



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

August 30, 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Minister's Column</i>	1
<i>News &amp; Announcements</i>	2-7
<i>Sawdust From the Board</i>	4
<i>Worship Services</i>	8

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Reimbursement Request Change

Starting in September, we will be changing the way we deal with reimbursement and check requests at UUSO. In order to increase accountability for the money we spend and our ability to monitor and maintain our budgets, we are asking those staff and church leaders responsible for a budget line to sign all reimbursement/check requests related to that budget. This will make it much easier for our Accountant, Lynn Beken, to properly match checks written to the proper budget lines. We hope it will also give committees, teams, and staff members the information they need to plan and maintain the budgets for their respective areas. To aid in this, Lynn will be sending out monthly statements to those who are responsible for a budget line that has non-fixed expenses. (Anyone who is receiving these reports who wants assistance in setting up a simple spreadsheet to track their budget should contact Rev. Craig.) The new reimbursement forms will have a line on the bottom for the signature of the person responsible for the funds. If you are filling out a check reimbursement form, please have it signed by one of the following people (or the chair of your committee/team) before dropping it in the Finance mailbox at the UUSO office. (IF the person listed isn't available, please contact Rev. Craig or one of our Board Trustees. They are also able to sign off on reimbursement requests.)

Connections Team	Laura Reyda
Mali Education Project	Anne Marie Hosnedl
Music	Tim Horne
Office / Website / Advertising	Evelyn Warren
Properties	Duncan Smith or Tom O'Brien
Religious Education	Susan Ryder
Social Action Team	Suzanne Miller

Social Hour Hosting  
Worship

Rev. Craig  
Rev. Craig

### Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund

The UUA, in cooperation with the UU Service Committee, has created a Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund. Half of the funds received will be distributed by the UUSC to local partners to assist at-risk people and neighborhoods. The other half of funds received will be distributed to UU congregations and individuals that have suffered losses due to the storm and the resultant flooding. Individuals can donate to this fund directly at this link: <https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>

Alternately, there will be a special 2nd collection at our Ingathering/Water service on September 10th for this fund. Checks should be made out to UUSO, with "Harvey Fund" in the memo line. We will accept checks at the UUSO office for the week following the service before we send the total amount to the Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund.

The UU Trauma Response Ministry Team has been in contact with the regional UUA staff and with the ministers of the congregations in the affected area. At the time this article was written, the storm was still ongoing and so efforts are focused on evacuation and rescue. Once the storm stops, then the focus will switch to recovery and rebuilding. At that time, the UUTRM may be asked to send teams to provide pastoral/spiritual trauma ministry. As I learn more, I will let the congregation know through UUSO News and our Facebook page.

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

## A NEW MODEL FOR UUSO GOVERNANCE

About a year and a half ago, the Board of Trustees met for our Winter Retreat and explored the possibility of a different model of governance based loosely on a book by Dan Hotchkiss entitled "Governance and Ministry". It's a fairly simple concept—the Board has the primary responsibility to sustain and strengthen the institutional aspects of our Society and the Minister has the primary responsibility to oversee and strengthen the ministry of our Society. Given this as a framework, the governance of our Society is seen as a shared effort between the Board and Minister without a solid wall or barrier between the two but rather a clear understanding of each of our roles and our overlapping areas of focus.

In the new model, Reverend Craig would be the "go-to" person for the various ministry oriented "teams" such as Worship Team and Pastoral Care Team while the Board would continue to be the "go-to" body for the various "committees" that sustain our institution such as the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Stewardship Committee. The terms "team" vs. "committee" would distinguish who is overseeing and supporting which group.

We're going to experiment with this during the coming year with Rev. Craig starting to take on a few "teams" that make sense with the Board still retaining oversight of most groups of the Society using our already existing liaison structure (3 teams have transitioned from the Board and 2 will be start up teams). If we find this is successful, Rev. Craig will add a few more "teams" to his list as we go along. It will be important for those in the various teams and committees to offer us feedback as to how this is working.

Our hope is that this way of governance will lead to better communication, proper focus, greater flexibility, and an easier more stream-line means of moving our Mission forward.

Here is the starting listing of our teams and committees that will be in effect as of September 1, 2017:

TEAMS that have or will be overseen by Rev. Craig:

- Worship Team  
(The Music Committee has been disbanded and a Music Guest Coordinator has joined the Worship Team.)
- Pastoral Care Team (Start up)
- Connections Team (formerly Membership)
- Social Action Team
- Fun Team (Start up---formerly Special Events)

COMMITTEES that will continue to be overseen by the Board of Trustees for now

- Finance Committee
- Bylaws Committee
- Endowment Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Properties Committee
- Design Committee

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

- Stewardship Committee
- Religious Education Committee
- Small Group Ministry (Committee)
- Memorial Committee
- Website Committee
- Audio Committee
- Mali Education Project (Committee)

Rev. Craig Schwalenberg, UUSO Minister and Karen Palmer, UUSO President.



All members and friends of UUSO are invited to participate in co-creating our very own Congregational Covenant of Right Relations. Our facilitator will be Reverend Evin Carvill-Ziemer who is also our UUA regional contact. Please take the time to bring forth your ideas of how you want to be treated and would agree to treat others in our beloved UUSO community. Lunch is included!

—The UUSO Board of Trustees

### **FROM THE OFFICE**

- 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](http://www.uuso.org/church-calendar)

### **HEAR YE, HEAR YE!**

The Fall Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 15, 2017, at noon in the Chapin Memorial sanctuary. The final budget will be presented and voted on. In addition, there will be consideration of a motion about posting Congregational Meeting Minutes in a more timely fashion. Only Members of the Congregation may vote at the meeting. If you are not a member, but wish to vote on these issues, you must become a member by September 15, 2017.

—Mary Ruhoff, Moderator

## SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees met on August 16. After reviewing minutes and reports, we voted to transition the Worship, Music, Social Action, and Membership (now known as “Welcoming”) committees to Ministry Teams . These committees were all informed ahead of time that this would be an experiment and that feedback from the members of these transitioned teams would be obtained this January as part of the process to determine the impact of this new governance model. The Board and Minister will be working closely together so that each has a complete picture of the status of all groups and mutual support can be provided. In addition to the above named transitioning teams, Rev. Craig will also be responsible for the start up of the new “Fun” team and the new “Pastoral Care” team that he has been developing with others over the past year.

Here are some questions that we might want to be asking about the new governance model during this experimental phase:

1. What strategies does the minister expect to employ to be able to adequately meet the responsibility of overseeing and supporting the teams toward furthering our Mission and Vision?
2. What impact will this shift in empowerment and shared responsibility have on the ability for the people who offer service to UUSO to be effective in furthering our Mission and Vision?
3. With fewer committees for the Board to oversee, what will be the impact on the quality of its oversight and the effectiveness to assist committees toward furthering our Mission and Vision?

We also assembled a planning group to work with Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer who will facilitate our September 23 Congregational Covenant Program open to all members and friends of UUSO. As Rev. Carvill-Ziemer identifies as genderqueer, I will be using the pronouns “they”, “them”, and “their”. We are fortunate that they also serve as our UUA regional contact and anticipate they will have many resources to share with us.

Additionally, we discussed exploring the “Next Steps Weekend” offered by the Stewardship for Us consultants who specifically support annual stewardship and other campaigns in UU congregations.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions at the “Sounding Board” after the September 17 service.

Karen Palmer, President  
UUSO Board of Trustees  
607-267-4793  
[greenspeech3278@gmail.com](mailto:greenspeech3278@gmail.com) (Please note my new e-mail address)

### PEGGY KAHOE FOWLER MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service for Peggy Fowler will take place on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2 pm. It will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta's Chapin Memorial Chapel, 12 Ford Avenue, Oneonta, NY. The service will be led by the Rev. Craig Schwalenberg with contributions of stories and memories from those in attendance. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow the service. Those interested in assisting with the reception should contact Martha Robinson. Those interested in serving as Ushers or helping with the service in other ways should contact Rev. Craig. In lieu of flowers, donations may sent to Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County, 403-B Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820

### BACKPACK BUDDIES COLLECTION SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

This Sunday is First Sunday and time for the Backpack Buddies and Personal Care Products collection. Please remember that as school starts there will be lots on hungry children in need of weekend and vacation food so let's remember to bring in our donations of food and personal care products for the homeless and those in need.

Thanks for your continuing support.

—Dawn Kilts for the Social Action Committee

### CHANGE FOR CHANGE RECIPIENT—SEPTEMBER

**Habitat for Humanity Otsego County** is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

#### SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Nights are getting cooler, school is starting, leaves are turning! This means it is almost time for our Small Group Ministry program to begin!

Small Groups of 8-12 people meet from October through June, typically twice per month to discuss topics of their choosing, in a setting that is safe and nurturing. It is a proven way to connect with others, to hear and be heard, in a deep and significant way.

Details are coming. We hope you will join us. Contact me with any questions.

—Patricia Engel LaFata

#### SHARING OUR VISUAL SPIRIT

The first art exhibition in the Gathering Room (basement of Chapin) has run its course. It will soon to 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.

## **Policy for the Memorial Garden, Plaque and Records**

February 15, 2017

The Memorial Committee has a threefold purpose:

1. To maintain the Memorial Plaque in the sanctuary and to record on the plaque the names and dates of deceased members and friends of UUSO.

Members, former members and friends - both those whose cremains are interred in the garden and those whose remains are buried elsewhere - may be memorialized on the Plaque.

In addition, the Board of Trustees, by a majority vote, may authorize the memorialization of other persons. Family approval is not required.

1.2 The maintenance of the Memorial Plaque will be under the exclusive control of the Society represented by its Board of Trustees and its appointed committees.

2. To maintain permanent records which will contain the information of the Memorial Plaque and standard biographical data (when provided) for historical and family use.

2.1 The Board appointed Memorial Committee will have direct responsibility for maintaining the records.

2.2 When interment occurs, the Memorial Committee will keep a record of placement.

3. To monitor the maintenance of the Ruth Achenbach Memorial Garden so that it endures as a place for quiet reflection, remembrance and the interment or scattering of remains.

3.1 It is expected that all who enter the garden honor the intent and purpose of this space.

3.2 The use and maintenance of the Memorial Garden will be under the exclusive control of the Society represented by its Board of Trustees and its appointed committees.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## UUSO POLICIES

*(Continued from page 6)*

3.3 No individual will be permitted to add potted plants, flowers, shrubs, trees or statuary to the garden without consultation with the Memorial Committee and approval of the Properties Committee.

3.4 As directed by the Board, the Memorial Committee will work with the appropriate committee or staff member to assure the proper maintenance of the Garden. Further, the Memorial Committee will be included in any discussions about changes or additions to the Memorial Garden. No individual or group not so empowered by the Board will have any right whatsoever with respect to the use or appearance of the Memorial Garden.

3.5 The cremains of members of the church family may be interred in the garden. The Board of Trustees may authorize, by a majority vote, the interment of other persons.

3.6 Arrangements for the details of interment must be made with the Minister of the Society or with the Memorial Committee. The Society will not ordinarily assume responsibility for the storage of cremains. An interment service in the Memorial Garden may be arranged at the request of the family or life partner.

3.7 The Memorial Committee will work with those closest to the deceased to offer interment or scattering of cremains in the garden. Pre-need planning is also available.

3.8 Cremains must be buried in a suitable biodegradable container or scattered in a specific area of the garden. Although there will be no plot markings, a record will be kept of each placement. Should need for space require it, burial places may be re-used after a five-year period.

### 4) Funding

Expenses incurred by the Memorial Committee will be disbursed from the Commemorative Fund.

### 5) In Perpetuity

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, NY, Inc. promises to maintain the Ruth Achenbach Memorial Garden for as long as the Society exists at 12 Ford Avenue, Oneonta, NY. The Memorial Plaque and the records will be maintained for as long as the Society exists.

Replaces "Memorial Garden Policy" of February 14, 2008  
Replaces "Policy for Memorial Garden" of March 2005

**UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES**  
 SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

**SEPTEMBER 3**

# PERSONAL PATRIOTISM

**FLORIAN REYDA**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA  
 SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM

The U.S.A. is richly diverse in people, culture and natural beauty. Loving this country, each in our own way, can lead us to a new understanding of "patriotism."

With Music provided by Dorothy & Michael Frye-Hunt  
 Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Need Volunteers  
 Ushers: Jen Riley  
 Chancel Table: Florian & Laura Reyda  
 Sound System: Paul Carter



SEPTEMBER 10

## Our Water, Our Lives

INGATHERING AND WATER COMMUNION  
 REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG

As we start the new church year with our traditional Water Communion, let us consider the water of life-- and those called to protect it.  
*\*Stay Together Sunday*

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

Coffee Hour Hosts: Trustees  
 Ushers: Trustees  
 Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller  
 Sound System: Beth Small

**THE UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY  
OF ONEONTA**

16 Ford Ave.  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
Phone: 607-432-3491  
Email: [UUSO@uuso.org](mailto:UUSO@uuso.org)  
[www.uuso.org](http://www.uuso.org)  
Sanctuary at 12 Ford Ave.

**The Rev. Craig Schwalenberg**  
Minister  
Office Hours by Appointment  
[revcraig@uuso.org](mailto:revcraig@uuso.org)  
607-432-3491/607-287-7906

Evelyn Warren  
Editor & Office Administrator  
[uuso@uuso.org](mailto:uuso@uuso.org)  
Tues-Fri: 10-3

Susan Ryder  
Director of Religious Education  
607-643-1927  
[dre@uuso.org](mailto:dre@uuso.org)

Karen Palmer  
Board President  
607-267-4793

Tim Horne  
Music Director  
607-432-7323



## **UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for September 13th issue  
is September 11th.

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

**Verbal Announcements:**  
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

## **Green Sanctuary Corner**



### **You Need More Pressure... In your tires!**

As we move into the Fall season, check the air pressure in your tires. This may not seem like something that will help with your sustainability efforts, but it is. Cooler temperatures can lower tire pressure, which actually lowers fuel efficiency. When your tires are low, you will burn more gas and have to buy it more frequently, which is not as sustainable for our planet and definitely more expensive for you!

### **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