



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of May 1, 2019

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Our Stewardship

By now, everyone has likely heard that we did not meet our stewardship goal for next year. We are somewhere around \$12,000 short of the amount we pledged last year, and significantly shy of our hopes for next year. This is disappointing news and has resulted in some deep hand-wringing and soul-searching for many of us. But the news is not all bleak.

We did receive pledges from over 98% of the folks we have on the pledging rolls. (Our counted pledge units.) That's a pretty phenomenal number-- one we should celebrate with pride. Kari R. and Pam S., of the Stewardship Committee, have analyzed the numbers from this year's pledges and have spoken to many of the folks that have reduced their pledges. Pledge reductions amounted to about \$26,000 this year. Around 80% of this reduction amount, according to voluntary reports from our pledgers, is due to health costs or other economic issues. Some folks have retired, others have switched jobs. Many have had to adjust their giving based on new or uncertain financial circumstances. These circumstances are most unfortunate, but they could not have been predicted and are not directly related to UUSO. We, as a congregation, can only express our gratitude for the amount these folks have been able to pledge and offer our support to them as they deal with these financial challenges. We are, after all, a community that cares for one another-- and we will continue to do so.

I will be reaching out to some of those who have shared their economic or health challenges with the Stewardship leaders to see if I can provide any pastoral care or support. Please know, per our policy and practice, that I do not know what people have pledged or even if they have lowered or raised their pledge. I have been given a list of people who might need and/or want a pastoral call. And so, that will be the sole purpose of my calling. Your pledge is your own concern. My concern is your well-being, spiritually and otherwise.

Stewardship is about more than money and numbers. It is about taking care of something you care about... and the people who make up this congregation are the greatest, most important part of our UUSO.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Of all you learn here, remember this the best
Don't hurt each other and clean up your mess.
Take a nap every day, wash before you eat
Hold hands, stick together,
Look before you cross the street.
Remember the seed in the little paper cup,
First the root goes down and then the plant grows up!*

-From "Kindergarten Wall" by John McCutcheon, based on an essay by UU Minister Robert Fulghum: "All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten"

The Religious Education Sunday Service was held April 28th. Many people worked to craft this service: Dorothy and Michael Frye-Hunt helped us learn the song, "Kindergarten Wall" and provided the perfect music for our day; the children bravely performed their parts; and Justine Roefs, Liz Jacob-Carter, Barbara Agoglia, Nathan Elsener and I presented some of what the children have been learning in RE this year. Barbara and Paul Agoglia created and hung a backdrop for us illustrating the famous UU's from the Explorer's class curriculum. Justine described two Hogwarts Oneonta lessons. Barbara helped in the Nursery, Nathan jumped in to help us by doing a dramatic reading of Professor Dumbledore from the Harry Potter books. He also put up a very long paper chain of which the children were very proud.

I also thanked all of you, Rev. Craig and the UUSO Staff, RE Teachers, and the RE Committee for the support, time, attention, and wisdom given to create this place where children are welcomed and supported to access Spirit in the way that is right for each of them. You have given kind words, followed us in this newsletter, worked on committees and the Board of Trustees, and helped financially to keep the RE program running smoothly.

This year there were teaching teams of 4 adults for most of the classes. This allowed them to teach two Sundays per month and to be able to attend services if they wished. This seemed to work well and we will continue to do this next year. Some people were surprised at the number of people working with our children and youth each Sunday. It takes many of us to create our quality RE experience! Below are the people who were teachers and RE Committee members.

DRE Assistant: Barbara Agoglia

Nursery: Abby Dent, Sara Hendley, Avery Piefer, and Kara Piefer

Explorers: Carolyn Cooper, Dorothy Frye-Hunt, Amy Forster Rothbart and Sallie Han

Hogwarts: Jenn Buffington, Laura Reyda, Kevin Schultz and Cathi Wiltsey

OWL: Deb Bruce, Rhiannon Ham, Adina Johnson, and Chris Wolf-Gould

YRUU: Elayne Mosher Campoli and Anthony Roefs

RE Committee Members: Chair Deb Bruce, Board Liaison Amy Forster Rothbart, Barbara Agoglia, Liz Jacob-Carter, Laura Reyda, Anthony Roefs, and Justine Roefs.

I am so grateful for this welcoming and caring community,

Susan Ryder

UUSO Director of Religious Education

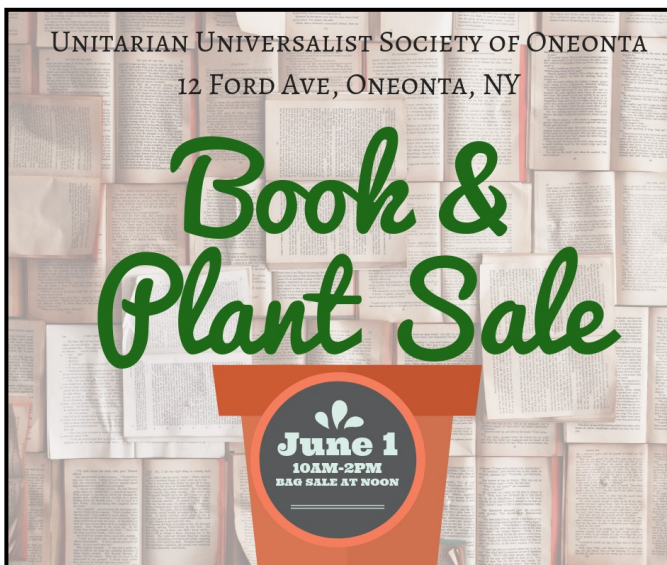
OUR UUSO BUDGET MEETING---YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

All members and friends are invited to a meeting to discuss the UUSO budget for our fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

This Sunday-- May 5 at 12:15, in the front of the sanctuary, we will meet to discuss and decide how to delegate our projected income to fund our programs, administration, and personnel. With this year's shortfall in pledges, this will be a challenging task and we want all stakeholders to have the opportunity to give their input.

The budget that is proposed at this meeting will be presented at the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 19.

Thank you.
The Finance Committee



The Annual UUSO Book and Plant Sale is coming May 31 and June 1. Start combing through your books and checking out your gardens to see what you might want to donate - and replace with something else from the sale! But please find other homes for textbooks, encyclopedias, moldy books, magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or anything recorded off the TV or radio. More information to follow. Contact Deb Bruce at 433-0356 with any questions.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Spring is finally here! And with it, I've received numerous emails asking about committee annual reports. Rest assured, they're not due. The Board of Trustees determined last fall that it makes more sense to request and present them once the church year had been completed, so they'll be due September 1, to be presented at the October Congregational Meeting.

The new printed directory will also be presented by this meeting. Please be sure to log in to your Realm account and double-check your directory listing, and upload your favorite photos. Most profiles have the images from the last photo directory, so they could likely use an updating.

The church office will be closed Friday, May 3.

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 this Sunday, May 5th, 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 sidewalk 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 secure basement door and NOT allow people to go downstairs.

Two members of the Board of Trustees or other designees:

Should proceed immediately to Ford Ave and stop oncoming 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.

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 the Choir is singing that day they should exit through the Chancel Closet door.
- 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.
- If fire is at OBH; children will meet parents when OBH is clear they will be brought to Chapin.

Exit Plan for OBH:

- If fire in Chapin stay in place until leadership comes to bring occupants to CANO.
- 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.

OPEN CHALICE CIRCLE

Curious about small group ministry? Want to connect with others while exploring topics of spirituality? Join us for a special, short-term Chalice Circle facilitated by Rev. Craig Schwalenberg. Chalice Circles, also known as Covenant Groups or Small Group Ministry, are intentional gatherings that allow and encourage participants to practice active listening and spiritual exploration. Since several people have expressed an interest in this experience but were unable to commit to coming every week, we have decided to make this Chalice Circle a drop-in style group. All are welcome to join whenever they can. Normally, a Chalice Circle meets every two weeks for 2 hours for the span of church year (7-8 months) and requires participants to commit to attending most of the sessions. This limited-term, drop-in Chalice Circle will meet only 7 times on Friday mornings from 10a - 11:30a on the following dates: 5/10, 5/17, 5/31, 6/7, and 6/14. We will gather in the front parlor (Mara Kern Library) of Olympia Brown House. While an RSVP is not required, Rev. Craig will be sending out materials for each Chalice Circle a couple of days before—so letting him know you are coming will ensure you get the materials ahead of time.

GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION NEWS

From Arlana Young

We had a GREAT time – so sorry if you missed it!

I want to express my tremendous gratitude and thanks to everyone who helped with the event, everyone who donated goods, services or food and everyone who attended. Some of you are getting thanked three times in that sentence! I especially want to thank Jane Bachman and Rhiannon Ham for the hours and hours of work and preparation done long before the event, beginning about two months ago.

I also want to thank our fabulous auctioneers – Rosemary Summers, Ben Friedell and Duncan Smith – for making the live auction so enjoyable with jokes, song, stories and dramatic auctioneering. And many thanks to our exquisitely dressed Van/Vanna's – Carl O'Shea and Ellen Phillips!

A large cast of friends and members helped with setup, greeting, kitchen, recording and payment of sales, and breakdown. It takes a village . . . and we have a really good one. Gratitude and thanks to all of you!

We raised about \$8500 at the auction, and we can still raise a little more, as several of the Wall items have spaces left. Those sheets will stay on the bulletin board through next Sunday, so please fill them up and let's break \$9000!

In particular, there are still several opportunities for attending the Hymn Sing and the Lawn Games and Lunch (children welcome at the latter). Both are lots of fun (I've been at both of them in past years!) with absolutely delicious food and fun company. And I think there is still some May wine and panettone available too!

ANNUAL MEETING ON THE HORIZON

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the UUSO will be held Sunday, May 19, at 12 noon in the Sanctuary, at 12 Ford Avenue. At this meeting Nominees for Board, Committee on Ministry, Moderator and Nominating Committee will be presented; revisions to the Society Bylaws and Endowment Committee Bylaws will be considered; and a draft budget will be presented. All Members are encouraged to attend.

Mary Ruhoff, Moderator

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



“That’s a good question.”
That’s our way of stalling while
we think of an answer.
Why do we need to stall?
What are we afraid of?
Those are good questions.

**Start Together*
With music by Music Director Tim Horne.
Worship Associate: Rosemary Summers

Coffee Hour Host: Carol Malz
Ushers: Sallie Han & Sue Troost
Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas
Sound System: Beth Small



On this day, we tend to celebrate our families.
But for some, it isn’t about their genetic family;
but, rather, about their chosen family.
Come explore our vertical and horizontal families.

**Start Together*
With music by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO
Choir.
Worship Associate: Justine Roefs

Coffee Hour Host: Arlana Young & Pam Strother
Usher: Che Baysinger & Elayne Mosher Campoli
Chancel Table: Dotty Hudson
Sound System: Paul Carter

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA**

16 Ford Ave.
Oneonta, NY 13820

Phone: 607-432-3491
Email: UUSO@uuso.org
www.uuso.org
Sanctuary at 12 Ford Ave.

The Rev. Craig Schwalenberg
Minister
revcraig@uuso.org
Tues-Thu: 10-3
(Appointments recommended)

Evelyn Warren
Editor & Office Administrator
uuso@uuso.org
Tues-Fri: 10-3

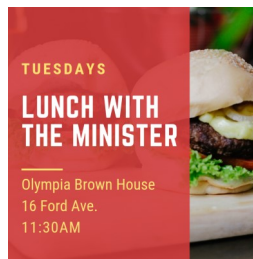
Susan Ryder
Director of Religious Education
607-643-1927
dre@uuso.org

Karen Palmer
Board President
607-267-4793

Tim Horne
Music Director
607-432-7323



@UUSOneonta



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

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	

UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for the week of May 15 issue is May 12th at 9AM, sent to newsletter@uuso.org.

Order of Service Announcements:
Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service
(Please send to OOS@uuso.org)

Verbal Announcements:
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service