



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of January 23, 2019

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Sunday Snow Day!

This past Sunday, due to the severe weather, our morning worship service was cancelled. I made the decision after consulting with our Board President, Karen Palmer. My guiding principle when making these decisions is safety first and foremost. If the city or county announces a travel emergency or advisory recommending against unnecessary travel, then we will cancel any official UUSO activities, including worship.

Though we didn't have worship in the sanctuary, I did live-stream a special worship service from my home via our UUSO Facebook page. About 25 people tuned in for the service (and the video has been viewed by over 100 people since.) Most people who tried were able to participate in the service, which included readings, a story, music, and a Question & Answer time with the minister. A couple of people did report issues with sound or not being able to connect to the service. (We will try to follow up with those issues.) This video work was one of the things I was working on while on sabbatical, though I didn't expect to have to use it quite so soon. My thanks to all who joined us for this web worship service.

The "Wave of Women" service that was planned for Sunday will now take place on March 10th. (The annual geek sermon will be bumped to a future date that has yet to be determined.)

### Spirit Work

I have a few ideas for spiritual development programs I'd like to offer in the next few months. If any of these offerings interest you, please let me know so we can schedule them.

- **Building Your Own Theology**

This popular 10 week course, designed by the Rev. Dick Gilbert, explores our beliefs as human meaning-makers and our faith as Unitarian Universalists. Participants are

expected to have their own credo, a personal belief statement by the end of

the program. Program would be held on Saturday mornings starting in March. Attendance at 8/10 of the sessions would be required.

- **Telling A Touchstone Tale**

Curious about the book I was working on while I on sabbatical? Want to learn how to create your own stories of meaning? Want to work on improving your own storytelling skills? This 2-3 session program would focus on the issues I've been exploring with storytelling.

- **Everyone Has a Sermon**

Some of the best worship services, I've experienced have been crafted by lay people in our congregations. Perhaps you have a reflection or a sermon just waiting to be shared. This 2-4 session program would talk about what worship is, how to craft a good sermon/reflection, and how to deliver it. By the end, everyone should have a sermon or reflection worthy of sharing from our pulpit.

- **Chalice Circle with the Minister**

Using a modified version of our Small Group Ministry model, I would host and facilitate a series of 90 minute discussion groups. Groups would be offered every two weeks and would use the worship services for topics of discussion. These groups could be offered on Sundays after the social hour or Tuesdays during the day or evening.

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each January the Religious Education Committee hosts a series of workshops that conclude with presenting an Intergenerational Service to our congregation. This January we looked at our UU Seventh Principle:

*Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.* We looked at our relationships with animals. Our first session was January 6<sup>th</sup> when we hosted SUNY Oneonta's Anthropology Professor Renee Walker. She helped us understand the very beginnings of human beings' relationship with wolves and how wolves later came to be dogs. January, 13<sup>th</sup> we looked at animals that are domesticated but not necessarily pets. Our third session was to be a visit from a therapy dog, Spirit, and one of her humans, Cheryl De-Decker. This session was cancelled due to the Jan 20<sup>th</sup> snowstorm. We hope to invite both of them to visit with us later this church year.

On January 13<sup>th</sup> we learned about alpacas from Sarah Orton-Leddy, a local alpaca farmer. We learned how they are different from llamas. Alpacas are gentler and much smaller. An easy way to tell the difference is to see which way their ears are oriented. (A llama's ears face forward whereas an alpaca's ears face backwards and can even lay down flat towards the back of their heads.) We learned how their fleece is harvested, washed, and spun. She showed us some of the many beautiful, warm, uses for alpaca fleece. We made nesting balls from Alpaca Fleece. We will hang these in the spring and birds can use pieces of the fleece when making their nests.

We will gather on Saturday evening, January 26<sup>th</sup>, for a service practice and pizza party from 5:30 to 7pm in the sanctuary at Chapin Memorial Church. All children and youth from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome – even if you weren't able to attend a January workshop. We will have an additional practice the following day, January 27, beginning at 9:15. Then we'll present our Intergenerational Service, *All Creatures Great and Small*, to the congregation that day beginning at 10:30.

The UUSO Religious Education Program is collecting items through Sunday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, to donate to the Cooperstown ASPCA. According to their Facebook page, the mission of this organization is “to bring about a time when there are no more homeless animals and every companion animal will be guaranteed a loving home. We (they) work to accomplish this goal through our (their) spay/neuter, adoption and education programs. “

The following items are on their wish list: Paper Towels, 39 Gallon Garbage Bags, Method Brand Floor Cleaner, Dish Detergent, Hoses and Hose Nozzles, Dry and Canned Dog and Cat Food and Treats, Puppy and Kitten Food, Blankets, Towels, etc., Pet Friendly Ice Melt, Martingale Collars, Cat & Dog Toys, Clay Cat Litter, Tractor Supply Pine Pellet Litter, Sponges, HE Laundry Detergent, and Pine Sol. These can be left in a collection box at the front of the sanctuary.

In thankfulness for the animals in our lives,

Susan Ryder  
UUSO Director of Religious Education



### **MINISTRY ASSESSMENT ON WORSHIP**

Members and friends of UUSO are invited to join explore together our experiences and desires for Worship in our beloved community this coming Sunday, January 27 at noon! The Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry are jointly facilitating groups using the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach to discuss the following questions:

- Tell us about an engaging, moving worship experience.
- What elements made that an engaging, moving worship experience?
- What are the strengths of our worship at USSO?
- How could our worship contribute more to our wider ministries at UUSO?

An expanded coffee hour will be provided as well as child care. Given our sign up time was reduced by the winter storm, we will be accepting people into groups on Sunday even if you have not signed up. However it makes planning easier if you do.

Please contact Karen Palmer at (607) 267-4793 or e-mail [greenspeech3278@gmail.com](mailto:greenspeech3278@gmail.com).

### **BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY BEYOND THE BINARY**

(hosted by First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse)

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 109 Waring Road, is once again hosting a Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary conference on February 9, 2019. This conference is focused on transgender and non-binary identity issues and concerns. This one-day conference will be both a place where trans and gender non-conforming folk can gather, connect and learn and where cisgender folk can learn about being better allies. Registration starts at 8:30. The day begins at 9:00 am with our keynote and will be over at 4:30 pm.

Our keynote speaker will be J Mase III. J Mase III is a Black/trans/queer poet & educator based in Seattle by way of Philly. As an educator, Mase has worked with community members in the US, UK, and Canada on LGBTQIA+ rights and racial justice in spaces such as K-12 schools, universities, and faith communities. He is founder of awQward, the first trans and queer people of color talent agency. His work has been featured on MSNBC, Essence Live, Everyday Feminism, Black Girl Dangerous, the New York Times, BuzzFeed, the Root, theGrio, Teen Vogue and more.

His current projects include being the head writer of the theatrical production, Black Bois and being co-editor of the #BlackTransPrayerBook.

The following workshops will be offered at the conference:

- I'm new to all this - Trans/Nonbinary/Gender Non-Conforming 101
- Creating a Welcoming Environment for Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Children
- From there to here.. stories from parents of Trans Youth on their journey supporting their child's transition
- On Faith and the Criminalization of the Black Trans Body
- Transgender Law & Policy • Micro-agressions • Writing Where it Hurts
- De-escalation • Preemptive Radical Hospitality
- Being a Trans Ally • Medical Interventions for TG/GNC people

Please register (sliding scale) <https://firstuusy.breezechms.com/form/d69f1133>

## CELEBRATING OUR SHARED MINISTRY — THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The main charge of the stewardship committee is to foster a culture of stewardship among UUSO's members and friends as they share their time, talents, and treasure throughout the year. Coordinating fundraising activities like the annual campaign, Cookies and Crafts, and the auction is also part of this group's focus. Judy Tator and Kari Reynolds are the committee co-chairs. Pam Strother, Dennis Fowler Carl O'Shea, and Karl Seeley round out the membership.

Fundraising is easy to understand but the concept of stewardship is less transparent. What does it look like to "steward" something? It can look like the Thank You lunch that was held in November and attended by 40 or so people who volunteer their time to the UUSO. Stewardship also includes thanking those who give their treasure (in the form of pledges) to the church during our annual fundraising campaign. As this campaign kicks off, we offer our thanks to the group that looks for the best way to create a culture of thankfulness for all who give what they are able.

**CHANCEL TABLE**—Sign up now for March and the rest of 2019. Perhaps decorate with flowers or memorabilia to honor or memorialize a person or an event, or to interpret the sermon topic. Also let me know if you have an idea to enhance our two gold windows. Thanks, Alice Siegfried

### DINING FOR WOMEN

The Oneonta chapter of Dining For Women will meet Sunday February 3, 2019, at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Please join us and bring a dish to share. Cold drinks will be provided as usual. Our program of study and giving this month is Maji Safi Group in the Mara Region, Tanzania. This project will positively impact the education of adolescent girls by keeping them in school and encouraging leadership and self-esteem, while reducing the cultural stigma around menstrual hygiene and providing sustainable menstrual supplies.

## STEWARDSHIP IS HEART WORK

### OUR PLEDGE CAMPAIGN FOR 2019-2020

On Sunday, January 20 we kicked off our annual pledge campaign during the service. This year our theme is *Stewardship Is Heart Work*. We chose the theme because every act of generosity, compassion and service that we make comes from our hearts. Without the selfless efforts of our members and friends we would not be able to live our mission of *Creating beloved community*. . . *Freely seeking the light*. . . *and...Reaching for a better world*.



We hope everyone will take some time to consider how much they can pledge for the coming fiscal year and, if possible, increase their pledge. We have set a goal for 50% of our households to increase their pledge. If that is achieved, anonymous donors will make an additional gift to the pledge total.

### KEY DATES

**Sunday, February 3:** pledge packets handed out before service and during coffee hour

**Sunday, February 10: Celebration Sunday and Potluck Lunch.** Pledge envelopes will be collected during the service and all are invited to participate in a potluck lunch after the service. More details will follow about the potluck.

With gratitude for your service and generosity,  
The Stewardship and Fundraising Committee

**UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES**  
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Join our children, youth,  
and religious education volunteers as we  
explore our connections to the natural  
world through animals in many forms.

*\*Start Together Sunday*  
With music provided by Music Director Tim Horne.  
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Host: Beth Small  
Ushers: Sallie Han  
Chancel Table: RE Committee  
Sound System: Nathan Elsener

**BLACK LIVES  
MATTER**

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg | Feb 3

The Black Lives Matter movement  
began 5+ years ago.  
We put our BLM banner up almost 3 years ago.  
Has anything changed?  
What do we do next?

*\*Children to Classrooms*  
With Music provided by the UUSO Choir & Music Director  
Tim Horne  
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Cathi Wiltsey  
Ushers: Che Baysinger & Susan Woerner  
Chancel Table: From Alberta Hutchinson's Martin Luther King,  
Jr.'s Collection  
Sound System: Patrick Rost

**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
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**The Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**  
Minister  
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[uuso@uuso.org](mailto:uuso@uuso.org)  
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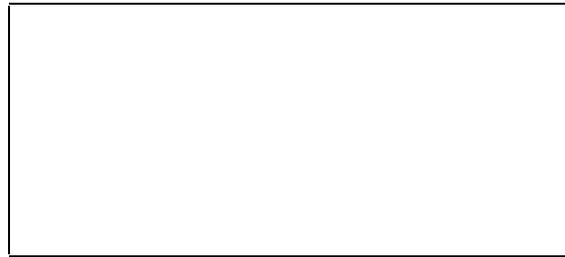
Karen Palmer  
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Music Director  
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**Twitter.com/UUSOneonta**

***UUSO Board of Trustees***

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**UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for the week of February 6th  
Issue is February 4th, 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**

**Otsego County Chamber of Commerce Energy Infrastructure  
and Economy Summit**

**January 31 – 10am-3pm: Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown**

-- The Otsego County Chamber of Commerce is hosting the **Energy Infrastructure and Economy Summit on January 31** at the Otesaga. The event will explore the nexus of energy, climate change, and the region's economy with area industry leaders and policy makers from across New York State. The summit will provide opportunities for learning, networking, and business development. The Chamber is welcoming proposals for presentations and exhibitor applications. For more information and registration contact Karen Laing at 432-4500, ext. 104, or [karen@otsegocc.com](mailto:karen@otsegocc.com).