



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of March 6, 2019

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Black Lives Matter Banner - Continued

After listening to the opinions, ideas, and views of a couple dozen folks in the congregation regarding what should be done once the Black Lives Matter banner comes down, I have concluded that most of those who have expressed themselves would like the banner to be replaced and rehung as is. There were some good ideas and concerns raised about how we might express our commitment to anti-oppression in general and other social justice issues. Those ideas are ones we should continue to grapple with.

Personally, if it were solely my call, I would have liked to order a new banner that said in small letter at the top "We wish we all acted as if we believed" and then in big letter "BLACK LIVES MATTER". That would address the most common response the banner seems to illicit, that "all lives matter." We know that all lives matter; it is one of our fundamental principles and core beliefs. Unfortunately, many in this country behave in a way that sends a different message. That's why the Black Lives Matter movement started. It's why we hung the banner in the first place. Unfortunately, black lives still seem to matter less than others in so many ways. This is a sad fact that none of us can ignore. The small letters would be hard to read though and the message would likely be muddled. The phrase that started the movement is probably the most effective thing we can post to demonstrate our support and our commitment to being anti-racist.

I'll be working with the Properties Committee, the Board of Trustees, and our Religious Education Director and Committee to plan for a good time to take down the old banner and replace it with the new one. I believe this is an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our work and demonstrate to the community our continued commitment to fighting racism in our wider community. Stay tuned for further developments and plans!

Communal Read – White Fragility / After the Good News

Last month, I invited folks to join me in reading White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo. I'll be hosting two book discussion groups this month, one on Friday, March 8th, at 2 p.m., and another on Tuesday, March 19th, at 6 p.m. Both groups will meet in the OBH Parlor/Mara Kern Library (if we need more room, we'll move to the Sanctuary.)

The next book I've chosen for a communal read is After the Good New: Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism by my classmate and colleague, the Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd. Skinner House Books, the publisher, describes the book with:

"With humor and humanity, Ladd calls religious progressives to greater authenticity and truth-telling rather than mere optimism. She charts a course forward that includes reclaiming rituals of atonement and lament, and becoming more vulnerable and accountable in our relationships. She shows how, together, we might build a necessary and greater resilience among ourselves and for the generations to come."

I'll be scheduling times for group discussions of the book in late April. I hope some of you will join me in exploring how our faith grapples with the challenges we all face together.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

(I will be on vacation and out of the country next week from March 11th - March 17th. I will not be checking my email while on vacation. I will also not have phone access. In case of an emergency, please contact our Office Administrator, Evelyn Warren, and/or our Board President, Karen Palmer. If necessary, they will be able to get in touch with me.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Explorers class of K-3rd graders has been studying famous Unitarian Universalists in our history. They are currently working on a unit that celebrates UU scientists and inventors. This has turned out to be very popular and their class is humming with activity. I've been told that giggling can be heard all the way through the floor to the services in the sanctuary.

They had a "Take Apart Party" on Feb. 24th. They are grateful to all who donated electronic items for them to explore. They were very good at taking things apart! (They were able to dismantle things that had me flummoxed.) They were delighted with each discovery of the intricate inner workings of the items. This was a very exciting class and they have asked to do it again. To that end, I will again be collecting safe, broken electronic toys or devices. They could use radio-controlled or motorized toys, clocks, radios, tape recorders and players, CD/DVD players and CD/DVD drives, and boomboxes. I expect to include another Take Apart Party in the upcoming Spring Schedule.

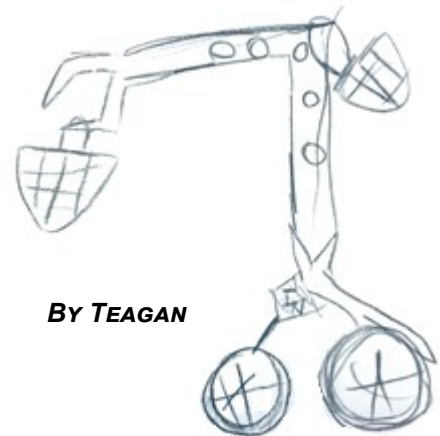
On March 3rd the class learned about Unitarian Alexander Graham Bell. He is credited with inventing the telephone. Recently it has been noted that Lewis Howard Latimer, a black son of escaped slaves, partnered with Alexander Graham Bell with this invention and deserves credit. The class talked about people being marginalized in history because of their race. Lewis Howard Latimer also helped found the Unitarian church in Flushing, New York. The class added his photo to their wall of famous UU's.

They experimented with cans, cups and string to see which items made a better "telephone". The consensus was the red plastic "party" cups were the best and they thought it might be because of the angle of the cup sides. The group went on to draw and explain their own ideas for inventions. Here are just some of their many ideas: a "pink room" machine that makes everything pink; a machine to feed dogs; and a house-cleaning robot. There was a party-making machine that makes little fancy sandwiches and other party treats, a machine for doing homework, and a tooth-brushing machine. They invented a machine that would create things you want as well as make things you don't want disappear.

Next week, March 10th, they will learn about Unitarian engineer and philanthropist Peter Cooper (1791-1883). He designed and built the first American locomotive (named Tom Thumb) and his factory produced the first structural beams for buildings. He was self-taught yet was able to make lots of money in his life which he used to help people. He started a school for Engineering, Architecture and Art which was free to men and women alike, regardless of religious or political belief. It is the Cooper Union in New York City and still famous today. Peter Cooper and his wife are also remembered as the inventors of Jell-O. The class will have a fun time building things with Jell-O cubes!

In Celebration of the Spirit of Invention,

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education



BY TEAGAN

BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM

Dear members and friends of UUSO,

You are invited to attend our online Board meeting via Zoom on Friday, March 8 from 7 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. in lieu of the February BOT meeting that was cancelled due to the weather. The meeting will last only 40 minutes due to the limits of Zoom (free use for multiple people). I will be conducting the meeting via Zoom in the OBH living room for anyone who does not have a computer/phone and wishes to attend the meeting. Guests are invited to observe, but do not participate in discussions or decisions during the meeting unless recognized by the Chair.

To access Zoom via computer, just click the link below. Make sure you have a camera built into your computer and have your sound turned on. A headset or earpiece may be helpful. To access with a phone, just call the number provided and type in the meeting ID when prompted.

Computer: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5897153495>

Phone: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 589 715 3495

I hope some of you will join us for the meeting on Friday.

Karen Palmer

Board President, UUSO

HOW WILL PIE SUNDAY WORK?

Our Pie Sunday event will take place during coffee hour on Sunday, March 17. If you can not attend service, come at noon and bring your friends.

**Raffle tickets will be priced at \$2 each, 3/\$5, 7/\$10, and 15/\$20.
Slices of pie will be sold for \$3. Please bring small bills for your purchase.**

The over 40 homemade pies donated will be displayed on long tables with signs stating the baker, the type of pie, and the pie number. Paper bags with the pie number will be next to the pie in which raffle tickets will be placed.

Attendees will purchase raffle tickets and pay for slices of pie at a table near the door. The first half of the drawing will be held at 12:15 PM, then we will wait a few minutes, to give people a chance to buy more tickets if they did not win, and the rest of the winners will be drawn.

Please note if the pie sign states that the pie plate needs to be returned to the baker the following Sunday.

We hope everyone will enjoy this fun and delicious community event.

SUNDAY MARCH 17TH - AFTER SERVICE

PIE SUNDAY

A raffle of donated homemade pies
to support our mission.



ANNUAL GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

Sunday March 10 is the official opening of the auction season! Our annual Goods and Services Auction is scheduled for Saturday April 27 in Chapin, so be sure this fun event is on your calendar!

Our most popular auction items are:

Events - beach/mountain getaway, local walks, craft class, field trips, concerts, opera

Food items - gourmet meals, soup/cookies/bread of the month, pies and cakes

Services - yardwork, technology help, massage certificate, music lessons, house repairs

Unique items in excellent condition – framed art, handmade quilts, exquisite jewelry; we've even had a canoe, snowshoes, and a snowboard!

We also want your most unique, beautiful, intriguing, delectable and beguiling smaller items for the Silent Auction tables. Please start thinking about the wonderful and valuable skills, services and items you have to donate and share at our auction! Feel free to call or email Arlana Young with your fabulous auction ideas.

People with clipboards will be circulating during coffee hour beginning March 10 to record donations you'd like to offer, snacks you'd like to bring, and time you'd like to volunteer.

Please give generously!

Arlana Young

YOUR ANNUAL PLEDGE AND THE BIG PICTURE

Last year we surpassed our goal of 95% percent of our households making a pledge. We achieved 98% participation—up from 71 % for the previous year. This year we hope to have the same percentage of participation.

Unlike some churches that have additional income from space rental and large endowments, the UUSO's budget is mostly dependent upon pledges. Your pledges make up 85% of our operating budget. Every pledge—every dollar makes a difference.

This year we are asking you to consider increasing your pledge by whatever amount is comfortable for you. When you think about the benefits you receive from being part of our UUSO family, a few dollars more a month is nominal compared to the priceless gift of being part of this community.

Thanks very much to those who have already pledged. If you would like to increase your pledge to help us meet our goal, please contact Kari Reynolds at 917-545-2350 or stewardship@uuso.org.

With gratitude and love,
The Stewardship and Fundraising Committee



KEEP
CALM
AND PUT YOUR
JAMMIES
ON

The UUSO Nursery will be having a pajama party for all who wish to participate on March 10th. Nursery attendees can wear their PJs and bring a special animal or toy they might sleep with.

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



In November, we elected a record number of women to Congress after a record number of women ran for office at every level of government. What effect will this wave of women have?

**Start Together Sunday*

With music by Kathy Shimberg, Robin Seletsky, & Yolanda Bush

Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco

Coffee Hour Host: Rosemary Summers & Cathi Wiltsey

Ushers: Rosalind Thomas & Sue Troost

Chancel Table: The Congregation

Sound System: Patrick Rost

REV. LADANA CLARK

God Does Not Discriminate

MARCH 17 | UUSO | 10:30AM

By building bridges between people of all faiths and beliefs, we can engage others effectively and remove religious, tribal, and political walls.

**Children's Worship at OBH*

With music by Michael & Dorothy Frye-Hunt

Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Host: Suzy Beddoe

Usher: Elayne Mosher-Campoli

Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller

Sound System: Julian Pecenco

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA**

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for the week of March 20th issue is March 18th, by 9AM.

Order of Service Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

UUSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karen Palmer	President
Amy Forster-Rothbart	Vice-President
Arlana Young	Treasurer
Adrienne Martini	Clerk
Mary Ruhoff	Moderator
Keith Willcox	
Nathan Elsener	
Jennifer Hyypio	
Rosemary Summers	



**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND
HAVE A FAITHFUL CONVERSATION.
TUESDAYS, AT OBH AT 11:30AM.**