



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

June 7, 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Minister's Column</i>	1
<i>Religious Education</i>	2
<i>News & Announcements</i>	3-4
<i>Worship Services</i>	5

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

General Assembly Edition

Every year, our Unitarian Universalist Association gathers in one place to conduct the business of our denomination, elect our representatives, worship together, learn from one another, choose our shared social justice ministries, and celebrate our faith tradition. This year's General Assembly will be in New Orleans from June 21st through the 25th. This year's General Assembly seems likely to be an exciting, pivotal moment for our denomination for a number of reasons.

An Election

At this General Assembly, we will elect our new UUA President and our new UUA Moderator. [Our last president, the Rev. Peter Morales, resigned](#) from the position in March as part of the racial issues our association is currently struggling with (more on that below.)

Our moderator, Jim Keyes, [died last week](#) from an aggressive form of cancer (he had resigned from the position in May when he discovered the cancer had returned.) We give thanks for his years of service to this faith and send our condolences to his family.

[All three of the candidates for UUA President are women](#), so we are all but guaranteed to have our first female president of our denomination. The three candidates are the Rev. Allison Miller, the Rev. Jeanne Pupke, and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray.

Only delegates can vote in this election, but delegates do not have to be present at General Assembly. At this time, I'm only aware of 1, possibly 2 delegates from UUSO. Our congregation is allowed 4 delegates in addition to the minister-delegate vote. If you want to be a UUSO delegate, please

contact our Board President, Karen Palmer.

An Anti-Racism Challenge

These past few months, our UUA has struggled with issues around racism. While our ideals of equality and justice are high; our shared reality falls far short. Concerns have been raised about institutional bias in how we choose our leadership-- in our churches and in our association. We suffer from institutional racism and the intersectional biases favoring men over women and ministers over other religious professionals or laypeople. These observations have been met by a mixture of anger, defensiveness, shame, denial, and determination. The issue will undoubtedly come to a head at General Assembly. Almost 50 years ago, we faced a similar challenge around race at General Assembly -- and as a result of our response to that challenge, many of the black ministers and members of Unitarian Universalism left our faith. I sincerely hope we deal with the challenge better this time. That hope is a strong one after seeing that over 2/3 of our congregations participated in a White Supremacy Teach-in in the past month.

While we won't be having a teach-in on that topic at UUSO, I will be leading a workshop on our denomination's history with racism on June 17th from 9a - noon. At that workshop, we'll create a timeline of our struggle with racial issues, share some historical context, and look for our place, our response in this challenging time. Childcare will be provided. All are welcome to attend. The sermon I preached on May 7th, "Walking Together In Love", is a good prequel to this workshop. The sermon podcast is [available on-line](#).

(Continued on page 3)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Today we celebrated UUSO's annual Intergenerational Flower Communion Service. It is truly a joy to look from the pulpit and feel the warm attention of our caring community. The children were asked (with no prior warning) to come up front to help with lighting the chalice. They came right up to help only to find that I had written out the wrong words for them to read. We decided on the spot to say the children's chalice lighting words. They all know these words by heart: "We light this chalice to remind ourselves to treat all people kindly, to take care of the earth, and to live lives full of goodness and truth." They also stepped up to help pass out flowers during the communion part of our ceremony. They were careful to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to choose a flower rather than just pass them out. What could have been a chaotic time was handled with reverence and carefulness. They did a fantastic job. Once this service was through, I was approached by Raphael proudly wearing his "Church Mouse" nametag. He asked how he could be of help. I pointed out a few things that needed picking up and he promptly went to work. He said there were no other church mice present so the job fell to him. I was grateful for his attention, help, and for his sense of responsibility.

There are only two more Sundays left for Religious Education Programming until the fall. Next Sunday, June 11, those in K-5th grade will have RE Fun Day beginning at 10:30 at the Olympia Brown House. They will have a chance to try out a new game called, "Bean Bag Bucketz" as well as other games and activities.

Also on June 11, those in 6-12th grade have planned a canoe trip on the Susquehanna River (should weather and water conditions cooperate). They will leave the Olympia Brown House at 9am to return by 1pm. Please contact me if you know of someone in this age group who would like to go with us. There are forms to fill out. Friends are welcome. I will need to know before Saturday to make sure we reserve enough canoes and have enough adult chaperones. This is a trip we try to do every year. It is offered through the Enchanted Gardens canoe rental in Harpursville NY. We are dropped off with canoes, life jackets, paddles, etc. at Nineveh for a 5-mile paddle to Doraville where we are picked up and brought back to Harpursville. Enchanted Gardens is about a 40-minute drive west on Rt. 7 from Oneonta. They have many canoe and kayak rental options should anyone want to do some paddling over the summer. Look them up at <http://www.canoerental.net/>

June 18 will be our annual All-RE Ice Cream Sundae Party for those in K-12th grade. It will begin at 10:30 at the Olympia Brown House. Stewarts Shops of Oneonta donates all the ice cream and fixin's for everyone to make their own sundaes. Non-dairy ice cream will also be available. There will be games, including the new Beanbag Bucketz game, and perhaps even Quidditch. It is a fun way to end our church year together.

Regular RE programming will begin again in the fall. The Nursery will be open all summer for those up to age 10, although anyone of any age is always welcome to attend the church service in the sanctuary.

Please let me know if you are considering teaching in RE next fall. I know how much spirit and fun I find when working with our young UU's and I know that some of you would find this meaningful as well. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

In Peace,

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

(Continued from page 1)

General Assembly On-line

If you will not be attending General Assembly in New Orleans, you can still participate. Many of the main events and workshops are actually streamed online. <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>

In addition to following along via the web, you can also follow along on Twitter. I'll be tweeting on my account @UU_Jester. Our Office Administrator, Evelyn Warren, will be tweeting from our church account, @UUSOneonta. You don't need a twitter account to follow along, just click the twitter icon on the bottom of our website front page (it looks like a little blue bird) and you will be taken to the UUSOneonta twitter feed.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

P.S. It is good to be back from my mini-sabbatical. I'll have more to say about what I did and what I learned in a later issue.

Dining For Women

The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, June 11 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Each month the group learns about and supports organizations that help women and girls in developing countries improve their lives. This month, Limited Horizons Ixil, will enable local female staff to educate and empower indigenous girls and women living in extreme poverty in Chajul, El Quiche, Guatemala. All are indigenous Maya and predominantly Ixil. Limited Horizons Ixil's approach is comprehensive, surrounding girls with a support system that allows them to become informed leaders and role models to drive positive, sustainable development in their community.

All are welcome to come to the monthly meetings. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. For more information, call Linda at 433-2985.

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

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 UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

SWORDS TO
PLOWSHARES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
JUNE 11 · 10:30 AM · REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

From the Book of Isaiah,
“...they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks:
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.”
Would that it were so...

**RE Fun Day*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Suzanne Miller & Walter vomSaal
Ushers: **Need Volunteers!**
Chancel Table: Social Action Committee
Sound System: Beth Small



How do we balance the freedom of
expression with the right to be safe from
harm?
Are we being politically correct
or just silencing dissent?

**RE Ice Cream Party at OBH*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz

Coffee Hour Hosts: **Need Volunteers!**
Ushers: Steve Berman & Jim Mills
Chancel Table: Norma Lee Havens
Sound System: Beth Small

**THE UNITARIAN
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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
Office Hours by Appointment
revcraig@uuso.org
607-432-3491/607-287-7906

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



[Facebook.com/UUSOneonta](https://www.facebook.com/UUSOneonta)

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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for June 21st issue is June 12th.

Order of Service Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



Help Launch Sustainable Packaging!: As a customer, you have enormous power to help launch the sustainable packaging movement. Many companies are now exploring ways to maximize nontoxic recyclable and compostable packaging content. Please email the companies you purchase products from and ask them to consider switching to 100% sustainable packaging - the Sustainable Packaging Coalition is a great resource to suggest as a starting point. Most companies really listen to their customers - you'll be surprised how many respond (and you may receive some great coupons for your trouble!)

Source: www.globalstewards.org