



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

August 17, 2016

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Sunday Morning

Of all the things we do together at UUSO, our Sunday morning worship is the one thing we do most regularly. It is the one time of the week we see the most of our community and together explore our shared beliefs and principles. Our worship services often draw new people to our community, they are the heart and soul of our congregation, and they help us grow as individuals and as a group. A number of concerns, questions, and suggestions have been made recently about our shared time together on Sunday mornings and I thought I'd address them here:

Sitting or Standing

A number of people have asked why we stand so much. Others complained that we transition from sitting to standing and back too much. Still others wondered why we weren't standing as much as we used to. Usually, we stand to add emphasis to a piece of the service that the congregation is participating in. Standing also helps break up the service a little, and for those who are easily bored (our younger members especially), standing up and sitting down helps maintain focus throughout the service. Standing is also a good idea for singing, allowing for better use of your diaphragm. Of course, standing up isn't easy for everyone-- so we always invite people "to rise in body or spirit" or to "stand as you are willing and able." Standing is always an option. I've been experimenting with standing less during the service, and will continue

to adjust this practice throughout the year. As always, I encourage people to stand or sit as they wish.

Children in the Sanctuary

We wish to be a congregation for ALL generations. And we are making progress in that direction. We have more young children in the sanctuary than ever before. Youngsters bring both vitality and joy to our space-- they also can bring challenges. We encourage parents of young children to decide the best option for them during worship. We have childcare downstairs and we can play the service over the radio in both the basement hall and in the kitchen. The loft also provides an ideal space for children who would like to hear the service, but might wish to be otherwise engaged. Babies and children can be noisy at times. Again, we trust the parents to decide when their child's articulations have become too much for others to enjoy the worship experience.



Numerous times in the past several years, I have allowed or even invited children to join me on the chancel for parts of the service beyond the chalice lighting and the Time for All Ages. Depending on

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

From our Director of Religious Education:

The summer is not quite over and I hope you are all enjoying fun adventures either at home or somewhere new. I want to offer just a sneak peak at what is being planned for the fall for children and youth at UUSO.

First of all remember to save a bit of water from a special summer place for our **intergenerational water ceremony on September 11th**.



Children (but really many of us who are no longer children) love to pour our water together to symbolize our return to church and our interconnectedness. There will be extra water available for symbolic use.

Then . . . The Annual RE Kick-Off Event will be on Sunday September 18. We'll all begin the day in the sanctuary for a brief Time for All Ages to introduce our RE year together. Then we will adjourn



to the nearby Olympia Brown House for **RE FUN DAY!** There will be enticing snippets of activities from this year's wonderful class curricula. All children

and youth (regardless of whichever class they will be in this fall) will be invited to sample all the activities. There will be su-

per hero adventures from the Explorer's Class Super Heroes-Bible People, Magical experiences from the Seeker's Class Hogwarts Oneonta, Padawan lessons from the Mid-Teens Star Wars Jedi Academy, and a chance for Teens to gather for the first time of their new year together as YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). There will be much more information about these classes in future newsletters. The RE Fun Day is a perfect day to bring a friend – although friends are always welcome anytime of the year.



I wish you all enjoyment of these summer days and I look forward to when we meet again in the fall.

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

Truly wonderful,
 the mind of a child is
 -Yoda

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Wednesdays Documentary Series: Against Militarism

Join us for a simple vegetarian meal on the last Wednesday of the month at Chapin Memorial Watch a film. Stay for discussion if you'd like to. No Cost. Meal starts at 6:00 p.m., followed by film screening at 7:00 p.m.. Viewer discretion may be advised--please see schedule. Child care available upon request, please submit by the Monday prior to that film by contacting the church office at [uuso@uuso.org]. RSVP recommended.

August 31 - *Bowling for Columbine or Where To Invade Next?*

September 28 - *Forgiving Dr. Mengele,*

October 26 - *Sir! No Sir!*

November 30 - *Swimming to Cambodia*

December 28 - *Paying the Price for Peace:*

The S. Brian Wilson Story

January 25 - *A Life of Principle: The Ramsey Clark Story*

February 22 - *Citizenfour*

March 22 - *A Time of Burnt Oranges*

April 19 - *The Young Lords*

Series is book-ended with pieces that make the case that U.S. militarism ultimately comes home and harms American society.
Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

"Building Your Own Theology" Course

When: 6 to 8 PM – Tuesday Evenings beginning September 13th

Where: Chapin Memorial Loft

Who: You, Reverend Craig, and Charles King

What: Building Your Own Theology (BYOT)

We, as Unitarian Universalists have spent a lifetime learning, experiencing, discussing and living our faith. Where did this learning come from? What elements of faith have emerged from your study? What elements have you kept / discarded / modified? DO you have a clear understanding of your faith? Can you discuss and or write a cogent (and short) description of what you actually believe?

The BYOT class will help us explore our beliefs and our personal theology – via reading, writing, group sharing, and introspection. By the end of the class, each participant will have developed a written PERSONAL belief statement or a credo. The class will also work with Rev Craig to craft a collaborative congregational worship service on the BYOT topic and what it meant to the participants.

The Small Print.

This is a 10 week series, and we expect that the participants will to commit to attending at least 8 of the 10 classes. There will be a \$14 registration fee to cover the cost of the study material. The class works best with 8-12 people. If you are interested in taking it, please email Rev. Craig at [revcraig@uuso.org] by August 27th, so we may determine if there are enough interested participants and can order the class materials.

Where did the calendar go?!

Don't worry, so many of you loved that new feature, it's not disappearing! It'll be included in the first newsletter of each month, along with the month's Worship services and Monthly Meetings list. Our calendar is also available on our website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/uusocalendar>

Privacy Policy:

People who publish articles in the UUSO newsletter and include contact information need to be aware that the newsletter is posted to the web and therefore that their contact info may be available via internet search engines.

UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pizza and Pop Pokémon Fundraiser

Our last fundraiser for CANO was such a success, we're doing it again! Please join us this Friday, 7/19, in front of Chapin Memorial Sanctuary Pokéstop for pizza from Joe Ruffino's and custom boutique Pokémon-themed cookies from Electric Cookie Jar. We'll be starting at 7PM.

Food and Soda:

- Valorous Pepperoni Pizza - \$2/slice
- Mystic Mushroom Pizza - \$2/slice
- Instinctual Cheese Pizza - \$1.5/slice
- Red Cola, Blue Cola, Yellow Lemonade - \$1/can
- Cookies - \$1



Last event, Team Instinct raised the most money and helped us donate \$83 to CANO.
WAY TO GO TEAM INSTINCT!

Team Instinct's win will be honored with their own Collectible Community Pokémon card! Team Photo will be taken at 7:45 p.m. by Evelyn Warren of Stone & Blossom Photography and Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta.

This time, half of the net proceeds will go to the Backpack Buddies program at the Northeast NY Food Bank, helping them provide school supplies and essential items to poor and homeless children in our area. Thirty percent will go to CANO to thank them for their generous support of the Pokémon Go! community and our local artists. The remaining twenty percent will go to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta in support of their work to build a world where all beings matter (even Pocket Monsters).

August 21

“Declaration of Independence, Part 3: We Pledge To Each Other”

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

*Most of us know the first lines of
the Declaration of Independence.
But, do you know the last line?
It is a declaration of interdependence.*

Music Provided By: Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox
Ushers: Arleen Benedict & Pat Donnelly
Coffee Hour Hosts: Debbie Misner
& Mary Ellen Hoffman
Sound System Operated By: Julian Pecenco
Chancel Table Decoration: Alice Siegfried

August 28

“Our Ministries”

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

*As we prepare for the start of the new church
year, we might consider our shared ministries.
What have we accomplished so far?
What do we want to do in the next year?*

Music Provided By: Michael Frye-Hunt
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz
Ushers: Charles King & Kay Stuligross
Coffee Hour Hosts: Carol Malz
& Mary Ruhoff
Sound System Operated By: Scott Segar
Chancel Table Decoration: TBA

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the topic of the service, the mood I am trying to convey, and the needs of the congregation (both young and old) -- I make those decisions on a case-by-case basis. So far, these instances have always proven to be enjoyable and beneficial to me, the children, and the congregation as a whole.

Our social hour can be a chaotic time on the best of days. Adding young children to it only adds to the unpredictable activity level. Some people have expressed a concern about children running around the sanctuary during this time. Again, I believe it is best for us to trust the parents to maintain a reasonable semblance of safety and order with their children. I believe we can balance the safety of our members with mobility issues with the exuberant joy being expressed by our youngest members while they are in our sanctuary. (We actually do want them to like being in church-- all of them, all ages.) So far, all of the reported incidents of people bumping into our more vulnerable members have involved adults-- so, let's see if the adults can be a bit more aware of their surroundings during social hour. It will be safer for both the older and the youngest members of our community.



Breaking Bread

I am told that the original intent of serving refreshments and small snacks during our social hour was to give people a reason to stay and converse about the (hopefully) interesting and engaging topic of the worship service. Today, the offering of food and drink also serves as a form of hospitality to those guests that may be visiting us that morning. However, what started out as a simple offering has become quite a bit more on a regular basis. We ask every member of the congregation to volunteer to host social hour twice a year. And though we offer some small reimbursement for the materials purchased, several people have asked to opt out of this volunteer duty because of the financial burden and effort it requires. I'm afraid our social hour has become a culinary competition of sorts-- and some of you are epic level hosts. As with many things, simpler is often better: A couple of drinks for the non-coffee drinkers; a healthy nibble like a fruit or a vegetable plate. And possibly some bread, pastry, or cracker. The actual make up of the table we set is up to the host, but it really need not be extravagant. In fact, if it is extravagant, it sets the bar high for the next volunteer and gives us little room to elevate the fare on special occasions. And in this community, there are plenty of special occasions to celebrate.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig



UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Conversation on Community Policing: Toward an Anti-Racist Community

SAVE THE DATE: September 18, 2016 from noon to 1:30pm

Jacqui Williams, UUA resource person and member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, will present her perspective as an activist who has worked closely with police in her local community to establish and implement community policing principles. She will facilitate an interactive conversation with invited police and community members as we create a safe space to engage in a conversation about this subject.

—The UUSO Anti-Racism Task Force

HEADS-UP: UUSO ENDOWMENT GRANTS FOR 2016-17

It looks like the UUSO Endowment Fund will have approximately \$4,000 available for grants this fall. The simple guidelines and the application form will soon be available on the UUSO Website. The application deadline will be Oct 9, 2016.

It's never too early to start dreaming about what good you or your favorite organization could do with a little extra money, so check out the guidelines and a list of previous recipients and projects on our website: uuso.org.

—Grace Smith, Chair, UUSO Endowment Committee

Join us on October 2 & 9 to discuss 'Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption' by Bryan Stevenson.



A recent Big Read of the Unitarian Universalist Association, this page-turner is a powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice -- from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.

-Anti Racism Task Force

LET'S SEE THOSE REDEEMALBES

A brief reminder to all the generous people who contribute their redeemable bottles and cans to the UUSO Endowment:

Please, leave your cans and bottles in the UUSO kitchen in Clear Plastic bags, which have been provided and are available in the kitchen. The Northern Eagle redemption center's employees must be able to see the contents of the bags brought to them.

In the past, they have experienced problems with rats, stones and other undesirable items in bags.

Endowment provides free kitchen size clear bags for your convenience. Take some home to use or transfer your donation to a clear bag before leaving it in the kitchen. We also attempt to line the collection barrel with a clear liner. If you bring in your donations in a BLACK or WHITE garbage bag, please open it up and dump the cans directly into the lined barrel.

WE NEED YOUR BOTTLES & CANS!



—Grace Smith, Chair, UUSO Endowment Committee

ANTIRACISM TASK FORCE

The Anti-Racism Task Force is pleased to announce the following events planned for this fall. We hope that you will find something that appeals to you and will help you grow in your understanding of and commitment to becoming an anti-racist congregation. Check the UUSO website for more info and updated events.

Many thanks to the active, regular members of the ARTF, who have been working all summer to plan, especially Alice Siegfried, Cindy Squires, Grace Smith, Duncan Smith, Donna Behrendt, Zanna McKay, Stanley Maricle.

If you are attending and need childcare, please let the facilitator of the event know one week prior.

September

September 4: Sunday Service

“Beyond the Black Lives Matter Banner” Presented by Members of the Anti-Racism Task Force

“How do we become an anti-racist congregation if our only experiences are lived within a racist society? We must learn how to talk authentically about whiteness and across our differences. Join us to continue the conversation.”

September 18, Noon – 2pm: ‘Food for Thought’, organized by Karen Palmer.

Lunch and an interactive discussion on
“Community Policing: Working Toward an
Anti-Racist Community”

October

October 2 and 9: “**Just Mercy**” **Book Discussion**, after Sunday services, facilitated by Cindy Squires. Please contact her if interested at [squires7@verizon.net] or (607) 432-6543. Book is available for loan in the UUSO library and also available at Oneonta’s *Huntington Memorial Library*.

October 16: **Sermon “With Great Power”**, with speaker Rev. Craig Schwalenberg.

October 30: ‘**Food for Thought**’, Video TBA, facilitated by Alice Siegfried and Stan Maricle
Affinity groups starting, focusing on keeping white privilege visible. Facilitated by Donna Behrendt and Zanna McKay. More information on how to join coming soon.

November

‘**Food for Thought**’, topic TBD, facilitated by Duncan Smith

December through May: We are planning monthly ‘Food for Thought’ discussions, some videos/movies, and other events.

Let us know ideas you have that will help all of us grow in our understanding and commitment.

— Submitted by Susan Turell

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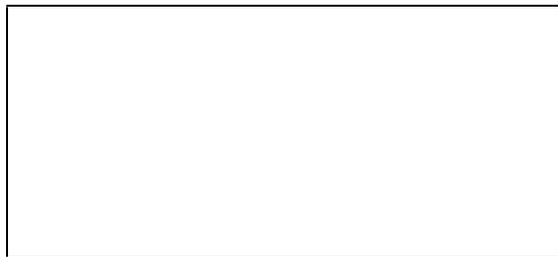


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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for August 31st issue
is August 29th

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

Green Sanctuary Corner



Exciting news!

Our initiative to reduce paper use for the newsletter has been a success, we've reduced the paper use by 75%! Only a handful of people will now receive the printed version of our newsletter via US Mail
Thank you for helping our Society become more green.