



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of January 10, 2018

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Minister's Musings - Hollywood Edition

This month, there are three different movies in the theaters that are related to important figures and events in Unitarian Universalist history. Unfortunately, our parts in the stories aren't mentioned in any of the movies (to the best of my knowledge.) So, I thought I might highlight them here. They might make for interesting conversations with your friends. (Think of it as a version of Popcorn Theology or cinematic evangelism.) I haven't seen any of these movies yet - though they have each received positive reviews.

- The Man Who Invented Christmas <https://bleeckerstreetmedia.com/themanwhoinventedchristmas>

This movie, based on the book of the same name written by Les Standiford, tells the story of Charles Dickens and his struggle to write his holiday opus, *A Christmas Carol*. Some years ago, an English newspaper called Charles Dickens "The Man Who Invented Christmas." While it seems pretty grandiose statement, it isn't too far off. At the time, many Christian religions were against celebrating Christmas in any secular way. Many employers did not recognize Christmas as a holiday-- and certainly not one that required a day off. Charles Dickens' tale of Scrooge and Tiny Tim and the four ghosts painted a completely different picture of Christmas-- one that involved families, feasts, and generosity to the poor. While Charles Dickens did attend a Unitarian church for several years and his religious views were quite in line with ours and we claim him as a Unitarian figure <http://uudb.org/articles/charlesdickens.html>; he never officially joined a Unitarian church.

- The Greatest Showman <https://www.foxmovies.com/movies/the-greatest-showman>
This musical is a fanciful retelling of the story of P.T. Barnum-- often referred to as the "Greatest Showman on Earth". P.T. Barnum <http://uudb.org/articles/ptbarnum.html> was a proud Universalist and a member of the Rev. Olympia Brown's church in New England. He was a strong advocate for Universalism and for Women's suffrage, speaking on causes and publishing pamphlets in support of them. On the other hand, his treatment of animals in his shows contributed to the formation of the NY American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. (Formed by Unitarian Henry Bergh. <http://uudb.org/articles/henrybergh.html>) Some people claim Barnum was a racist for his treatment of the performers in his "side-shows". Others claim he treated them better than most of society and cared for them deeply. Having read several of his autobiographies, I can say that he was a complicated person with his share of flaws, but a fascinating part of our history.

- The Post <https://www.foxmovies.com/movies/the-post>
The Post tells part of the story of the publication of the Pentagon Papers in the early 1970s. Both the New York Times and the Post had been ordered by the government to stop publishing excerpts of the leaked Pentagon Papers. Daniel Ellsberg, who had leaked the documents, turned to the Unitarian Universalist Senator, Mike Gravel, in hopes that he could release the papers in their entirety. Senator Gravel entered the documents into the public record as part of filibuster against the draft and then turned the papers over to the Unitarian Universalist

(Continued on page 3)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our RE January Sessions have begun. We will spend the first three Sundays in January having workshops on the theme of "Beginnings." The fourth Sunday, January 28th, we'll present an intergenerational service in the sanctuary where we'll share some of our experiences.

The first workshop on January 7th included stories about the beginnings of everything. Children and Youth were fascinated as Mary Ruhoff spoke about biblical stories of our beginnings. She had great props to illustrate the bible story of how creation lasted six days with the seventh being the day god rested. She told of a second story in the bible where god created man, Adam, from dust and woman, Eve, from Adam's rib. We wondered how it might have happened that two different stories were included in the same bible. We wondered at the biblical order of the six days of creation and how plants were made before the sun came into existence. We wondered that the light god had created out of the darkness in the very beginning was perhaps different from the light of the sun that he created later. Mary hinted that we might be hearing about this light next week when we look at a more scientific view of creation. We are grateful for Mary's visit and presentation of these versions of creation. She told biblical stories in an interesting way that lead to many questions and discussion. Many of the children hadn't met her before and will now look for her when they next are in the sanctuary when the choir is performing.

Deb Bruce and Justine Roefs presented a non-biblical story of creation where the goddess Gaia created herself. Gaia spun night into day and life from her laughter. Creation involved more spinnings which produced the earth, the seas, and all creatures. We all practiced spinning around and creating all sounds (you perhaps heard us doing this part) and we practiced spewing all life from our laughter.

Caitlin told us a Greek story of a god breathing life into men and women.

Could all the stories be true? Could people believe more than one thing at the same time? Why do people of all times need to know where we came from? What about all the other stories? Mary said people seem to learn and remember best from stories. We had another interesting discussion.

We look forward to two more Sundays of exploring this topic. We will look at what science tells us about creation and evolution as scientists Kevin Schultz and Florian Reyda visit the group next Sunday, Jan. 14th. On January 20th we'll look at the beginning of our church as our guest, John Bagby, will visit as the Reverend Chapin.

I am delighted to take part in these explorations with the children and youth. I am grateful for our adult guests who participate.

In Peace and Wonder,

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

Association's publishing company, Beacon Press. [<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-supported-publication-pentagon-papers>] The UUA was investigated by the US Justice Department, but the investigation ended when the incidents of Watergate came to light.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

The "Red Door" Church
(aka First United
Presbyterian)
Corner of Main Street &
Walling Avenue

Invites the community to a
Dollar Dinner
With Live Music

Sunday, January 28, 2018
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Chicken & Biscuits
Salad, Fruit, and Dessert

Suggested Donation: \$1.00
Children age 6 years and
under - FREE

*Take-outs not available
until 6:15 PM*

Call (607) 432-7520 for
more info.

CRAFTING CLUB

Meets the second Saturday of every month in the
Sanctuary from 2-4pm.

Any craft is welcome; any level is welcome. We teach
how to knit or crochet, if interested. Goals: make shawls
or other items for pastoral care and socializing.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Jen Riley
at tangledmania@gmail.com.



**GET
CREATIVE
AND
JOIN
CRAFT CLUB**



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

**Central East
Region**



Save the Date!

APRIL 13-14, 2018

**SEAWAY UU
SPRING GATHERING**

Friday, April 13

**Gould Discourse
& Coffee House**

**Saturday,
April 14**

**Keynote:
Rev. Megan Foley**

**Workshops
(Apply now!)**

Youth Overnight

**Closing Worship
and Bridging**

**1ST UU SOCIETY
OF SYRACUSE
109 WARING RD,
SYRACUSE, NY 13224**

UU NEWS

Congratulations to Robin Ahearn on her new position as Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady. Robin is a member of UUSO and worked as our Office Administrator for 14 years. Robin started in her new position on Sunday, January 7th. The UUSO staff looks forward to working with Robin in her role and wishes her all the best with her new ministry.

FAMILY SERVICES ADOPT-A-FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year we adopted four families which included 11 children and 7 adults, and it was spectacular! The congregation could not have been more generous. Every wish on the 80 tags of the four families was fulfilled and then some. Each family received an assortment of gift cards for a grocery store, a movie theatre, NYSEG, gas station and a restaurant in addition to any gift card that a child specifically wished for.

Rhiannon Hamm and Carol Malz delivered the unwrapped gifts to FSA where the adults in each household picked them up and wrapped them. These deserving families were chosen in August by the staff who had interacted with them throughout the year. Most years FSA can't find sponsors for all the families applying. A household receiving gifts one year cannot expect to be chosen to receive gifts any other year from FSA.

—Social Action Team

BOOKS OF RECORDS

The Memorial Committee is planning to have the Books of Records available for viewing in the sanctuary after the church service this Sunday, January 14th. The books contain obituaries, orders of memorial services, and pictures of deceased members, friends and some members of their families of our Oneonta Unitarian-Universalist Society.

Forms will also be available for those who want the Committee to know that they wish to have their names on the Memorial Plaque after they have passed. (The Memorial Plaque is permanently located on the wall at the back of the sanctuary.)

CITIZEN CLARK SCREENING

The Community Arts Network of Oneonta (CANO) will screen UUSO member Joseph Stillman's documentary film "Citizen Clark... A Life of Principle" for a benefit event on Sunday, January 21st at 2:00pm at the Wilber Mansion. The award-winning film on former U.S. Attorney General and Human Rights Activist Ramsey Clark, covers a ninety-year period from 1927 to the present. Admission is \$10 with all proceeds going towards CANO's general operating fund.

DISCUSSION OF NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL

Rev. Craig and Board President, Karen Palmer, will be presenting an information and discussion session regarding the Board's exploration of the new mission-based governance model. This will be held on Sunday, January 14 at 12pm in the Sanctuary. This will likely be of particular interest to those involved in UUSO committees/teams. All members and friends are welcome.

LETTER WRITING PARTY

Sunday, January 14th, 4-5:30pm at Roots, 175 Main St in Oneonta

Hosted by the Tri-County Women's Coalition

Help create an avalanche of letters to rise above hate speech in our community. Join us to develop letters to the editors that support our values of diversity, equality and justice. We will have examples and support for those new to this, and if you have experience let me know if you can help!

Poster Making: Otsego Pride Alliance is also co-hosting a poster making party to prepare for Women's March 2018 the following weekend. There are several regional marches near and far, get ready for all of them at this event.



CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

Last fall our community began the process of developing a new congregational covenant. In our first meeting we brainstormed dozens of ideas to include in the new document. The Covenant Sub-Committee has pared down the substantial original list to bring you the following draft of a covenant. This is by no means final, but a first look at what we, as a community, are working toward. There will be a poster size copy of this draft on the bulletin board for our January 14th service. Please talk about this with others, and with the sub-committee. We will be organizing small groups to discuss with anyone who wants to participate. Thank you for your time and interest in developing this very important document.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta is a covenantal community. While we hold many beliefs, we are committed to each other, to our shared search for truth and meaning, and to our work towards building the beloved community. As our covenant, we commit to the following.

We get involved and help where we can.

We strive to be open, honest, and respectful.

We are generous with our time and our support for this institution and each other.

We actively welcome and encourage diversity while seeking shared understanding and common ground.

We recognize that we will not always agree, but we are committed to staying engaged and in right relationship.

We will honor our commitments; if we can't, we will communicate that.

We believe that problems are best addressed directly person to person and when an issue has not been resolved directly we will ask for assistance.

We will respect and maintain boundaries while still promoting community.

We recognize we will make mistakes and sometimes hurt one another; we would like to assume this is unintentional and that we can move forward together.

We recognize the potential for change.

We expect the best from each other.

We recognize the need for confidentiality and discretion and the possible harm of keeping secrets.

We are committed to making this a space where everyone of all ages is welcome, safe, and valued.

We recognize and appreciate our roles in and commitments to this community.

We recognize our human imperfections and our likelihood to fall short of our covenant. We believe in forgiveness and share the responsibility for maintaining this covenant and holding each other accountable to our commitments.

SHARING OUR FAITH—SHARING OUR DREAMS

Your Stewardship Committee has been meeting and planning for the new year. This year's committee consists of Kari Reynolds, Paul Robinson, Pam Strother, chair Judy Tator and board liaison Nathan Elsener. Our theme this year is SHARING OUR FAITH-SHAPING OUR DREAMS.

During the Next Steps weekend in November, stewardship consultant Liz Coit assisted us in defining the roles of our committee to better serve the needs of UUSO. She helped us define our primary goal: expressing our gratitude for all the generous support our members and friends give to UUSO throughout the year. In addition to very important and necessary monetary support, this amazing congregation gifts us with time and talent over and over again. In this year of stewardship, let us nurture a culture of gratitude where each one of us expresses our thanks to those who perform the tasks that keep our church community running smoothly.

There are dozens of ways our members and friends serve our congregation. To all of you who send cards, make food for events at church, keep our kitchen clean, change light bulbs, decorate the chancel table, serve on committees, help at Habitat, serve at Saturday's Bread, tell a neighbor about UUSO -- thank you! We are all stewards of UUSO helping to serve the needs of our congregation, maintaining our buildings and doing our work in the world beyond our doors. Every one of us is an important part of our continuing work together creating beloved community, freely seeking the light and reaching for a better world.

COOKIES AND CRAFTS FOLLOW-UP

Don't worry, we're NOT asking you to make cookies (until next year)! We are writing to THANK YOU for your help at the 30th annual C & C. The volunteers were upbeat and helpful, the cookies were more fabulous than ever, the kitchen ran smoothly and the food was delish! The elves in the basement arranged the cookies just so, the poster hanger-upper hung the posters with care, the raffle was organized well, and the inventory and bookkeeping were incomparable.

The final numbers:

Total vendor share: \$8635.00

Cookie Sales: \$1129.00

Soup, muffins: \$390.00

Raffle: \$239.00

Gourmet table: \$707.00

TOTAL UU SHARE: \$3760.64

Gracias, Merci, Grazie, Arigato, Khop Khun Mak Kha
The C & C Committee

There is one more raffle item waiting in the office for pick up, please send me an email if these are yours.

-Liz Jacob-Carter

TWO CHURCHES ON HUNT STREET

Bob Brzozowski (UUSO Historian and member)

A former church building and a church were once located on Hunt Street, the street east of the post office, now much shorter than it was decades ago. The former church building was Oneonta's first Universalist church. The church was Anna Memorial African Methodist Episcopal. The denomination dates to 1787, when racism led African Americans to leave their Methodist Episcopal church in Philadelphia. The new group kept its historic Methodist Episcopal name but was a Wesleyan denomination.



The AME church was on a once private road known as Hunt Street Extension. It extended from the Oneonta Creek north to Main Street, more or less what is now known simply as Hunt Street. The former Universalist church building was on what was once called Hunt Street, extending from Fair Street north to the Creek. This original Hunt Street was lost to Lettis Highway construction.

Universalists had been meeting in Oneonta since 1852, incorporated in 1877, and built their first church in 1879. Chapin Memorial Universalist church was moved from its original location on Ford Avenue to Hunt Street in 1893. By then, the congregation had outgrown the wooden church. It was replaced by the current brick church, also named after Rev. Edwin Hubbel Chapin, the acclaimed Universalist orator who presided at the 1879 church's dedication, his last before his death in 1880. The building stood at 23 Hunt Street. The 1934 city directory states that Traver-MacKay Paint Shop and the Oneonta Hop Packing Company warehouse shared the building. The 1935 directory lists the hop warehouse alone, and the 1936 directory list only the Richfield Oil Co. The building is then entered as vacant until 1943, when it was occupied by O.J. Bagnardi through 1947. In 1949 Angellotti Bros. are listed at 23-25 Hunt, but after that the address is listed as vacant, then not listed in 1968 and beyond.

Anna Memorial African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) church was formed in the 1920s. The 14 Hunt Street location had an auditorium in the basement with the parsonage on the first and second floors. A succession of ministers was listed in the city directories, from Rev. Richard F. Waite in 1925 to Rev. James Sterlington in 1941-42. The directories from 1943 through 1949 list the church, but no minister. The directories from 1951 to 1955 list the building as vacant. The building is not listed after that, having been condemned in 1956 and then demolished.

This was the neighborhood of Angellotti's Grocery at 11 Fair Street. Roslyn Niles relates that her mother, Edith Angellotti, was born in 1912 in the house that was to be the A.M.E. church and that her mother packaged hops in the former Universalist church building. The accompanying photo, circa 1928, shows Roslyn's uncle, Joseph Angellotti, Jr., known as Juny, and the family dog Teddie, with the former church building in the background.

Thanks to Roslyn Niles and Monet Rothenburg for their assistance. Sources include Oneonta city directories, Mark Simonson's Backtracking column of February 12-13, 2011, and a history of the national and international A.M.E church at <https://www.ame-church.com/our-church/our-history/>

2017-2018 Last Wednesdays Film Series (Season 2) on:

PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

I Am Not Your Negro

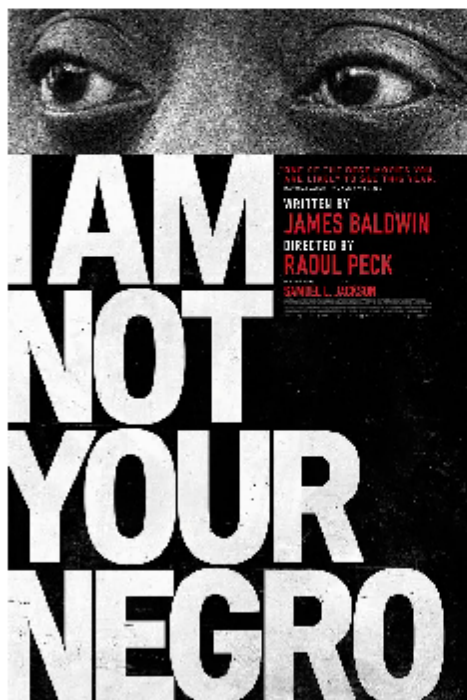
Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta (UUSO)

12 Ford Ave, Oneonta, NY

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Vegetarian Meal at 6:00 pm.

Screening at 7:00 pm. Discussion to follow.

Free of Charge. Childcare available.*



I Am Not Your Negro
(2016) filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished—a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of Baldwin's close friends:
Medgar Evers
Malcolm X
and
Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Childcare available—Contact UUSO Office by Monday, January 29, 2018, with ages and number of children.
Email uuso@uuso.org or call 607-432-3491.



UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Our faith tradition came out of two
separate streams,
Unitarianism and Universalism.
Each with it's own origin story full
of meaning and challenge.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
and the UUSO Choir.

Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Carol Malz

Ushers: April Gates & Need Volunteer

Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller

Sound System: Patrick Rost



How did two faiths become one?
Why did they do so?
It wasn't an easy decision
or an easy process, but it is a good story
-- and an instructive one even now.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
and the UUSO Choir.

Worship Associate: Caroline Bagby

Coffee Hour Hosts: **Need Volunteers**

Ushers: **Need Volunteers**

Chancel Table: Patricia Engel LaFata

Sound System: Lisa Barr

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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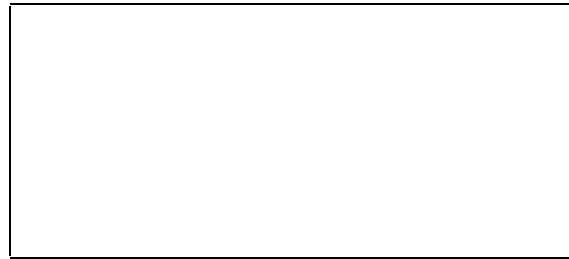
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Facebook.com/UUSOneonta



UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for January 24th issue
is January 22nd, 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



With the cold temperatures, think about wearing layers of clothing rather than jacking up the heat. You may also want to ask your energy provider about an “Energy Audit” similar to one that UUSO participated in recently. You may find out where energy can be conserved within your home and save big bucks while also reducing carbon emissions.

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