



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

September 27, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

When We Are At Our Best...

This past Saturday, we hosted a Congregational Covenant Workshop. The Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer, our workshop facilitator, opened the workshop with a provocative question. "Imagine this congregation at it's best. What is UUSO like when it is at it's best?" In small groups, those in attendance shared their answers to that question. This was an important first step in the covenanting process, because covenants are about being in relationship and about being our best selves. A covenant is a shared agreement to be our best selves as we do our shared ministries. The trick is defining what our best selves look like. The bigger challenge, of course, is actually being our best selves. That's a pretty high standard to set for one another. I'd argue it's nearly an impossible standard to meet on a regular basis. Which is actually the point of creating a covenant. We figure out how we are when we are at our best. We agree to strive to be that way. We recognize we won't be our best selves on a fairly regular basis. We further agree to forgive one another for these all-too-human lapses in our behavior. And-- we agree on how we will return to right relationship, call each other back into covenant.

So, if you weren't there on Saturday, I'd invite you to answer these questions for yourself. What is UUSO like when it is at its best? What are the characteristics, the traits, the conditions that make it "our best"? You might even want to go to the extra step and personalize the question. How am I when I'm at my best? What am I like?

A New Puppy!

Last Friday, after 8+ months of searching, Cheryl and I found and adopted a new puppy. We found the little ball of fur at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Upstate New York in Queensbury, NY. (The ASPCA was founded by a Unitarian, Henry Bergh. <http://uudb.org/articles/henrybergh.html>)

As is our custom, we've given our new puppy a full, elaborate name. She is Lady Harmony Sol Wigglebutt. She seems to like Harmony best, so that's her standard name. Harmony is likely a Golden Retriever mix that was rescued from a kill-shelter in TN. She was 8 weeks old when we got her. She had some health issues this past weekend, but after a trip to our local community vet, and some medication; she is doing much better. As she is only a puppy and hasn't had all of her shots yet, she is restricted from going out in public too much. She is also unable to be left alone for more than 2-3 hours at a time. This means that Cheryl and I are juggling our schedules around to make sure that one of us is home to take care of the puppy during this important stage of growth and development. So, for the next couple of months, I'll be working at home some days and my posted office hours will likely be irregular at best. Once the puppy has all of her shots and she is old enough to stay in her crate for a longer period of time, things should go back to normal (or what passes for it.) We do intend to train Harmony to be a therapy dog, just as we did with Spirit. If you want to see photos of Harmony, just ask-- I'm be more than happy to show them to you, or you can check out my Facebook page for regular updates.

As a reminder, the current policy at UUSO regarding dogs (including puppies and other animals) is:

No animals will be allowed in any UUSO buildings except for:

1. Service/Companion/Assistance Animals required due to a disability.
2. Certified Therapy Animals with prior approval of a UUSO staff member.
3. Animals being used as part of a worship or R.E. program.

This policy, along with most of our policies, are posted on our website in the Members area under On-Line Documents in the UUSO Policies section.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UUSO's Religious Education Program began on Saturday, September 23rd, when the COAST (Coming of Age Spiritual Trek) group attended an outdoor Challenge Education workshop offered by Hartwick College. Our COAST program of 6-9th graders usually begins with this course. Hartwick describes their Outdoor Adventure Program as "... a unique learning environment using group problem solving activities as well as the challenge course. These novel activities are presented within an atmosphere of group support and encouragement. A sequence of increasing physical and mental challenges tends to engage people quickly and directly. Insights occur and new behaviors are discovered, with the help of frequent discussions. Programs are designed specifically to suit the needs and goals of a particular group." Our group had fun learning new games, learning about themselves, learning about each other, and bonding as a team. It looks to be a great year for the group!

RE Classes began on Sunday, September 24th. The Web of Life Explorers (Grades K-3) created a class covenant, learned a bit about monarch butterfly metamorphosis and visited their "special spot" at the Olympia Brown House in the backyard of 16 Ford Avenue. This will be a place they will get to know well as they observe it over the course of the RE year. It is important that Explorers always dress for the weather as they will be going outside as often as possible – even if it is raining or snowing! We are thankful for the Olympia Brown House which is only a short distance away from their "spot" and will provide shelter from the elements. The Popcorn Theology group of 4th and 5th graders began their year watching clips from the movie "Back to the Future." They discussed what would happen if one could go back in time.

You can see what each class will be doing by checking our church website at uusoo.org. Information for each Sunday will be available by the preceding Wednesday.

Many RE participants painted beautiful "Kindness Rocks" on Sunday, Sept 17th. They are now completely dry and sealed for the weather. Please visit the kitchen room of the Olympia Brown House to retrieve these beautiful rocks. They are ready to be hidden in an appropriate place that will bring some cheer to whoever should chance upon one. The Kindness Rocks program reminds us to think carefully before hiding a rock to make sure it is not going to cause a problem. For instance they should be left somewhere outside and not in anyone's way.

May the time we have together in RE this year bring us all much joy!

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education
dre@uusoo.org

Here are some quick facts to know about our Religious Education Program:

- *Register your child for Religious Education Classes if you haven't already done so. Forms may be found in the foyer. Completed forms can be left in the wall pocket for delivery to the church office. There is no fee.*
- *Check the glass bulletin board as you enter the church to see if your K-5th grader begins their day in the sanctuary with you or in their classroom. 6th graders and above always begin classes right at 10:30 at the Olympia Brown House.*
- *Visit your K-3rd grader to retrieve them from their classroom after the service. Those in 4th grade and above may walk to meet you unaccompanied at fellowship time after the service.*
- *Guests are always welcome. Encourage your child to bring a friend! You are also welcome to visit your child's classroom at any time.*
- *See Director of Religious Education, Susan Ryder, if you have any questions. You can also text her during the service at 607-643-1927.*

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

This past Saturday, 25 UUSO members and friends took the time on a lovely fall day to participate in our Congregational Covenant Workshop. Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer led us through an engaging interactive process to begin our journey together in creating a Covenant of Right Relations. We shared powerful stories and generated our cherished values. From these we listed ways we would want to be treated as we relate in beloved community together. Rev. Evin then provided coaching to the the Board and Committee on Ministry members as to how to proceed from here. This process will continue for months to come and hopefully culminate in the congregation's vote on an agreed upon Covenant during our Annual Meeting on May 6, 2018. You will see announcements for small group opportunities and other ways to provide your input if you weren't able to join us on Saturday.

Karen Palmer, UUSO President

FALL RUMMAGE SALE: NOVEMBER 1ST-3RD

The UU society organizes the rummage sale for two main reasons:

As a service to the community to provide good quality clothing and household items at very reasonable and affordable prices for people with fewer resources.

As a service to our congregants to provide an easy way to move stuff that they no longer use out of their houses and offer it to others who need it.

Now is the time to start going through those boxes in the attic, closets and basement to find items you are no longer using but could be of use to someone else. We are asking for fall and winter clothing for all ages, accessories, jewelry, and good quality small items for the boutique, plus curtains, linens and bedding (all cleaned with no mold or musty smell, please). Children's toys in good, working condition are always a big sale item, too. Small pieces of furniture in very good condition are acceptable, but please no large desks, cabinets, sofas, chairs, etc.

We will accept kitchenware and housewares in good to excellent condition – no broken or missing pieces and no rust. Small electronic items (clocks, radios, irons, blenders, tools, lamps, etc) will be taken, but PLEASE – no TV's, computers, lawn mowers, or other large electronics. All electronic items will be plugged in and tested at the front door; anything that does not work properly will not be accepted.

Save your books, records, CD's, DVD's and VCR tapes for the Plant and Book sale in June next year!

We will begin set-up for the rummage sale directly after coffee hour on Sunday October 29, and begin accepting sale items that day from 2 to 6 pm. We will also be accepting sale items on October 30 and 31, from 11 am to 6 pm. Please do not bring items to the church at other times when we are not there to accept them, and please do not bring items to us while we are working the sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

If you feel that you need to make special arrangements to bring sale items to the church, please contact Arlana Young at 202 839 6475 or Julia Gregory at 563 2924.

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the rummage sale. We need at least 5 strong and able people to help with the set up on Sunday from 12:30 to 2 pm, and 3-4 people each on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday for accepting items and setting them out on the tables and racks. During the sale days, we'll need 4-6 people each day to work 2, 3, or 4 hour shifts, and then on Friday November 4th, from noon to 2 pm, we'll need 3 people to pack up what's left and those 5 strong and able people again to break down the fixtures and bring it all back down to the basement.

We'll begin soliciting volunteers on Sunday, October 1 during coffee hour. Please consider donating a few hours to help with this worthy and important service event. Thank you!

The rummage sale hours will be:

Wednesday, November 1

10am to 6pm

Thursday, November 2

9am to Noon & 1pm to 6 pm
(Half Price Sale!)

Friday, November 3

9am to Noon
(All Items 10 cents each!)

BACKPACK BUDDIES AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

As I write this it hardly seems possible that October is almost upon us, but next Sunday is First Sunday and time for our Backpack Buddies and Personal Care Products collection. The colder weather will come, soon enough, and with it children work up hearty appetites and the homeless are even more stressed. Please bring your donations of non-perishable, kid-friendly, vaguely nutritious food for children who don't have enough to eat on weekends and vacations. Also, get rid of your collection of sample size personal care products by bringing them for the less fortunate. Of course, monetary donations are always welcome—cash or check. Please make checks out to the NE NY Regional Food Bank with backpack buddies Otsego/Delaware Counties in the memo.

I am so proud to be part of a group that has taken up this project and stuck with it. We are making a difference right in our own community.

—Dawn Kilts for Social Action Team



Changing the world one dinner at a time.

NEW LOCATION FOR DINING FOR WOMEN — 10/8

The next meeting of the Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will be SUNDAY OCTOBER 8TH AT 6 PM. Dining for Women is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in developing countries. We "dine together," learn about and support organizations that help to make a difference. Our program of study and support this month is Sahar Education. We will learn about their Early Marriage Prevention program in two schools in rural Northern Afghanistan, how it empowers young girls to develop life goals and advocate for themselves. This month's donation by Dining for Women of \$50,000 will be used in the second phase of this training for 500 girls.

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE IS THE EDUCATION ROOM AT THE PLAINS at Parrish Homestead, located on Route 7, just west of the 205 intersection.

As we no longer have access to a kitchen, WE ASK THAT YOU BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE ALONG WITH YOUR POT LUCK DISH. Drinks will be provided as usual. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Helterline at 432-5127 or Linda Wilcox at 433-2985.

OCTOBER CHANGE FOR CHANGE — LITERACY VOLUNTEERS NEW YORK

The Change for Change collected this month will go to Literacy Volunteers New York. LVNY trains and coordinates community adult volunteers who tutor adults in need of basic reading, writing or English as a second language instruction.

CHANCEL TABLE

The Chancel Table calendar is ready for people to sign for Sundays in October—and the rest of the year. Perhaps you would like to honor a person or occasion with flowers, objects, posters. Or maybe you have a visual interpretation of the sermon. Just call Alice at 432-8673 or email alice.pott@icloud.com.

Many thanks, Alice Siegfried

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

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
 SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Many wonder what they can do to make a difference and how to keep up with the issues of the day.

Everyone can be part of the solution; It starts with love and continues with ferocity.

**Start Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
 Worship Associate: Alexandra Tolin-Schultz

Coffee Hour Hosts: TBA

Ushers: Kim Elsener

Chancel Table: Grace Smith

Sound System: Julian Pecenco



As a people dedicated to the responsible search for Truth and Meaning, in this new world of "fake news" and "virtual reality", how do we discern and disseminate the real truth?

**Start Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Michael & Dorothy Frye
 Hunt

Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: TBA

Ushers: TBA

Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas

Sound System: Patrick Rost

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA**

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



UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for October 11th issue
is October 9th, by 9AM

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

Verbal Announcements:
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

Green Sanctuary Corner



Plug electronics into a power strip.

This makes it more convenient to switch everything off when you're not using it. This easy tip alone can save you up to 12 percent off your electric bill every year. Need another example? Leaving your computer on all day can cost about 21 cents per day, which is about \$75 per year. How many computers do you keep on in your home?

Excerpt from earth911.com.

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