



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of March 21st, 2018

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Hear ye? Hear ye?

Over the last month or so, we have experienced a few issues with our sound system in the sanctuary. One of our pulpit microphones has ceased functioning, so we are down to one sound channel for the service. We have also experienced an issue at several services where the sound loop, the wire that encircles the sanctuary and broadcasts the service directly to specially enabled hearing devices, has been broadcasting at a lower volume or not at all. Scott Segar, our Audio Tech Coordinator, and several of our Audio Techs, are working to track down these audio bugs and fix them. We are looking at options for replacing the pulpit microphones. In the meantime, we ask for your patience and your understanding. If you are having an issue with the sound system on Sunday morning, please let an Usher know. They will alert the volunteer working the sound system who will adjust the controls to fix the problem. Remember, if you are having a problem with the sound system, you are probably not the only one. So, letting the usher know will help everyone. Please do try not to disrupt the service, though. Together, we will work to find a solution so our worship services are available and welcoming to all.

Spring Worship Services

The Spring Worship Calendar is included with this newsletter (in its printed form) and will be available online soon. Here are some of the highlights planned in the Spring quarter:

- Annual Geek Sermon will be on April 15th and will focus on the joy of cooking, baking, communing, and conviving. I plan to make some food to share with everyone.

- At the Religious Education service on April 29th, we'll thank our R.E. volunteers and honor our graduation seniors. The semi-annual COAST (Coming Of Age Spiritual Trek) service on May 20th will give our youth

a chance to share their discoveries about their own faith and beliefs with our congregation.

- Before the Congregational Meeting on May 6th, we'll have a special collaborative service with the music of Yolanda Bush and Michael & Dorothy Frye-Hunt exploring the place where ideas intersect and souls meet. Another collaborative service will take place on June 10th, when the Rev. Kimberly Debus will be having a faithful conversation with me about our personal beliefs and musical friend of UUSO, Kiya Heartwood, will be providing music for service. (The Board has recommended contracting with Rev. Kimberly to provide some ministerial support and coverage during my sabbatical later this year. The congregation will be voting on this proposal as part of the budget at the congregational meeting in May.)

- Pulpit guests will include our own Ginny Scheer on April 22nd and community leader Nettie Jean Scarzafava on May 27th.

- The annual favorite, the UUSO Poetry service, will take place on June 24th with Pam Strother coordinating and leading the weaving of words.

- We'll explore UU History on Mother's Day and Father's Day, looking at some of our faith's founding mothers and fathers. And we'll make time on Mother's Day, May 13th, for a child dedication. (If you would like to have your child dedicated or have questions about this traditional ritual, please contact me before May 1st.) It's going to be a great quarter for worship-- even better when you are there!

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It isn't, at first glance, apparent that spring is coming. There is much snow on the ground. We expect to have our annual Easter Party and Can Hunt on April first. We'll start out for Time for All Ages in the sanctuary while cans are being hidden by Youth. It is quite possible we will need to hide them inside if the outside still has standing snow. This has happened before and doesn't dampen (or freeze) our spirits.

I do, however, see buds on the lilacs, silly daffodils starting to pop up, and some wonderful sunshine. I think of the sunny days ahead as I am putting together the schedule for the rest of the RE year.

We will have two intergenerational services in the coming quarter. We will celebrate our teachers, volunteers, as well as our youth who will be graduating from high school on April 29th. May 20th will be the "I Believe" service where we honor those who have completed their Coming-of-Age Program, COAST. Classes for Explorers (children in K-3rd grade who are learning about the interdependence of all life) will have lessons called: *Birds, Grains, Clean Water, Our Bodies as Miracles, and a Day to Remember Our Year Together*. Seekers (those in 4th and 5th grade who have the Popcorn Theology curriculum) will watch clips from the movies: *Brave, Wall-E, Frozen, Up, and Jungle Book*. Classes will be about Responsibility, The Seventh UU Principle, Imperfection, Adventure, and Being All You Can Be. COAST (6-8th grade) will be meeting informally with mentors, exploring other faiths, finishing their service projects, and writing faith statements to be read at their May 20th service. They will have a "Circle of Life" retreat April 6-8th. They will undertake their pilgrimage to Boston May 4-6th. YRUU (grades 9-12) will continue to set their own schedule of class meetings and attending services together. We will have an All-Youth Canoe Trip on June 10 and finish the RE year with an All-RE Ice cream party on June 17.

YRUU member, Caroline Bagby, has received the Oneonta Common Council Trailblazer Award. She joins two other women who will receive their awards during a reception at City Hall, in downtown Oneonta, at 6:15 p.m. March 20th. According to the Oneonta Daily Star, "A trailblazer is defined as someone who has opened the pathways for others to follow . . . and as someone who could be described as a pioneer, a forerunner or a mover and shaker." We are so proud and happy for her!

Spring is coming!

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education
dre@uuso.org

The RE Program is looking for donations of canned food for their Easter Can Hunt. Please leave cans in the collection boxes in the back of the sanctuary and on the office porch of the Olympia Brown House.

Thank-You!

SAVE THE DATE -- SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

The Mali Education Project invites the congregation and community to our annual Mali Banquet Buffet fundraiser to benefit Youchaou's School in Bamako, Mali. This year we will feature Egyptian cuisine and a presentation by Dr. Julie Licata's SUNY Oneonta West African Drumming class. We hope you can join us for the festivities.

For further info and reservations, please contact Carolyn Wolf-Gould at 607-434-3303 or cswolfgould@gmail.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SHARING OUR FAITH – SHAPING OUR DREAMS

We're looking for 4 more pledge forms! The Stewardship Committee has been working hard this year. Setting a goal of 95% of the pledge forms to be returned has been a challenge. Thanks to the help of all of you, we have nearly reached the goal and the gift of \$2000 extra in pledges from two anonymous donors. We have received 141 pledge forms and we need 145 forms returned to reach the 95% goal! We'd be thrilled if EVERYONE, 100% of us, returned a pledge form but, for now, we're concentrating on 4 more forms....



THANK YOU

People, Not Pipelines thanks the UUSO Endowment Committee for the generous \$150 grant it awarded us in December 2017.

Our small all-volunteer group applied for the grant to help fund a postcard project addressing New York's increasing use of climate-destabilizing fracked gas. The cards call on Governor Cuomo to 1) halt NY's gas-infrastructure build-out and 2) initiate a swift transition to renewable energy.

We've printed 2,500 postcards so far, featuring three different messages; about half have already been signed and mailed. Thanks to the UUSO members who signed cards at the March 18 service. And, of course, thank you all for welcoming us into the UUSO.

To learn more about us, please follow us at facebook.com/PeopleNotPipelines.

LISTEN UP MEMBERS

At their meeting on February 21, the Board of Trustees approved the use of emails and the UUSO website to notify UUSO Members of Congregational Meetings. All UUSO Members with email addresses on file will receive these notices electronically. Members with no email address on record will receive hard copies of the meeting notices, as will any Member who requests a hard copy.

This move to electronic communication will save significant cost in terms of paper, ink, postage, and the time of the Office Administrator.

Hard copies of the agenda and pertinent documents also still be available at Congregational Meetings.

- Mary Ruhoff, Moderator

DESSERT THEATER RETURNS MAY 12!

The UU Players will present Erma Bombeck's "Motherhood: The Second Oldest Profession" on Saturday, May 12 at the UUSO. There will be two performances: a matinee at 2:00 PM, and an evening show at 7:00PM. Since this is the day before Mother's Day, it is the perfect opportunity for a fun way to honor the Mom in your life, so be sure to save the date!

In the meantime, assistance is sought for the following:

1. Publicity - helping with announcements, press releases, and hanging flyers
2. Tickets - printing and selling tickets, handling reservations
3. Desserts Coordinator - recruit dessert contributions and manage kitchen activities during and after the two performances

Please contact Rosemary Summers (rosemarysummers@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in this always fun fundraiser!

Thanks!

BEING MORTAL AND WHAT MATTERS IN THE END

by Donna Behrendt and Bob Brzozowski

Being Mortal: Medicine & What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande is a thought-provoking book. It explores how our lives can continue to be meaningful to the end of life and how modern medicine often prevents that from happening. Dr. Gawande relates moving experiences with family members and with his patients, as well as national trends like assisted living and nursing home innovations in New Berlin.

We invite you to join us to discuss this important book in four sessions on the medical and ethical issues surrounding the end of life. The first session will be held at 4:30 PM on Sunday April 15 in the Gathering Room at Chapin Memorial. *Being Mortal* is available in paperback at The Green Toad Bookstore. Mention that you are part of the UUSO group reading the book and receive a 20% discount.

Space is limited. To reserve a place, or if you have questions, contact one of us: Donna Behrendt (267-3338, OneontaDonna@gmail.com) or Bob Brzozowski (431-9509 or rjbrzozowski@msn.com).

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR VOLUNTEERS

At the February Board meeting, a confidentiality agreement for volunteers was presented to the Board for approval to address the need for some volunteers to have access to pledging and other financial data. The form was approved and is now available on our website under the Members> Online Documents> Policies section. <http://uusoo.org/uuso-policies/>

ANNUAL REPORTS

It's annual report time!

Annual reports are due no later than April 16th this year (at 9AM), to allow time for your committees and teams to meet, if necessary.

- Please make the subject of your emailed report easily searchable using this format: "Annual Report 2017-2018 ___ Committee/Team".
- Please send in reports electronically so there's less processing delay. (It's a lot easier to find one member of a committee to type up their report than to find a volunteer to type up five handwritten ones..)

Here's the format we're following this year.

- Committee/Team
- Committee/Team Chair:
- Board Liaison:
- Committee/Team Members (please indicate titles, if any):
- Mission Statement:
- Summary of Goals and Accomplishments (or just "Accomplishments"):
- Looking ahead — preliminary goals and issues for next year:

Thank you for all that you do!

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Let's talk about God, known by so many names. A God that builds relationships inclusively, through diverse, hands-on, unconditional Agape, a love for all people.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Carol Malz
Ushers: Mary Ambrose
Chancel Table: Mary Ambrose
Sound System: Patrick Rost



Easter Sunday and April Fools' Day sounds like the perfect time to explore Jesus as a Divine Fool and Trickster, and the power and prestige of his resurrection.

**Start Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Deb Bruce
Ushers: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Scott Segar

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for April 4th issue
Is April 2nd, 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

UUSO GREEN SANCTUARY CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

The UUSO Green Sanctuary Team has created a survey for our members and friends—see the link below. It is only 10 multiple choice questions and should take only about 5 minutes! We ask that you complete the survey by April 22 which happens to be Earth Day. This is a part of our required assessment process toward becoming accredited by the UUA as a Green Sanctuary. We will be presenting the full Green Sanctuary assessment results during the May 7 Annual Congregational meeting and then launch the next phase which is the development of Action Plans. Please know that your completion of the survey is very important even if you don't feel you are doing a lot for the environment. This will be our baseline to measure our collective progress in the future! Thanks so much for taking the time to complete the survey and move us closer to Green Sanctuary accreditation!

The Green Sanctuary Team

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z63BMT5>

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