



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

October 26, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Ask the Minister!

Have a question for the minister? A nagging theological question you need explored? Perhaps, a riddle you need help solving? Our UUSO website now has a section just for such occasions. The "Ask the Minister" page can be found on my page on our website (<http://uuso.org/about-us/asktheminister/>) Questions submitted there will be emailed to me. Once a week, I'll try to pick a question to answer and will then post the answer to that page. If I'm really ambitious, and I can figure out how to do it, some questions might even be answered in a video. I look forward to your queries.

NEXT STEPS WEEKEND

Save the dates! The weekend of November 17-19, UUSO will be hosting a Next Steps Weekend, facilitated by Liz Coit from Stewardship For Us. Stewardship For Us is a consulting group specialized in working with Unitarian Universalists in deepening their understanding and practice of stewardship. Their mission is to build cultures of generosity and commitment. The UUSO Board of Trustees has contracted with Stewardship for Us to conduct an assessment of our stewardship beliefs and practices and make recommendations for how we might improve how we support and care for UUSO and our shared mission and vision. Preliminary planning for the weekend has begun and more specific details will be shared once they have been finalized. For now, though, it would be helpful if everyone marked their calendars with those dates. Our results from this weekend will depend on the participation of our UUSO members and friends.

**Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On Sunday, Oct 22, UU Children from K-5th grade began their time together by meeting and getting to know a chicken named Snowball and a baby goat named S'more. These guests were brought to our celebration by Teagan and Aubrey. Both animals were friendly and graciously let us pet them. Everyone was gentle. We went from the backyard of the Olympia Brown House to the front room where we learned about and celebrated Day of the Dead. This began with decorating an altar with (among other things) a chalice, beautiful purple flowers, brightly painted skulls, woven multicolored cloth, purple lights, dancing skeletons, and marigolds. We talked about how this holiday is sacred to many people in Mexico and other parts of the world including parts of the US. We thanked these peoples for this time together where we could remember those dear to us who had died.

We stood back to admire the beautiful altar and then spread marigold petals from the door to our altar to "light the way" for our remembering. We sang:

*Gathered here in the mystery of the hour
Gathered here in one strong body
Gathered here in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near.*

Phillip Porter #389 from our Hymnal, Singing the Living Tradition.

We went around our circle where everyone had a chance to invite someone or special pet who had died to our celebration of remembering. We practiced listening more deeply to each other as well as each person having a turn to talk should they choose. It is always fine to pass. We remembered grandparents, great grandparents, special pets, and a bug. S'more, our visiting goat, had lost her mother recently.

We read a book, I Remember Abuelito: A Day of the Dead Story, by Janice Levy. It tells the story of a girl who helps her family prepare to honor those who have died. They have a traditional Day of the Dead celebration. This celebration isn't meant to be scary (like Halloween) but a time to acknowledge sadness and make happy memories at the same time. Monarch butterflies are especially important as they arrive for their winter roost in the oyamel fir trees at special sites in Mexico. They are thought to be reminders or spirits returning for the Day of the Dead celebration. Our Web of Life Explorers class recently learned about the life cycle of Monarch butterflies. All of the children had a chance to see the caterpillars and a chrysalis. Two of the children were present when it was time to release two butterflies who had emerged from their chrysalides and were ready to fly. They released them to fly to Mexico. We hope some of the many Monarchs that have now gathered in Mexico are our Monarchs from Oneonta!

This was followed by decorating sugar skulls. Some ate theirs and warned others that they kind of wished that they hadn't. (There can be too much of a good thing – even sugar!) We colored masks. We ate pieces of freshly baked *Pan de los Muertos*, Bread of the Dead, and Raphael got the special piece with a melted candy inside. This meant he could pick any decoration from our altar to keep.

It was a fun time together and nice to share our memories of those who have died.

The closing words of our service were:

"May we always have an altar to life in our hearts."

In Peace,

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

At our October meeting, the Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Trustee Suzy Beddoe who has been a voice of advocacy, a ready and willing food organizer, and an advocate for love and compassion as a required ingredient in every Board decision. Suzy's personal travels with her husband, Larry, proved to be a barrier to the level of commitment that she felt was necessary for a Trustee to be able to offer. We appreciate Suzy's service as a Trustee, especially given her past experience as UUSO Board President. The Board will be determining an appointment of a Trustee to serve in Suzy's place until the congregation elects a new Trustee to serve out the rest of her term.

Other business included the creation of a subcommittee to carry forth our congregational effort to develop a UUSO Covenant of Right Relations and approval of the contract and preparation for the Next Steps Weekend to be held November 17-19 working with our stewardship consultant, Liz Coit.

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

INTRODUCING COAST

Hello! We are members of COAST this year in grades 6-9. Our members are Sabrina, Sam, Jacob, Grace, Corey, Caitlin, and Ben. One of our members is in the Czech Republic this year!

What we are: COAST is Coming Of Age Spiritual Trek

What we are looking forward to about our year:

- Boston trip and visiting the aquarium
- Working with mentors
- Retreats

Please look for our upcoming fundraisers to support our pilgrimage to Boston in May 2018, we would appreciate your support.

—The COAST class, and coordinator Elayne Mosher Campoli

RUMMAGE SALE!
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

November 1 10AM-6PM	November 2 9AM-12PM & 1PM-6PM <i>Half Price after noon!</i>	November 3 9AM-12PM <i>10 Cent Sale!</i>
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



UUSO NEW HOME FOR SLD BANNER

Last week, I received an email calling out for a new home for the UUA St. Lawrence District banner, which was recently merged into the CERG (Central East Regional Group). I immediately responded that we'd love to have it, thinking it would look great in the office. Imagine my surprise when I noticed it was made by our own Mary Krupp! It will be posted in a place of honor in the Sanctuary in the next few weeks. I'm so glad it has found its way back home.

—Evelyn Warren
UUSO Office Administrator

UUSO OFFICE CLOSED ELECTION DAY

One of the fundamental principles of the Unitarian Universalism is the use of the democratic process. As an expression of our faith, many Unitarian Universalist congregations engage in voter registration and protecting voting rights, not for partisan reasons, but to empower all eligible people to contribute their voices to the democratic process.

Defending the freedom to vote has been central to the work of the UUA and at the core of Unitarian Universalism for decades— And in recognition of this, we will be closing the office for Election Day, which falls on November 7th.

Where do I vote?

You can look up your polling location here: <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

When are the polls open?

Polling hours for a General Election are 6AM-9PM.

Do I need to bring my voter card/proof of ID?

New York State does not require that you have a voter identification card with you on election day. However, if you neglected to provide proof of ID on your Voter Registration Form, you may be asked to provide ID on election day.

If I am enrolled in a political party, can I vote for candidates on other party lines?

In a General Election, you may vote for any candidate on the ballot you wish, regardless of your party affiliation.

More Questions? See the Otsego County Board of Election online at: <http://www.otsegocounty.com/depts/boe/>

CHAPIN BASEMENT FEATURED IN *DAILY STAR*

An article in *Focus on Oneonta*, a publication of the Oneonta Daily Star, featured on Oct 11, 2017 an article by Mark Simonson about the history of the arts in Oneonta.

Did anyone know that Oneonta's very first art gallery, the Oneonta Community Art Center, opened in 1948 in the basement of Chapin Memorial? According to the article, Dr. Henry Arnold, the President of Hartwick College in 1948 wished to encourage the development of a community art movement. He encouraged Miss Genevieve Hamlin, a NYC sculptor and world traveler to move to Oneonta to become the motivating force in developing such a community. She and Dr. Arnold opened an art gallery at Chapin in 1948, and she developed the first Main Street art show of Oneonta artists in 1949. The works were displayed in shop windows. In following years, by popular demand, she organized several outdoor art shows.

Who knew? Isn't it interesting that UUSO is now using the Gathering Room in the basement of Chapin as a mini art gallery! There must be something in the air.

Please come see Molly Swain's drawings currently displayed in the Gathering Room. She is a example of Dr. Arnold's belief: "...New York is cosmopolitan. I feel real American life and art are to be found in the small American city."

—Submitted by Grace Smith

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year's Oneonta Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at the First United Presbyterian Church ("Red Door"), at Main Street and Walling Avenue, on Tuesday, November 21. The service will begin at 7:30, with the interfaith choir rehearsal at 6:30. All are welcome to sing in the choir under the direction of organist/choirmaster Mike Jones. The choir will sing "Beloved, Let Us Love One Another" (text from the Bible; music by Pepper Choplin) and "Thanks Be to God" (text by F. Pratt Green; music by Judy Hunnicutt). Choir robes will not be worn.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt of the First United Presbyterian Church will host the service. President Danny Noorlander of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will deliver the message. Other participants will include clarinetist Robin Seletsky, Hollie Jaffe, Michael O'Sullivan, and representatives from the Muslim and Baha'i communities.

Donations of money and non-perishable food are requested. Donated food and money will be distributed to the Oneonta food pantries: St. James, St. Mary's, and the Salvation Army. A reception with refreshments will follow the service.

Contact: Ric Chrislip

Day 431-4189

Cell 434-5463

Frederic.Chrislip@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars---the 30th annual Cookies & Crafts is scheduled for Saturday December 2! We'll have wonderful crafts from both familiar and new vendors and—with your help—plates and plates of beautiful holiday cookies!

Jane Bachman

Cookies & Crafts Committee

COMING UP AT UUSO: THE NEXT STEPS WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 17 – 19.

We are looking forward to a special weekend with Stewardship for Us, a UU-affiliated consulting team, to work with us to advance our goals and aspirations through a strong stewardship effort. At the request of UUSO's Board of Directors, SforUs team member Liz Coit will be joining us for an examination of our Society's strengths, challenges, untapped talents, and opportunities so that we may ensure the continuing health and sustainability of our stewardship program.

Many of us will be involved! Liz is in the process of learning about us through documents and a few advance phone calls. During the weekend of November 17-19, she will meet with Reverend Craig, a wide range of committees, individual members of the Society, staff members, and the Board. Liz will share findings, recommendations, and ideas for a pathway to an empowered UUSO stewardship program on Sunday, November 19th.

If you are on Stewardship, Finance, Fundraising, Membership, Endowment, Religious Education, or Social Justice Committees, please plan on participating in 50-minute meetings at different times of the day on Saturday, November 18th. On Saturday afternoon, time is also set aside for a special workshop for the Stewardship Committee. Karen or Amy will be in touch with you soon with an invitation to join us. Thank you all for sharing your insights, perspectives, and ideas!

“THANK YOU, UUSO!”

“Thank you for your recent Change for Change donation of \$121.50! We will put the funds toward renovations of our Fortin House playspace and museum for area children.

*Sincerely,
OWL Board”*

“On behalf of the South Central Chapter of the AFSP, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of the July loose change collection. It is because of community donors like you that we are able to provide local programming in our effort to prevent suicide.

*Thanks again for your love and support.
Sincerely,
The South Central Chapter American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention”*

“Thank you for generously donating to the local Backpack programs! The Edmeston Central School Backpack Program recently received word that we will benefit from this. For a small district, we have a high percentage of children in need.

*Your help is very much appreciated.
Sincerely,
Laura Port, ECSBPP Coordinator”*

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT FRUITCAKE.

Since it has worked so well for the last few years, I will be taking orders for fruitcakes ahead of time again this year so everyone can buy as many as they want.

The fruitcakes come in two varieties, Light Honey Rum and Dark Brandy Molasses. Each weighs about a pound. The price this year is the same as it has been for the past several years-- \$15.00 each. 100% donation to UUSO.

The **deadline for ordering is November 10th** because the fruitcakes have to be started at least two weeks before Thanksgiving in order to have time to ripen and mellow for the Christmas season. Please either call (267-4280) or email me pstrother@stny.rr.com if you want to place an order. The fruitcakes will be available for pickup at Cookies and Crafts on December 2nd or by special arrangement if you cannot pick them up at Cookies and Crafts.

—Pam Strother

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Setting aside a regular time for lighting the chalice at home, whether alone or as a family, can be used for inspiration, meditation, and reflection.

It offers us a time to think about UU principles and practices in our own lives and in the larger world.

*This Sunday's Change for Change will go to **Caring Connections**, as it does on every fifth Sunday of the Month.*

**Start Together Sunday*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne & the UUSO Choir

Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Molly Swain

Ushers: Mary Ambrose

Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller

Sound System: Lisa Barr



(Daylight Savings Time; turn clocks back!)

It's been a long and tumultuous year filled with surprises, disappointments, and sorrows. How do we sustain our spirits and keep on doing the good work that needs to be done?

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*

With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne
Worship Associate: Caroline Bagby

Coffee Hour Hosts: Suzanne Miller & Walter vom Saal

Ushers: Sue Troost

Chancel Table: Dotty Hudson

Sound System: Scott Segar

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
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



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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for November 8th issue
is November 6th, 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



Make your own green Halloween decorations.

Halloween is the second biggest decorating holiday of the year, and so many of the decorations being peddled are made of non-recyclable plastics. If you do buy new items, at least choose durable non-petroleum based items that will last for many years. Otherwise, make a dent in the waste by creating your own homemade decorations with recycled household items.

A few green Halloween decorating ideas:

- Giant Spider: Use black trash bags for a giant tarantula (stuff with garden leaves--or newspapers but be sure to recycle the newspapers and trash bags when you're done). [How to here.](#)
- Ghosts: Stuff old bed sheets with leaves or newspaper, tie with a string to form a head and hang from trees.
- Spiderwebs: Make with shredded black pantyhose or cotton balls, instead of the synthetic messy ones from the store. If you're extra crafty, and want a dramatic look, weave a web of yarn near your entryway. Just select organic cotton or other eco-friendly yarns: [Yarn web instructions.](#)