



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

August 16, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Let's Make a Covenant...

The Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry, based on feedback from the congregation, has chosen to focus on covenants in the coming year. Many groups and committees at UUSO already have covenants. The Board, the Religious Education Committee, the Social Action Team, the Small Group Ministry groups all have covenants. We've even got a Leadership covenant that congregational leaders created at a workshop a couple of years ago. Examples of most of these covenants are or will be posted on our website in the relevant areas. I'll be preaching on the topics of covenant, promises, commitment, forgiveness, and relationships throughout the year. To help start us all off, we have a congregational workshop planned for Saturday, September 23rd. The workshop will be facilitated by the Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer, our Congregational Life staff from the Central East Region of our UU Association. Mark the date on your calendar and keep your eyes open for more information about the workshop in the next few weeks.

Let's Be of Service...

This Sunday, the sermon, "What's Your Ministry?" will be focused on our service to one another and to our congregation. In past years, we have had difficulty recruiting people to help serve and support this congregation as committee members, team members, ushers, social hour hosts, sunday school teachers, and several other important positions. This "volunteer crisis" isn't unique to our congregation nor to Unitarian Universalists. It is widespread in all faith traditions across this country. Some suggest it is a generational shift in how we feel about institutions and volunteering; others suggest it is a

byproduct of the increased "business" of our schedules -- especially for families. My favorite piece on the topic suggests the problem is with the word "volunteer". And so, I won't be looking for volunteers at UUSO anymore. This year, the Board, the Committee on Ministry, and I will be focus on "service." How can we be of service to each other and this congregation we love? I'll be exploring why that question is so important and how we might best answer it at Sunday's service and in the next newsletter.

Let's Fight Racism and White Supremacy...

It was gratifying to see so many people show up at the rally we hosted on Monday (8/14) in response to the events in Charlottesville, VA. About 150 people came with less than 24 hours notice to hold signs, raise their voices, sing songs of peace, and denounce white supremacy and discrimination in all forms. I was proud to represent UUSO at that event and even more proud to look out and see so many UUSO members of all ages there (you are way easier to spot when you wear your Standing on the Side of Love shirts, or other yellow colored clothes.) Thanks to Elayne for helping guide me through what needed to be done to host a rally (she's getting pretty good at it!), to John Bagby and Scott Segar for taking our Black Lives Matter banner down so we could bring it to the rally (and then putting it back up the next day), to Jon and Amy Kraus-Powers for providing a sound system and music, and Leah Bridgers and Evelyn Warren our helping to carry our banners. (Special thanks to everyone that wrangled Spirit who wanted to attend the rally but refused to lay down amidst all the high energy excitement.)

But the rally was only the start of what needs to be done. As an anti-racist congregation, we have work to

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do beyond hanging the banner on our church. Our Anti-Racism Task Force needs more members and more ideas. After many requests, I'll be offering the "Racism and Our UUA" workshop again on Wednesday, September 6, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. All are welcome! After that, I'll be looking for people who want to do more to fight racism and white supremacy.

Let's Worship Together...

The Fall Worship Calendar is ready to go and is included with this newsletter (*in printed form*) and published on our website. The new church year starts with our annual Ingathering Service and Water Communion on September 10th. Please bring a bit of water that has meaning to you for the water communion. We have a lot of other exciting services and pulpit guests planned for the Fall quarter:

- Days of Awe service on September 24th with a special guest appearance, too.
- Making their debuts in the pulpit; Elayne Mosher-Campoli on October 1st, and Mark VanLaeyes on December 3rd. (I'm excited to hear them both!)
- Returning to the pulpit, Suzanne Miller on October 29th and Cheryl Peterson on November 26th.
- Our annual Thanksgiving service on November 19th and the Stories of the Season service on December 10th. (There is no Holiday Workshop currently scheduled for that day-- but that could easily change if 2-3 people wanted to serve by organizing it.)
- Christmas Eve day falls on a Sunday this year, so we'll be changing the times of our traditional Christmas Eve services. The family friendly service will take place Sunday morning at 10:30a and will include a no-rehearse pageant to celebrate the Christmas holiday. The contemplative service will take place Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig

SHARING OUR VISUAL SPIRIT

The first art exhibition in the Gathering Room (basement of Chapin) has run its course. It will soon be time to begin gathering photos for the Fall exhibit. Details to follow.

Please come claim your paintings during the next few weeks. If your picture is no longer on the wall, you will find it carefully stored in the Gathering Room closet.

Joe's talent brings joy to all of those who have gathered in this room since it was opened in Spring. Everyone was awestruck.

The NEXT EXHIBIT: Let's share a framed photo of ourselves. Whatever framed photo you would like to share....baby, sport, family, wedding/divorce, anything you wish. I will not be able to frame these images, but I will hang them. You may identify yourself or not.

Let's enjoy.
Submitted by Grace Smith



UUSO POLICIES

It is the practice of this Society to publish all policies in the Newsletter. Here are a few from our archives that haven't been publicized. *(some formats may have been changed for better fit.)* You can find all UUSO Policies created by the Board of Trustees on our website, under the Member's Documents section.

Social Media Policy January 18, 2017

Definitions for all of the policies below:

“Core Staff” refers to:

- The Minister
- The Director of Religious Education
- The Office Administrator

Administrators may create, post and moderate content for all Facebook pages. Administrators will appoint moderators from the congregation for the Facebook pages. Administrators are empowered to block or remove those who use our Facebook pages inappropriately.

In addition, one member at large will act as the Moderator for all Facebook pages.

The Administrators and the Moderator are empowered to remove inappropriate content on any Facebook page by taking a screenshot, removing any posts or comments that are deemed inappropriate, and sending the screenshot to the Minister and/or the Board of Trustees indicating why the post was removed.

All social media postings and management are to abide by our Public Relations Policy and Disruptive Behavior Policy.

1. Official Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/UUSOneonta

The Three Core Staff will act as administrators and can post upcoming public events and UUSO worship services. All public events should have an event page. It is recommended to have at least one post per weekday. Posts must be directly related to the ministry of the Society. In addition to public events and UUSO worship services, posts about a member or group of the congregation may be posted if there is an intersection between the ministry of the Society and something involving that person or group. Also, news and information from the UUA can be posted. No advertising of goods, businesses, or services allowed. (Note: UUSO sanctioned events that charge an admittance fee [e.g. Wine Tasting, Dessert Theater, etc.], or a UUSO sale, [e.g. Book and Plant sale, Cookies and Crafts, etc.] are permitted to be posted.)

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UUSO POLICIES

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**2. Facebook Group - "UUSO Community"
www.facebook.com/groups/1496132733959453**

Anyone in the group can post to this group page. No advertising of businesses or services is permitted in this group.

**3. Facebook Group – "UUSO Marketplace"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/112029639206176>**

The selling of items and services of interest to the UUSO community is permitted, and business advertisements are allowed and are restricted to once per week. Anyone in the group can post to this group page.

**4. Email group "UUSONEWS"
UUSONEWS@googlegroups.com (for the entire congregation)**

The Three Core Staff can post to this email group. Only official Society announcements and messages may be posted. Recommended schedule of postings: Monday – Minister posts his schedule, Tuesday – RE Director posts RE information, Wednesday – Worship information is posted, Thursday & Friday – Upcoming events are posted.

**5. Email group "UUSOCHAT"
UUSOCHAT@googlegroups.com (discussion group for the congregation)**

Any member of the UUSO community can request to be added to this group. All subscribers may post to the group. The Core Staff will administrator this group.

6. Twitter - @UUSOneonta

The Core Staff can post to the Twitter account. (Note: Twitter replies and followers cannot be moderated.)

7. Official Website – UUSO.org

The main purpose of the website is to provide information about UUSO to potential visitors, and also to provide an information hub for the congregation. The Office Administrator (and the Minister) are responsible for managing the website.

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UUSO POLICIES

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The Website Committee is charged with reviewing and assessing the website and making recommendations for changes. The authorized staff and the Chair of the Website Committee, or their designee, may update and make changes to the website.

Upcoming Services and Events shall be updated weekly on the UUSO.org homepage. The DRE shall keep the Religious Education pages updated as needed. The newsletters and Worship Schedules shall be posted as they become available.

Board minutes, including staff reports and financial statements, approved policies, Bylaws and Congregational Meeting Minutes (including the annual report) shall be posted to the website as they become available. The Board of Trustees shall provide direction regarding those items to be posted in the “Members Only” Section.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY

April 23, 2014

Relative to Article III, Section 3.4.2, of the UUSO Bylaws related to termination of membership, the Board approves this disruptive behavior policy.

The Board considers behavior that is dangerous, disruptive, or offensive to be a threat to the well-being of the congregation. Anyone who is subject to or witnesses such behavior on UUSO property or at a UUSO sponsored event should report it to a member of the Board of Trustees and/or the minister.

The Religious Education program has a separate policy related to classroom behavior. Outside the classroom, this policy covers all ages. In the case of a minor, their parents or guardians will be informed and involved in all steps of the policy.

If the behavior requires an immediate response, the Trustee or minister will ask an appropriate adult (preferably a member of the congregation) to assist in addressing the person directly about their behavior. The person will be asked to stop the disruptive behavior and may be asked to leave the event and/or premises. After the event, this incident will be brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees as soon as possible.

If a Trustee or the Minister learns of this incident of behavior after-the-fact, he/she will inform the UUSO leadership team (Board President, Board Vice-President, and Minister) as soon as possible. The leadership team will address the reported incident. In considering possible responses to the reported incident, the leadership team will give individual safety the highest consideration. They may also consider:

Situation circumstances	·	known medical conditions
Cultural differences	·	history of behavior

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UUSO POLICIES

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Responses by the leadership team may include but are not limited to:

- No further action taken
- Consultation with the Board about possible responses to behavior
- Conversation with person(s) involved
- Restrictions on Person's participation in certain UUSO events
- Recommendation to the Board of Trustees that membership be revoked
- Legal action deemed necessary

All reports of disruptive behavior, along with any responses made to the behavior, will be reported to the Board of Trustees at the earliest convenient time. Records of all reported behaviors and responses by UUSO will be kept in a confidential file by the minister.

Replaces "Policy for Establishing a Conflict Resolution Team" of October 16, 2002

OFFICE NOTES

- You may have noticed a lighter volume of newsletters this summer. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. We didn't receive enough article submissions. Those we did receive were included in an email blast sent out on our UUSO Chat groups, some were put into the announcements for the next Sunday's Order of Service, and yet others were posted to our UUSO Community Facebook group. Please contact Evelyn, our office administrator, if you'd like help connecting with our community online
- After each church year, many of our monthly scheduled meetings expire and need to be renewed. Please contact the UUSO Office (via email) to ensure your group's meeting space is reserved.
- For the most up-to-date information on events and building reservations, please see our calendar on our website at: www.uuso.org/church-calendar Or click on the Calendar tab on our website: UUSO.org

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



To minister is to serve, to aid, to support.
We each have our own ministries.
What's yours?

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

Coffee Hour Hosts: Patricia Engel LaFata
& Jesse Schwabe

Ushers: **Need Volunteers!**
Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas
Sound System: Julian Pecenco



Our youngest reaching small hands up;
Our eldest reaching wizened hands down;
working together to build a community of love,
joy, and learning across the generations.

New Year Beginning Blessing

*Bring your backpack, your lunchbox, your smartphone,
your briefcase, or whatever item you wish to have
blessed for the start of the new academic/church year.
This is an intergenerational event-- all ages are ex-*

With Music provided by Michael and Dorothy Frye-
Hunt
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: **Need Volunteers!**
Ushers: **Need Volunteers!**
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Beth Small

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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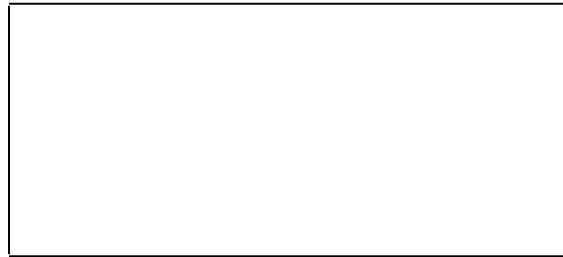
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[Facebook.com/UUSOneonta](https://www.facebook.com/UUSOneonta)



UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for August 30th issue
is August 28th.

Order of Service Announcements:
Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Verbal Announcements:
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



Start your list!

UUSO Board of Trustees

Karen Palmer President
Amy Forster-Rothbart
 Vice-President
Stan Maricle Clerk
John Bagby
Keith Willcox
Jeane Bennett-O'Dea
Suzy Beddoe
Nathan Elsener
Adrienne Martini
Mary Ruhoff Moderator

Lynn Beken Treasurer
Evelyn Warren Recording Secretary

The Green Sanctuary Team will be sending a survey to members and friends of UUSO in September giving you the opportunity to list what you do that demonstrates your commitment to steward our beautiful earth. Start thinking about this now. In your daily life, what are the little and big things that you do to honor this amazing planet that sustains our life? You are invited to our next Green Sanctuary meeting on Sunday, September 3, 12:15pm at the Olympia Brown House.