



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of October 17, 2018

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Whenever a question came up at my family's dinner table – about history, or science, or art, or just about anything that wasn't "how was school today?" my father would send me to "go look it up." Now remember, this was before the internet, so looking something up meant going into our fairly large living room that was lined with bookshelves. There were books on history – particularly Revolutionary and Civil War histories, English and American literature, a shelf of plays and librettos, a section for science, and two encyclopedias – World Book and Encyclopedia Britannica. As a result, I fell in love with books, ideas, facts, trivia, and the very act of research, investigation, and learning itself. I suspect that when I was still little, he knew the answers, but as I got older, he didn't, and so I somehow became Daddy's Little Research Assistant.

Decades later, I still am in the habit of looking things up when a question arises. Of course, the information-age beacons of knowledge - Google, the Internet Movie Database, and Wikipedia – plus the powerful smart phones – make the research a bit easier, especially when finding the answer is in pursuit of having something quickly solved.

But I still delight in the long play... wandering the stacks in a library, browsing an encyclopedia, following a reference in one book to another, to another, to another. In search of something deeper, in search of answers to burning questions and the questions those questions lead to. It's so easy to fall down a rabbit hole – you start by noticing a quote by Alice Walker, and that leads to a biography of Malcolm X, which sends you off to learn about the

Freedom Riders, and then you discover the Living Legacy tours, which sends you to old recordings of spirituals, which leads to Paul Robeson singing "Old Man River" which leads to reading reviews of Showboat, which finally leaves me thinking about what musicals can teach us about our anti-racism/anti-oppression work.

Like I said, it's easy to fall down the rabbit hole, letting one idea, one reference, one book or song or show lead to the next, and with them our deepening thoughts – and more, our deepening questions.

And despite the long play of curiosity, I still don't have many answers. You'd think that I would, as much as I think I've read and researched and investigated – especially given how much I had to read in seminary.

But therein lies the joy.

And... therein lies our fourth principle, the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Not acquisition of the only facts, but the search. We sing "we will finally see that to question, truly, is an answer." We "praise the source of faith and learning."

As we deepen into autumn, with the turning of leaves, the picking of the last harvest, the preparing for a long cold winter, we can open ourselves to a season of asking, inquiring, wondering, investigating. We know that questioning is at the center of many of the world's religions – to read, and study, and contemplate, and ask questions, and ask questions of those questions.

(Continued on page 2)

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What are your questions? What has intrigued you lately? I invite you to share your curiosity with one another – to lean into our third principle, the acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth. Imagine the connections you can make when you are not asking just “how are you” but “what are you thinking about these days?” I invite you this week to being open to the long play of questions and ideas and letting our collective curiosity take us to new places and help us build a spiritually healthy community.

Blessings,

Rev. Kimberley

UUSO Sabbatical Minister

kdebus@uuma.org

**Coming - Saturday Nov. 10 and Sunday Nov. 11:
CANDLELIGHT DINNERS**

Sign up after church with Justine or Alice to either be a host or a guest. Hosts provide their home, place settings, beverages, candles. Guests bring part of the meal.

We plan to have childcare this time: maybe shared cost of sitters at a child-friendly home.

These gatherings are a great way to get acquainted. The next ones are Jan. 26-7, May 4-5.

Alice Siegfried, 432-8673, alice.pott@icloud.com

Justine Roefs, 267-0020, justine.roefs@gmail.com



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LUNCH

On Saturday, September 15 Martha Robinson coordinated the Social Action Team’s lunch for Habitat workers. Thanks go to food providers Dawn Kilts, Carol Malz, Dotty Hudson, Janet Sutta, Alice Siegfried, & Martha Robinson. Martha and Janet delivered the food to the new site which will eventually have nine homes.

—Social Action Team

**CHANGE FOR CHANGE
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018:**

- August: Oneonta World of Learning (OWL): \$132.43:
- September: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, South Central NY Chapter: \$99.54
- Fifth Sunday, September: Caring Connections: \$24.23



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This last Sunday, October 14, Suzanne Miller and I hosted a Children's Worship Service about Mara Kern, the Mara Kern Library, and about the Backpack Buddies program at UUSO.

Mara was a member of our church who died from cancer when she was 12 years old. We told the children that it was rare for children to have cancer. We said this was had been a very sad time for our church and for Mara's family. Margaret Davis visited our group to tell us about being Mara's friend. We looked at the photo of Mara that is on the mantle in the Olympia Brown front room. Margaret said that it was taken at church during a Holiday Workshop. Mara was dressed up as a fortune teller and was creative and funny while giving out fortunes. She said Mara could also be very wise.

Mara's family gave our church money to have a library in her name. This is one of the ways we can remember her. Books in the library reflect the things that were important to Mara: Spiritual Awareness and Growth; Peace and Cooperation: Understanding Other Cultures; Children and Courage; The Needy; Intergenerational Understanding; World Religions; Death and Dying from a Child's Perspective; and Nature. We showed the group the UUSO Mara Kern Children's Library in the front room of the Olympia Brown House.

Suzanne picked out many books and spread them out for the children to peruse. Each child could pick out up to two books to take home. They signed the card from the library pocket in each book. The cards go in a special basket that is marked to collect them. Ordinarily, the books would be returned to the collecting basket when they are through reading them. We want to try another way to help the children have access to these books. Suzanne will collect them at a table downstairs at Chapin before the service on October 21st. She will have some other books available for checking out at that time. If your child should bring home a Mara Kern Library Book, we ask that you help them return it to church. The children were interested to know about Mara and to check out books. It was fun to watch them explore the books and to see their excitement about borrowing them. We will continue to work on ways for the children to use the library.

There is an adult section of the library in the dining room at the Olympia Brown House. I encourage you to look it over. To check out a book, put your name on a card from the book and leave it in the basket. Adult books are returned by leaving them off at the designated space in the dining room. Both sections of the library have some of my most favorite books and probably yours too! You will also often find some Mara Kern Library books on the side of the pulpit area that pertain to the service of the day. Just sign the library card in the book and leave it in the basket.

We are very grateful to Mara and her family for providing us with this wonderful library. We are also thankful to Deb Bruce, our Mara Kern Librarian, who maintains this library.

Suzanne also talked with the children about the Backpack Buddies Program. We watched a short film about how some families need food and how important this program has become to them. RE Classes last year made collecting boxes that are used the first Sunday of every month to collect non-perishable food for Backpack Buddies as well as personal care items such as sample sized soaps, shampoo, and toothpaste. The children want to help people in this way and need help to remember to bring items for these boxes on the first Sunday of each month.

I thank Margaret for visiting our group and her kind words about her friend, Mara Kern. I am also grateful to Suzanne for helping the RE children know about our Mara Kern Library and the Backpack Buddies program.

Here's to some reading adventures ahead!

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

A NOTE FROM THE SAFETY COMMITTEE.

The Safety Committee was charged by the Board of Trustees to develop a building evacuation plan in the event of a fire or some other type of emergency in which a building evacuation would be necessary. For an evacuation to be successful there are some basics that need to be followed, in addition to the outlined evacuation procedures. The following will be helpful from all persons in the building at any time and especially helpful during an emergency evacuation.

When you arrive for service or an event take a moment to look at your surroundings.

- *Who are you sitting near that may need help in the event of an emergency evacuation?*
- *Where are the closest exits?*
- *Who is the Worship Associate or event leader that day?*
- *Who are the Ushers at service that day?*
- *Are the exits clear of any large obstructions that may impede exiting the building?*
- *During the winter months: Are the sidewalks, stairs, ramps and other areas clear of ice and snow?*

Your awareness each Sunday and, other days you are in the sanctuary, will save time in the event of a Fire or other type of emergency evacuation.

If you see something that needs attention alert an usher or a member of the Board. If you are able to take care of what needs attention please do so.

Whenever the fire alarm sounds EVERYONE is to leave the building, even if you are sure it is a false alarm or a drill.

In the event that the Oneonta Fire Department is called to the scene, Fire Department (and other Emergency Responders) have authority to determine a course of action; building occupants will follow their directive.

We should periodically conduct a Fire Drill in order to practice safe evacuation of the building. The Safety Committee is committed to conducting a Fire Drill annually in late April or early May.

Our first Fire Drill will be a “practice” Fire Drill on October 20, 2018 sometime near the end of service. We will verbally go over the evacuation plan, take any questions, and if weather permits we will walk through an evacuation of the building to the side walk in front of Chapin. If it is raining or too cold, we will just talk through the plan and conduct a first walk through in the spring when the weather is more cooperative. Either way this will help us assess needed changes or revisions to the procedure before we do a “real” Fire Drill.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this practice “Fire Drill” on Sunday.

John Bagby
Safety Committee, Chair

Evacuation Plan:

If a fire that cannot be controlled is detected, sound the alarm.

These are the priorities:

- 1. Life Safety**
- 2. Stabilize the situation**
- 3. Control Fire if possible**

Close doors to the area on fire in order to contain fire *if possible*.

A Staff Member, a Volunteer or an Usher with 2-Way radio unit will communicate that there is a fire in the building to the RE classes in basement and the RE classes in OBH.

Keep Calm

The Minister or the **Worship Associate** will stand on the stage and announce (in a calm and reassuring, yet authoritative manner):

- There is an emergency and we have a plan for a safe and orderly evacuation.
- Please remain calm and make space for those in wheelchairs and anyone needing special assistance.
- The Ushers will be guiding people out.
- Persons in wheelchairs and those needing assistance will be helped to evacuate.
- RE classes and other groups in the building are being safely evacuated out the back of the building.
- The safest thing for parents and family members to do is to leave the building and rejoin family members at our Designated Gathering Area under the awning in CANO's Driveway across Ford Ave.

The Minister and/or the Worship Associate will then:

Direct and assist with evacuation as needed and able.

Ushers:

Prop open doors to sanctuary and doors to outside.

One usher should stay at the door to guide people out.

Second usher should assist those with mobility issues as needed and able.

Two members of the Board of Trustees or other designees:

Should proceed immediately to Ford Ave and stop on coming traffic in both directions to allow for safe crossing of the street by all occupants.

Remaining Staff, BOT members on site:

Will also assist in evacuating the building as needed and able.

For Sunday Services, those with Walkie Talkies will communicate that their areas are 'Clear' and close all doors and windows, as possible, to slow the spread of fire.

Exit Plan for Chapin:

- Children out back and around the dentist to CANO driveway awning.
- If not accessible they will use the Monk's Door exit to CANO driveway awning.
- Those in Sanctuary out front (if Safe) and proceed to CANO driveway awning.
- If front exit is blocked, we will use the Chancel Closet exit and proceed to CANO driveway awning.
- Piano window is the escape accessible window as a last resort.

Exit Plan for OBH:

- The Upstairs groups will exit out the back stair, if possible. They will exit out front stair if back is not clear make their way to CANO driveway awning
- First floor groups out front door and move to CANO driveway awning. They will exit out back door if front is blocked.

All groups reassemble at the CANO driveway awning.

The Minister, the Worship Associate, and Ushers will confirm the building is clear.

DRE needs to confirm with ushers that the Chapin basement is clear and OBH is clear and all RE students and teachers are present.

Worship Associate and Ushers communicate building status with Fire Department; if they are on site.

From Religious Education Director, Susan Ryder:

These are the fire instructions for the Religious Education Classes. They will be posted in each classroom/RE space.

RE CLASSES:

- Alarm will sound or classes will be told to start the drill
- EVERYONE must leave the building without stopping to get coats, toys, phones, etc.
- Teachers will pick up the attendance sheet to bring along.
- Proceed in a calm manner. No one is to run.
- Teachers will ask the class to walk in a line and to stay together.
- Proceed to under the awning at CANO across Ford Ave.
- Stay together with your group until the teachers say you can leave.
- Teachers will make sure all class and nursery participants (INCLUDING BABIES) are reunited with their parent or guardian at CANO.

TEACHERS' INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNSTAIRS CLASSES AT CHAPIN

- Designate one of your two teachers to check with the sitters in the nursery to see if they need assistance.
- Lead your group calmly down the hall to the back fire exit door (If not accessible, go out the exit door next to the bathroom at the front of the church and proceed directly to CANO)
- Lead class around the house next door and safely across the street to under the awning of the CANO Driveway.
- Stay together until you are sure that all children in your class are accounted for.
- Parents or guardians are to pick up their children under the CANO awning. Children may not leave their group until the teacher says it is OK.
- Teachers will make sure each child is reunited with their parent or guardian.

NURSERY INSTRUCTIONS AT CHAPIN

- Remain calm, help children remain calm
- Ascertain if you need help. Other teachers will be checking in with you to see if you need assistance. Some babies and small children will need to be carried.
- Bring attendance sheet with you but do not stop to pick up anything else.
- Ask group to partner up and hold hands.
- Stay together and proceed out the back fire exit. If this is blocked, use the front downstairs exit by the bathroom.
- Walk around the next door house to the awning area of CANO across Ford Ave.
- Keep group together at all times until you are sure everyone is accounted for.
- Parents/Guardians will come to you to pick up their child.
- Make sure each child is reunited with their parent or guardian.

PARENTS ARE TO MEET CHILDREN AT CANO. DO NOT GO DOWNSTAIRS AT CHAPIN.

TEACHERS' INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE OLYMPIA BROWN HOUSE

- Upstairs teachers are to pick up their attendance sheets and lead their group out the appropriate exit. Upstairs classes use the emergency door in the nursery, if blocked they are to go down the regular stairs.
- Downstairs classes exit out the front door, if blocked go out the back door.
- Class groups will walk together to under the awning of the CANO house across Ford Ave. Teachers will make sure all children/teens in their group are present. The groups will stay together until teachers give them permission to leave.
- Parents and/or Guardians are to be reunited with their children/teens at CANO. Do not go over to the Olympia Brown House to find your child.

Wanna help out
on Sunday?

INTERESTED IN..

DECORATING THE
CHANCEL TABLE?



Alice Siegfried
alice.pott@icloud.com

USHERING?



Kim Yousey-Elsener
kym1975@yahoo.com

JOINING CHOIR?



Music Director Tim Horne
hornel2@hotmail.com

TEACHING RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION?



Director of RE Susan Ryder
DRE@uuso.org

Contact numbers provided in our Online Directory at onRealm.org.

The office can help you sign up!

uuso@uuso.org / 432-3491

COOKIES & CRAFTS 2018

Mark your calendars for December 1, when the 31st annual Cookies & Crafts will kick off the holiday season!

As always, our vendors will offer a wealth of fabulous items, and customers will be able to enjoy a tasty lunch while shopping.

And, of course, there will be Cookies! We'll offer plates of cookies for sale, cookies to purchase for custom plates, plus a gourmet table full of specialty items. For the first time we will offer a selection of boxed cookies—perfect for a gift!

We'll need your help! We are seeking cookies with that special combination of flavor and style—so please start thinking of the yummy and beautiful cookies that you can make for this event! A few sprinkles can make your delicious cookies look festive—and remember that cut-out sugar cookie are always in very high demand.

Committee members will soon be circulating during coffee hour with the cookie and volunteer sign-up sheet—please be generous with your cookies and your time!

—Jane Bachman for the Cookies & Craft Committee

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT FRUITCAKE.

It's that time of year again. I will be taking orders for fruitcakes starting October 14th, so everyone can buy as many as they want. The fruitcakes come in two varieties, Light Honey Rum and Dark Brandy Molasses. Each weighs about a pound. The price this year is the same as it has been for the past several years-- \$15.00 each. 100% donation to UUSO. The ***deadline for ordering is November 15th*** because the fruitcakes have to be started the week before Thanksgiving in order to have time to ripen and mellow for the Christmas season, and Thanksgiving is very early this year. There are three ways to order: Call me at 267-4280. Email me at pstrother@stny.rr.com. Speak to me at church. The fruitcakes will be available for pickup at Cookies and Crafts on December 1st or by special arrangement if you cannot pick them up at Cookies and Crafts. —Pam Strother



The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, October 28th, at noon, in the sanctuary of Chapin Memorial, 12 Ford Avenue. On the agenda, to date, are the final budget, revisions to Society and Endowment Committee Bylaws, and the Congregational Covenant. All UUSO members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Meeting documents are available on the Facebook [UUSO Community Group](#), in [Realm](#), and on request from the office.
(uuso@uuso.org/432-3491)

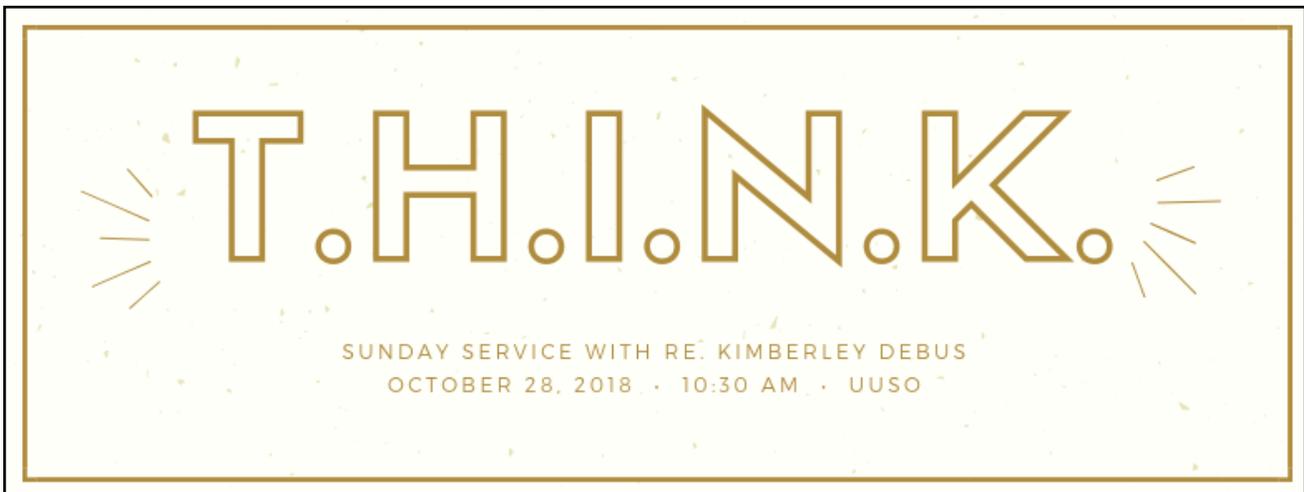
UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



“Good fences make good neighbors,”
the oft-quoted Robert Frost poem tells us;
of course, the full poem is more
nuanced. When are our fences helpful
and when do they get in the way.

**Children to Classrooms*
With music provided by the UUSO Choir & Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Alex Tolin-Schultz

Coffee Hour Host: Carol Malz
Ushers: Ben Friedell & Kim Yousey Elsener
Chancel Table: Doug Hallberg
Sound System: Paul Carter



In these tumultuous times, it is easy to be
unkind to those with whom we disagree.
Yet there is a prophetic as well as a
pastoral value to kindness,
thoughtfulness, and helpfulness.
We'll explore how our principles and
sources call us to treat others.

**Start Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco

Coffee Hour Hosts: Rosemary Summer & Cathi Wiltsey
Ushers: Dave & Meg Ainsworth
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Julian Pecenco

**UNITARIAN
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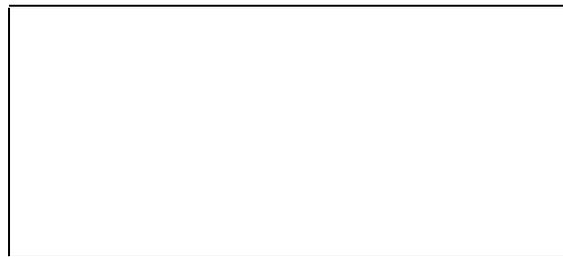
Keith Willcox

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Arlana Young

Jennifer Hyppio

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for the week of October 31
issue is October 29th, by 9AM.

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

Verbal Announcements:
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner

Green Halloween!

Halloween can be an expensive and wasteful experience, so we wondered "what can be done to green your Halloween?"

Choose organic, non-gmo candy

Buy candy made from natural ingredients, without artificial flavors, colors, or preservatives. Instead of candy, consider giving out things like pencils, temporary tattoos, or other fun treats. In addition to reducing the amount of garbage produced from those single-serve packages (which are not recyclable), you'll provide a healthier alternative to sweets.

Purchase locally grown pumpkins

When you think of Halloween, you surely think of pumpkins. Lower your emissions by purchasing locally grown organic pumpkins. Remember to compost your pumpkins, save the seeds from carving for roasting them with a little oil and salt, or use the insides for delicious breads, pies, muffins, soups, and other recipes.