



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

September 13, 2017

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### **Walking Together in Love...**

Unitarian Universalist are a covenantal faith. At our core, we are a people who promise to be with one another, walk with one another, worship with one another, care for one another, and work for justice with one another. What binds us as a group is not our shared beliefs, but our commitment to being together. That's what covenant is all about.

Next Saturday, September 23rd, we have the opportunity to participate in the first step of creating a real congregational covenant. The Rev. Evin Carvil Ziemer, our UUA regional Congregational Life Consultant, will be visiting us for the first time and facilitating a covenanting workshop from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Together, working in mostly in small groups, we will discuss what contributes to making UUSO such a loving and meaningful community. When are we at our best? What allows us to do all the good work we are called to do-- both individually and as a congregation? Once we know what the ideal conditions are, we'll be ready to articulate the commitments we want to make to one another to promote those ideal conditions. It is vital that we have a large portion of the congregation present for this beginning step. All members and members-to-be are invited to attend. The Board will be providing lunch and childcare will be available for the duration of the meeting. (Kids will be invited up to join us for lunch, of course.)

At the end of the workshop, our goal is to have a list of ideas and concepts that can be crafted into a covenant. There will be other opportunities to look at what we come up with, and plenty of chances to suggest edits. (We do tend to be particular about wordsmithing...) And by the May congregational

meeting, we plan to have a fully developed covenant for the congregation to vote on. But it all starts on Saturday the 23rd, with you. Please let the UUSO office know if you will be attending. (You can call, email, text, leave a note, or RSVP via Facebook.)

### **Hurricane Relief...**

Two weeks ago, in our newsletter, I shared information about the UUA's Hurricane Harvey Relief fund. On Sunday, September 10, during our Ingathering Water service, we held a special collection for that fund. (We are still accepting donations to that fund in the UUSO office.) Since that time, hurricane Irma, one of the largest tropical to make landfall slammed wrecked havoc in the Virgin Islands, Florida, and other coastal areas. Several UU minister friends of mine were forced to evacuate. Fortunately, the storm shifted and its path avoided most of the more densely populated areas of Florida. The damage is still tremendous. Millions are without power and flooding is a major issue. The UUA has a set up a 2nd fund to aid the UU congregations and individuals who have been adversely affected by hurricane Irma. Donations to that fund can be made at <https://giving.uua.org/irma-aid>. On that page there are also directions for how to donate by mail or phone. We will likely have a special collection for this fund in the next month, once more details about the need become available.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We have returned from summer adventures to welcome another great year of Religious Education! All of the people who serve as UUSO teachers, youth advisors, RE greeter, and your Director of Religious Education have been preparing themselves and the classrooms with much excitement! We still have a spot or two open for you to help in RE should you want to join us.

## RE KINDNESS ROCKS!

Sunday, September 17th, everyone in K-12th grade is invited to a rock painting party at the Olympia Brown House (16 Ford Ave.) to join in painting “kindness rocks.” We will paint rocks with beautiful, hopeful, and kind messages to leave for people to find. Sometimes one word of hope can mean everything! This is a project that is happening all over the country at a time when hope is needed more than ever. We will have many rocks to work with but you are welcome to bring your own. Please make sure they are clean and dry. You could bring them already painted with a first coat of clear or colored enamel paint if you would like. We will have both natural and first-coat rocks available. Religious Education Classes begin on Sunday, September 24. There will be five groups of children and youth. The Nursery is for those up to 5 years old and is located downstairs at



Chapin Memorial Church. The Explorers (K-3rd grade) and Seekers (4-5th grade) will also meet in the downstairs classrooms at Chapin. Coming of Age Senior Trek, COAST, is for those in 6-9th grade and will meet in their upstairs classroom at the Olympia Brown House. Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, YRUU, is for high school youth who have already completed COAST. YRUU will also meet upstairs at the Olympia Brown House.

*“I feel most spiritual when I’m out in the woods. I feel part of nature. Or looking up at the stars.” Pete Seeger*

The Explorers will be having experiences with our interdependent web of life this year. They will go outside whenever they can to see what happens in their own “special spot” of garden as it changes over the seasons. They will create compost, learn about some of the many creatures who share our earth, and have visits from farm animals (along with many other nature adventures).

The Seekers will return to the popular Popcorn Theology curriculum by Michelle Richards. They will watch clips from movies as a starting place for exploring Unitarian Universalism and ethics. They will discuss topics and always have popcorn! While we love the movies we currently use, we are excited because a brand new set of lessons and movies is expected in January.

COAST will have a new look this year with lessons being geared to many different learning styles. There will be a number of different ways for participants to complete the requirements of the program. It is exciting to be “thinking outside the box” in creating these experiences. COAST participants will have their first retreat on Saturday, Sept 23., at Hartwick’s Pine Lake campus. We’ve signed

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up for an environmental, low-ropes, challenge course which is a fun group bonding experience. We'll meet at the Olympia Brown House at noon and will be back to OBH at 4:30. It is very important that COAST participants attend. They should bring a bag lunch. Their first class will take place the following day, Sunday Sept. 24th. Elayne Mosher Campoli is our COAST Coordinator.

YRUU will meet on Oct. 1 to help create their year together. Many options are on the table at this point including attending services together once a month, class meetings on Sunday mornings or perhaps in the evening, attending Youth Conferences, connecting with the Ithaca UU Youth Group, and social justice projects.

Two of our youth are in Prague for the next year. The COAST team and participants will creatively include them through skype sessions and projects. We are also in contact with their UU minister who will work with them as will Rev. Craig. This global connection will enrich the experience for all.

Finally, there is an important COAST meeting at my house, 48 Woodside Ave, for all those interested in learning more about being a part of the COAST program, their parents/guardians, and COAST advisers. The meeting will begin at noon and is expected to last until 1:30. Childcare and snacks will be provided. We will hopefully have all the information and answers to questions needed for each youth to decide if they want to sign on with COAST. It is a serious commitment for COASTers and their families but it can be one of the most memorable experiences in UUSO Religious Education. COAST culminates with a trip to Boston to visit the UUA among other sites. Past participants in COAST now say: "I wouldn't have missed it for anything!" They have described it as: "Awesome!", "Cool!" and "Pretty Fun".

Here's to another great year ahead!  
Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education





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

### **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

### **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

The UUSO Social Action Team presents its 2017-2018 film series:

**Last Wednesdays' Film Series  
'ON PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL'**

UUSO - 12 Ford Ave.  
Doors open at 5:30 PM  
Vegetarian dinner at 6:00 PM  
Screening at 7 PM

**SEPTEMBER 27 DO NOT RESIST (2014)**

Militarized policing in U.S.--produced by the son of a former SWAT officer--a man appalled by how his profession has changed.

**OCTOBER 25 An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power (2017)**

Al Gore updates An Inconvenient Truth re climate change/global warming.

**NOVEMBER 29 The Economics of Happiness (2011)**

Environmental sustainability. Localization.

**DECEMBER 27 Where to Invade Next (2016)**

What U.S. could do if it didn't spend all its dough on militarism.

**JANUARY 31 I Am Not Your Negro (2016)**

Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished--a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

**FEBRUARY 28 The Times of Harvey Milk (1984)**

Details activism on MANY issues of a man commonly misunderstood to be only a one-issue activist.

**MARCH 28 My Country My Country (2006)**

Impact of U.S. Invasion on Iraqis trying to pick up the pieces of their shattered country.

**APRIL 25 William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe (2009).**

Pick an issue of the 60's and 70s and Kunstler probably defended activists who helped change US society for the better.

**MAY 30 Control Room (2004).**

Al Jazeera during U.S. assault on Iraq. Amazing video.

**JUNE 27 The Unknown Known (2013)**

The late documentarian Errol Morris allowed Donald Rumsfeld to speak for 33 hours on his career--and then boiled it down for us. Named for Rumsfeld's comment about lack of 'WMDs' in Iraq.

*Please stop by the Social Action table during coffee hour to sign a petition to the Trump administration denouncing the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).*

## 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.

The 2017 UUSO Bylaws are now available on our website, also under the Member's Documents section.

### **Newsletter Advertising Policy**

February 15, 2017

There shall be no advertising of personal for-profit goods.

Newsletter articles advertising personal for-profit services or events will be accepted as long as UUSO members may participate at no charge, and that fact is included in each article.

*Replaces "Newsletter Advertising Policy" of October 20, 2004*

## MAILBOXES

We are making some changes to the mailboxes in the entry of the sanctuary. We hope these changes will make communication with the leadership of the church more efficient and make the space more welcoming. We've sent out some notifications requesting owners to empty their boxes for cleaning and reassignment, which the office staff will be doing next week. They will be reassigned to board members, staff, committees, and teams. If you are in a leadership position and feel you will need a mailbox in the church, please contact me so we may discuss it. Though this change may be challenging, we hope that everyone will give it a chance to improve communications at UUSO.

All staff, leaders and committee chairs are reminded to check boxes regularly. These boxes are not intended to be storage spaces. We have begun to organize the button board, and have removed some inactive buttons. If you have multiple buttons stored there, please consider taking some home to make room for new friends.

-Evelyn Warren, UUSO Office Administrator

# UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Sometimes, the simplest thing is the most important, hardest thing to do. Sometimes, rather than do something, we just need to be present.

*\*RE Kickoff at OBH, 16 Ford Ave.*  
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne  
Worship Associate: Caroline Bagby

Coffee Hour Hosts: Beth Small  
Ushers: Cathi Wiltsey & Evelyn Warren  
Chancel Table: Dotty Hudson  
Sound System: Scott Segar



Our Unitarian Universalist celebration of the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a time to forgive one another and ourselves, to remember our dead, and to recommit ourselves to a vision of the good and the true.

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne & others TBA  
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pam Strother & Evelyn Warren  
Ushers: TBA  
Chancel Table: Pam Strother  
Sound System: Lisa Barr

**THE UNITARIAN  
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**UUSO DEADLINES:**

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for September 27th issue  
is September 25th.

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

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

**Green Sanctuary Corner**



If you're using your green thumb to flip through next year's seed catalogs, consider going organic (if you haven't already). Check out specialty vendors such as Johnny's Selected Seeds ([JohnnySeeds.com](http://JohnnySeeds.com)) and Seeds of Change ([SeedsofChange.com](http://SeedsofChange.com)). They have the best earth-friendly deals around. Even in the chilliest areas, you can raise hardy delicacies in pots near your back door, eight months a year.