



UU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

May 24, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

UUSO CHURCH MICE

The Beginning

On Sunday, May 21st, a double handful of our youngest UUSO community members met in the Gathering Room in the basement of Chapin Memorial to form the official UUSO Church Mice Club. The meeting started with a vote (because UUs support the democratic process) about whether to start on time or to wait a few minutes for those who might arrive late. (They voted to wait two minutes.) Then, with a hearty, fun "SQEEEEEEK!" the meeting came to order. The first order of business was the creation of a Church Mice Covenant. (UUs are a covenantal community, after all!)

UUSO Church Mice Covenant:

1. Church Mice are Nice!

(To each other, to UUSO members, and especially to new people of all ages!)

2. Church Mice Help Out!

(After Sunday Services, Church Mice help pick up and clean our shared sanctuary space.)

3. Church is Fun!

(Church Mice believe everything we do at church can be fun!)

The second order of business was creating a list of ways they would help out.

Church Mouse To-Do List

- ~ Help move chairs (if big enough)
- ~ Count stacked chairs (no more than four!)
- ~ Take things from/to kitchen
- ~ [Secret Pulpit Task] (shhhh... it's a secret)
- ~ Pick up stuff
- ~ Use the Sweeper
- ~ Help the Adult (Check in with Kitchen Adult or Worship Associate)

The third order of business was deciding how they would organize and work together. After some discussion, it was decided that whoever was the oldest Church Mouse present that Sunday will be the Lead Mouse. The Lead Mouse is responsible for making sure every Church Mouse has something helpful to do. They also check in with the Adult(s) to see if the Church Mice can help in other ways. The youngest Church Mouse is the Task Mouse and gets to choose their helpful task first. The rest of the helpful tasks are chosen in order of age.

The Church Mice also made their own special name badges, ate some pizza, and discussed how to welcome others who weren't in the room. (UUs always try to ask whose voice wasn't heard and who may have been missed.) They left room on their Church Mice list for others to join them. (UUs try to leave room for visitors and guests.) If you want to join the Church Mice club, just see Rev. Craig and he'll help you get a Church Mouse name tag.

If you see one of our Church Mice on Sunday morning, please thank them for their service.

The next Church Mice meeting will be Sunday, August 27, after the social hour. If the weather permits, we will meet in the UUSO Memorial Garden for a Church Mice Picnic.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

We have had a great year in RE Classes, but it's not over yet! Although there will be no RE activities on May 28 (the nursery will be open), June 4th will be our Annual Flower Communion for all ages in the sanctuary. Bring a flower (if you forget we will have extras) and leave with a different flower. June 11 will be RE Fun Day at the Olympia Brown House for K-5th grade. 6-12 grade will embark on their annual canoe trip from 9am-1pm. June 18 is our All-RE Ice Cream Sundae party at Olympia Brown. Perhaps there will be Quidditch!

In Peace,
Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education



SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board met on May 17. After reviewing board reports, we discussed requesting regional consultation regarding developing a congregational relational covenant. We also reviewed our focus on improving multi-generational opportunities and noted the success of the April Game event sponsored by Rev. Craig and the Bearded Dragon. All generations were represented. We hope a game event can occur on a regular basis.

We reviewed Sounding Board comments. Some questions arose concerning Rev. Craig's mini sabbatical. To clarify, Rev. Craig is NOT on vacation. He receives 1 month of sabbatical to refresh and inspire his ministry for each year of his full time service to UUSO per his agreement. For this mini sabbatical, Rev. Craig has agreed to be available for pastoral care. Remember that he is best contacted by text or phone—not by e-mail during this time. Other concerns can be directed to the staff or Board members.

We are doing some research on UUSO acting as a temporary "financial sponsor" for start up organizations that support our mission and principles and are working to become a non-profit.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 28, 2017 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Please note this is the fourth Wednesday as opposed to the usual third Wednesday. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions and a Trustee and member of the Committee on Ministry will be present at the "Sounding Board" table after the service on Sunday June 21, 2017.

Karen Palmer, President
UUSO Board of Trustees
607-267-4793
kpalmer14@hughes.net

Deadline Changes

The deadline for entries the June 21st newsletter will be June 12, and the deadline for announcements for the June 18th & 25th Order of Service, will also be June 12th.

If you have not yet received a copy of the new 2017 Directory, please see Evelyn, our office administrator, during business hours or after service on Sundays. If you are homebound, please contact the office at 607-432-3491 or uuso@uuso.org, and we will be happy to mail a copy to you.

Plates for Peace

Buy a Plate!

Dine With Us!



Sunday, June 11th, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.



Funds raised for the
UUSC refugee program in Croatia



Sponsored by the
UUSO Social Action Committee

Reservations suggested by June 6th
to Alice at #432-8673
or alice.pott@icloud.com

Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta
12 Ford Avenue  Telephone # 432-3491

UUSO NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Energy Audit Completed for Green Sanctuary

Ed Smyth, a board member of Interfaith Power and Light, donated his time and expertise to provide UUSO with an energy audit, a requirement for the Green Sanctuary accreditation process. His findings revealed that we are actually doing a pretty good job with energy conservation. He had a few relatively inexpensive options for making facility improvements and also suggested some bold actions we could take to make a real difference in the local community. The following are some excerpts from his report. The full report is available from me for anyone who requests it.

Overview

It is clear the congregation is conscientious about energy use for the two properties, the church and the nearby offices/classes. This is shown in the high efficiency lighting in nearly all locations – compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in light fixtures and LED exit signs – and the modern, updated heating systems in both locations.

The recorded energy use over the past year and a half are as minimal as to be expected from both locations, and certainly well in line with other religious buildings that I have seen assessed or done myself. A benchmarking score was set up through the EnergySTAR Building Portfolio Manager for the church, and the initial score revealed a 59 (of 0 to 100), which is reasonable and typical of older church buildings built a century or more ago.

The offices/classes property, as an older converted home, has more challenges for improving weatherization, that is, the ability to manage and retain heat in the winter and be reasonably comfortable in the summer. I suspect the primary drivers for the electricity costs – once the baseline of appliances and lighting are accounted for – are the space heaters in the winter and the air conditioning in the summer.

Long Term Goals

The recommendations provided here are the ones that will likely be the most effective for impact and foreseeable payback on the upfront investment, with no further investment in any assessments.

I'd next recommend asking for reviews and recommendations by local insulation firms that are qualified Home Performance with Energy Star providers > <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Home-Performance-With-ENERGY-STAR>. In particular, it would be a big benefit to hire one to perform an infrared camera snapshot of the properties to see where heat loss is particularly coming from. These firms can also provide recommendations on insulation and weatherization strategies for 12 Ford Avenue.

There does not appear to be any cost-effective opportunities for renewables (i.e. geothermal, PV, or similar). The property footprints and the annual energy costs are too small to make any installation cost effective. However, if the congregation wanted to do a public display of earth stewardship regardless of cost, it is conceivable that small solar-powered outdoor lighting could be installed in front.

The best practical investment of effort to promote earth stewardship is involvement and leadership on community level energy efficiency and renewables. I'd recommend conversations with the appropriate city leaders and business association on gauging interest and participation to explore a community solar farm, for example, or a community level block purchases of renewable power from third party electricity supplier.

The Green Sanctuary Team



UUSO NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US REMEMBER . . .

The following UUSO members, former members, families, and friends who have passed away have been added to our **Memorial Plaque** at the back of the sanctuary: Rev. Lyman I. Achenbach, Ruth P. Achenbach, Nancy C. Burnett, Georgia Bresee Couden, Loren K. Davidson, Eileen Entwistle, Franklin Newline Entwistle, William "Bill" Dewitt Green, Paul S. Girdansky, Howson "Hap" A. Hartley, William C. Kratzenstein, Viola S. Lane, John "Jack" Meeks, Jr., J. Robert Miller, Robert Charles Pickhardt, Carol Swartz Robbins, Maryanne E. Stow, Louise "Lucy" L. Vanginderen, Norma Wallerius Wagner, Richard George Wagner, Judith K. Weisberger, Stanley Earl Weisberger, and Rev. James "Jim" Wentz.

"Though they are no longer with us in body, they will always be here in spirit." (Ruth Tarter)

Arleen Benedict, Chairperson
Memorial Committee

MEMORIAL BOOKS OF RECORDS ON DISPLAY MAY 28th

Biographical items such as obituaries, orders of Memorial Services, and photographs of those who have passed away are added to our Memorial Books of Records. These items have been expertly put in the Memorial Books by Mary Ambrose, a member of the Memorial Committee. She will include the Books with her decoration of the chancel table for the Sunday service, May 28th. After the service, the Books will be available for the congregation to view.

The Committee will also have forms available for people who wish to have their names on the plaque after their deaths. This is helpful because sometimes it is difficult to find the birthdate of those who have passed away.

Arleen Benedict, Chairperson
Memorial Committee

Mali Education Project

The Mali Education Project has donated the DVD Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai to the UUSO library so that those who missed our dinner and movie event will have a chance to view this inspiring story of a dedicated activist and environmentalist who created the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and eventually won a Nobel Peace Prize for her work. She is an role model for our times because she challenged the government in power in her country at the time, resisted oppression and brought about real change. It is a gift to the congregation in gratitude for all of the support that the Mali folks have received from the congregation as a whole.

Annemarie Hosnedl, Chairperson
Mali Education Project

Reminder --Backpack Buddies on Sunday, June 4th

Don't forget to bring to church your delicious and nutritious nonperishable food and snacks to help fill the backpacks of low income children on weekends. This time the donations will go to Valleyview Elementary School in Oneonta. Monetary contributions are also welcome. Please make checks out to the Northeastern Regional Food Bank with Otsego/Delaware Backpack Buddies in memo line. We are also collecting personal care products for those in need which will go to Family Service Association. Boxes for donations decorated by the children in our RE program will be in front of the sanctuary on Sunday, June 4th. Thanks for your participation!

Social Action Committee

WED MAY 31

LAST WEDNESDAYS FILM SERIES

AGAINST MILITARISM

JOIN US THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR A VEGETARIAN DINNER AT 6:00 PM,
FOLLOWED BY A FILM SCREENING AT 7:00 PM, NO CHARGE. DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW AFTERWARDS

MAY 31

THE YOUNG LORDS

THEY WERE LEADERS OF THE YOUNG LORDS PARTY, THE MILITANT PUERTO RICAN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION BEGUN IN CHICAGO, THEN BASED IN NEW YORK. TODAY, MANY ARE NOTABLE MAINSTREAM JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING JUAN GONZALEZ, FELIPE LUCIANO, AND PABLO GUZMAN. IRIS MORALES MAKES HISTORY COME ALIVE AS VETERANS OF THE MOVEMENT RECALL THEIR FIGHT FOR EQUALITY, JOBS, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION, ALL THE WHILE BEING INFILTRATED BY NYPD.

NOT RATED.



RSVP REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
CHILD CARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST,
PREFERABLY BY EMAIL, UUSO@UUSO.ORG,
OR CALLING 607-432-3491.

PLEASE CALL BY 5/29/17, WITH AGES/NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

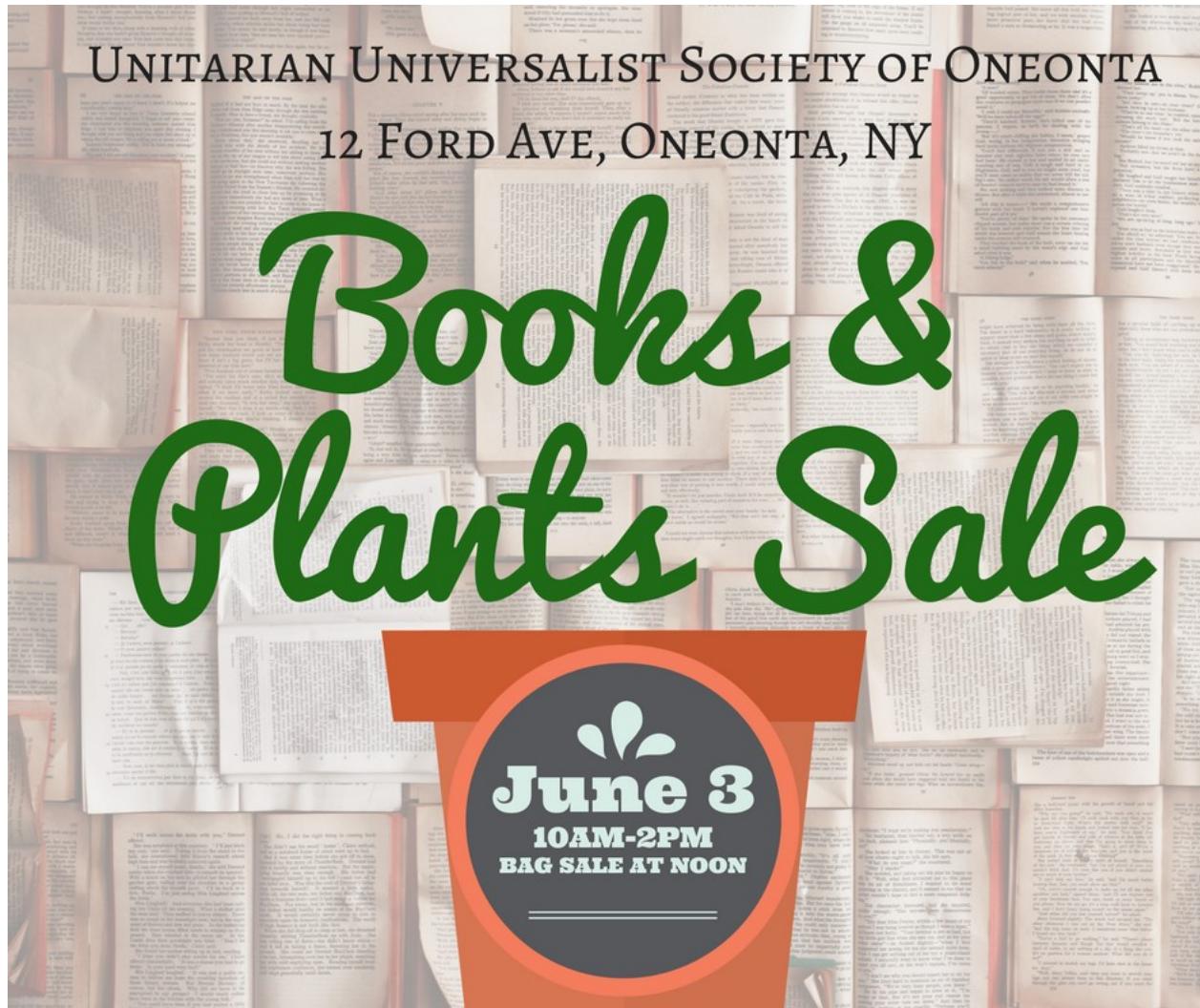


SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA (UUSO), 12 FORD AVE.

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Film

12 Ford Ave. Oneonta



The annual UUSO Book and Plant Sale is June 2 and 3. Friday night from 5-9 is the Members and Friends Sale, and the sale is open to the public on Saturday from 10-2. The Bag Sale (all you can fit in a plastic grocery bag for \$1) begins at noon. Please bring donations of books, music, and movies to the church any time after (not before) the service on May 28. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, moldy books, magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or anything recorded off the TV or radio.

Plants can be dropped off Friday, June 2 or Saturday morning before 10 am.

Please label your plants.

Please Bring Flowers for the Flower Communion

The Flower Communion is on Sunday, June 4th this year. Please bring flowers to help celebrate this wonderful UU ritual.
--Pam Strother

New Meditation Group

Beginning on Wednesday, June 7th, a meditation group will be meeting in the sanctuary from 12 noon until 1:00 pm on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The group is open to all. No meditation experience is necessary. And we hope to have a mix of novice and experienced meditators at each gathering. There is no cost to attend. If you are interested, please contact Pam Strother, at pstrother@stny.rr.com

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

Save the World; Suck Less **SCOTT SEGAR**

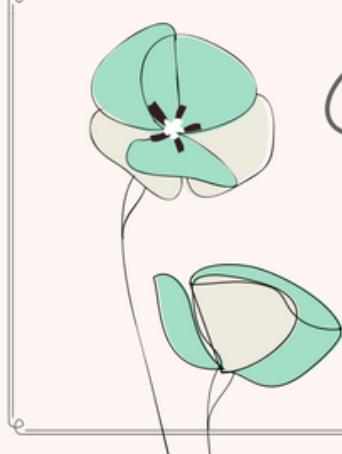
MAY 28, 2017 · 10:30AM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Amid all the bad headlines and negativity, how do we make a positive difference in the world?

How a joke turned into a personal philosophy, and, maybe, even a movement...

**No Religious Education Classes*
With Music provided by Michael Frye-Hunt
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Beth Small
Ushers: Kay Stuligross and Brian Bendlin
Chancel Table: Memorial Committee
Sound System: Beth Small



FLOWER COMMUNION

Beauty, Solidarity & Communion

SUSAN RYDER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PAM STROTHER AND THE STUDENTS AND YOUTH OF UUSO

4 JUNE 2017 | UUSO | 10:30AM

Every spring, many UU congregations hold a Flower Communion to celebrate the Earth's beauty and humanity's oneness.

Please bring a flower to contribute to our ritual.

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Shelly Hilts

Coffee Hour Hosts: **Need Volunteers!**
Ushers: Pat Donnelly & Arleen Benedict
Chancel Table: Flowers from the Congregation
Sound System: Julian Pecenco

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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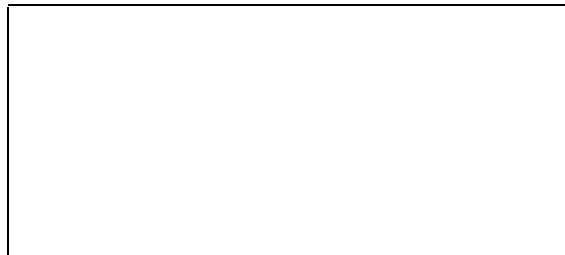
Tim Horne
Music Director
607-432-7323



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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for June 7th issue is June 5th.

Order of Service Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service



Green Sanctuary Corner

Buy Food Locally

In North America, fruits and vegetables travel an average of 1,500 miles before reaching your plate. Buying fresh, local food eliminates long distances traveled and preserves flavor and nutrients.

Reference: World Wildlife Fund
www.worldwildlife.org