one of the worship services or opening/closing ceremonies at every GA since the new hymnal was printed. The hymn taps into both the universal human question of place and purpose and the ongoing concern of Unitarian Universalism as a whole. Being non-creedal and so diverse in our beliefs, it can be challenging for us to define ourselves as a group. Are we a church? A denomination? A club? And as the role of religion changes in society, it is natural for us to contemplate what the future holds for us. Some people sing the song as a plaintive lament, which is not, I believe, what the original author intended. Rather, I believe the hymn is an invitation to focus on the important questions of identity and purpose.



Who are we? What's our mission? How are we going to accomplish our goals?

We are at just such a point in the life of our congregation. Our stewardship numbers are forcing us to address some challenging truths and answer some important questions. How did we get here? What do we want to be? What do we want to do? What's our purpose, our mission? When the congregation called me as their minister back on May 17, 2009, I preached a sermon entitled, "Do You Hear?", where I quoted from another of our hymns, #112 in *Singing the Living Tradition*,

**All the dreams, all the dares, all the sighs, all the prayers--**

**They are yours, mine, and theirs.**

**Do you hear? Do you hear?**

You called me as your minister that day. You charged me to be your spiritual leader. With the Board of Trustees, also elected by you, I was tasked with setting a course, casting a vision for who and what this congregation could be. This congregation was looking for a minister that could inspire them, connect them to others seeking to build a

better world, deeply engage in social justice, promote community, lead a team of dedicated and effective staff, and help us all make a difference in the world and in each other's lives. Over the last seven years, we've been making slow but steady progress towards many of those goals. For some, the pace has been too slow. For others, the changes have come too suddenly. Such is always the way of things. Sometimes it is hard to see where we've improved and what we have accomplished. And any change, even the positive ones, can be stressful. In looking back, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together-- and I'm excited about where we are headed.

We are poised to become, once again, a recognizable force for positive change in our community. We have more people visiting our congregation than ever before. Other congregations are seeking to partner with us on social justice, worship, education, and social events. I see us becoming a catalyst for meaningful, transformative conversations about racism and oppression. I see us becoming even stronger advocates for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, and transgender neighbors-- providing a safe place to meet, organize, and educate people on the realities and challenges they face. I see our staff becoming more connected to their professional colleagues around the country and bringing back ideas, music, programs, and practices that will make us better at everything we do here. I see this congregation starting a dynamic campus ministry, reaching out to the students that are seeking, desperately, for a sense of purpose and meaning in an increasingly complicated and isolating world. I see us becoming a Green Sanctuary, an example and an inspiration to everyone in the wider community that we can make a difference, we can protect our precious planet and reduce our harmful effects on the environment. I see us growing, not just in numbers, but in our connections to one another and to others beyond our walls. I see our congregation being more than a sanctuary; I see UUSO being a beacon. Leading the way and inviting all who would join us in the task of building a better world where all beings matter.

This is what you called me to do that amazing day in May, eight years ago. I accepted your call and your challenge. Together, we have done a great deal so far. Together, we are can do so much more. I'm looking forward to the next eight years-- and the world we are going to create together.



--Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

UUSO Newsletter—5/11/2016  
Religious Education News

All of us at UUSO are honored and blessed to be in relationship with all of us of every age. We learn so much from each other about ourselves, the world, and about our UU faith. We change the world together.

The month of May is the time to consider if you would like to take the opportunity to be even more present in the spiritual growth of children and youth in our Society. We are looking for teachers for RE classes next fall. Would this work bring you joy? Many RE teachers say they experience spirit and learn more their faith in an RE classroom than in any other way.

*Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance, and one of teaching's great rewards is the daily chance it gives us to get back on the dance floor. It is the dance of the spiraling generations, in which the old empower the young with their experience and the young empower the old with new life, reweaving the fabric of the human community as they touch and turn.*

*-Parker J. Palmer, The Courage to Teach*

You don't need to be any sort of expert to be a teacher in RE. You can learn the class lessons as you go along. You are given the curriculum, the materials, and the support and camaraderie of your DRE and your co-teachers. You are even given a snack! You will occasionally have a small amount of reading (30 min. or less) to do the week before a class. The classroom time is shared and flexible so that you are able to have Sunday's off when needed. There are also days off scheduled into the year when there are no RE classes.

RE teachers do need to bring some things to the table. Hopefully these are things that also bring you joy. I agree with the Unitarian Church of Portland in that: "The essential qualities of a good Learning Community teacher are a love of children, a sense of wonder about life, empathy and the ability to listen, and a willingness more to share who you are than what you know. Above all, teachers are mentors and companions of the children as our young ones undertake their religious journeys in life."

I would add that as an RE teacher you will need to be able put yourself aside as you look to the needs of all the individuals in the room. Sometimes you will need the skill of gathering everyone's attention. Other useful skills are being playful, silly, and flexible with the day's agenda. This is to allow for those unexpected moments of wonderfulness that occur all too often while exploring spirit with children. RE children and youth are so wise. They are so thoughtful. They are so active! You will be amazed.

RE teachers provide tools for being actively compassionate, for doing justice and for listening to the spirit inside of us. We learn alongside our children and youth, through our willingness to be open to their questions, their energy, and their optimism. Working with

children changes us too. It is the way we go forward into the future with our UU faith. Mentoring and guiding our UU children and youth is an active way to bring hope and change to our broken world.

I would love to talk more with you about teaching in RE next fall. Please contact me at [dre@uuso.org](mailto:dre@uuso.org).

--In Faith,  
Susan Ryder  
UUSO Director of Religious Education



### *Candle of Joys and Sorrows*

**Natalie Forster-Rothbart's fifth birthday** is coming up, on May 24th. Please join us in wishing her a very happy birthday!

This past week was **Elayne and Tara Mosher Campoli's 15th anniversary**. Your completion of fifteen years is a marvelous achievement, and you both have been such wonderful examples of kindness and consideration to all who know you. Happy Anniversary and may you enjoy many more years together!

**With great sorrow, we announce the death of long term member, Carol S. Robbins.** Carol was a member of UUSO since the early sixties, joining shortly after she moved to Oneonta with her family. Carol was a beloved member of the congregation and the Oneonta community. Carol died peacefully at home on Sunday afternoon, May 1st, with members of her family by her side. A memorial service in celebration of Carol's life will be held at UUSO on Sunday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Further details will be announced as they become available. Our deepest sympathy to Carol's family and friends as they mourn her death. Rev. Craig reminds anyone who feels the loss deeply and would like to talk about it, that he is available by phone or for visits.

*If you know someone who should be celebrated or remembered in this column, please send the editor a note, at [uuso@uuso.org](mailto:uuso@uuso.org), message our Facebook page or via mail.*

### PIZZA & GAMES -- Friday May 13th at 5:30pm

All UUSO Members and Friends are invited to Pizza and Games! Please bring \$1.50 per person for pizza, a dish to share (like veggies & dip, salad, hummus, salsa and chips, dessert, etc.), and games to play. This fun event has been enjoyed by folks of all ages at UUSO for many years. Fun is guaranteed for all, whether you come alone or with your whole family. We'll hang out, enjoy company and conversation, eat a casual dinner together, and maybe even learn a new game or play an old one you've always loved. We hope you'll join us.

### 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.

### Save The Children Bolivia

The special collection taken May 1st for Save the Children International amounted to \$649! Twenty-two students from SUNY Oneonta will soon go to Bolivia to work with children helped by Save the Children, whose administrator is Daphne Sorensen, former member of our congregation. The students' goal was to raise \$10,000 and happily thanked us for our contribution.  
--Alice Siegfried, Social Action Committee

### Dining for Women

will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, May 15th at 6 pm at the UUSO.

Each month the group learns about and supports organizations that help women and girls in developing countries improve their lives. This month we are learning about and supporting African People and Wildlife Fund which works with Maasai women in Tanzania. The women will learn how to start environmentally-friendly small businesses, like beekeeping. The businesses will provide added income for the family and protect natural resources now and for future generations. All are welcome. Bring a dish to pass.  
--Linda Willcox

**Congregational Meeting Sunday May 15th at 12PM**  
**Members encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided.**

*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.*

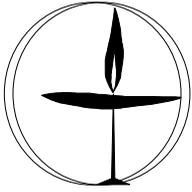
**CALENDAR  
MAY**

May 13	Fri	5:30 PM <b>Pizza &amp; Games/CM</b>
May 15	Sun	10:30 AM <b>Service: "Are You a UU?"/Rev. Craig/CM</b>
		12:00 PM <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/CM</b>
		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 <b>Catskill Chamber Singers Concert/CM</b>
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM <b>Dining for Women/CM</b>
May 16	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Office Cmte/OBH Dining Room
		3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Music Lessons/CM Loft
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
		7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Endowment Committee/OBH Living Room
May 17	Tue	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
May 18	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

		Aerobics/CM
		6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Board of Trustees/CM
May 19	Thu	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Policy Sub-Committee
		4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Building Use/CM Loft
May 20	Fri	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
May 21	Sat	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Zen Retreat/CM
May 22	Sun	10:30 AM <b>Service: "The Practical Bodhisattva: Spiritual Heroism in Everyday Life"/Michael Friedman/CM</b>
		12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Hypnosis/CM Loft
		2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Building Use/CM
May 23	Mon	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		9:00 AM <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
		3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Music Lessons/CM Loft
		6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zen Meditation/CM
May 24	Tue	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft
		5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Stop the Pipeline/CM
May 25	Wed	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Aerobics/CM
		6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
May 26	Thu	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Small Group Ministry/OBH Living Rm
		10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Yoga/CM Loft

CM=Chapin Memorial/OBH=Olympia Brown House

*Office Administrator's Hours:  
M-F 9-3, with an hour for lunch*



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
12 Ford Ave.  
Oneonta, NY 13820

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS at the UUSO

**May 15th, 2016**

### **"Are You a UU?"**

*(Children's Chapel at OBH)*

*Even in the modern day, in some places, a person can be arrested for their religion. Rev. Meserve famously asked, "If you were arrested for being a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"*

**Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**

**Music provided by  
Music Director Tim Horne**

*Ushers: John Nader & Rina Riba*

*Coffee Hosts: Dotty Hudson &  
Caitlin Kilts*

*Worship Associate: Adrienne Martini  
(Please submit announcements to  
Adrienne via email by 5/13.)*

**May 22nd, 2016**

### **"The Practical Bodhisattva: Spiritual Heroism in Everyday Life"**

*(Children to classroom at 10:30)*

*Through a practical application of Buddhism and some straightforward adjustments to our basic attitudes and understandings of how things truly are in the world, all of our lives can be made less full of suffering.*

**Michael Friedman**

**Music provided by  
Michael Frye-Hunt**

*Ushers: TBA*

*Coffee Hosts: Martha Robinson &  
Clarissa Stewart*

*Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey  
(Please submit announcements to  
Cathi via email by 5/20.)*