



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

December 6, 2017

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Deck the Halls!

Feel like trimming the UUSO tree? Join us this Friday at 4:30 p.m. as we put decorate the sanctuary tree. Thanks to some generous donations from two of our Board members, some money from the worship budget, and the efforts of some helpful members; we have a live tree for the Chapin Memorial sanctuary and an artificial tree for the Olympia Brown House living room. All are welcome for the trimming fun. There will be holiday music-- and if we are really fortunate, perhaps some Christmas treats to snack on while we work.

Building Bridges, Giving Test-Time TLC

Bridges Interfaith Campus Ministry is hosting an event for SUNY students struggling with finals week. Next Tuesday, Bridges will be hosting a small concert by Rev. LaDana Clark (also known as Lady Jay, the Rappin' Rev) and handing out care packages to any students that stop by. UUSO is one of four local congregations working together in support of Bridges Interfaith Campus Ministry. If you would be willing to help with this event, we need some home baked goodies to add to the care packages. (We need 150 treats to put in 50 bags.) And then, Monday night, we could use some help packing the TLC bags for Tuesday's event. And finally, if you would be interested in attending the event with me to represent UUSO, please let me know. We hope this event will help get the word out about Bridges and get the ball rolling for next semester's activities.

Popcorn Theology: UUSO and COCO

Join me and other UUSO members and friends of all ages as we see the movie "COCO". We'll see the

movie at the Southside Mall Cinemas next Saturday (12/16) at 11:00 a.m. (movie is scheduled for 11:10 a.m.) After the movie, we'll gather in the mall's community room (near where Radioshack used to be) to discuss the issues and themes of the movie. Since we'll be in the movie over lunch time, people are encouraged to grab something from one of the nearby restaurants and bring food to the discussion.

COCO is the latest animated movie from Pixar studios. It tells the story of a Mexican family and their annual celebration of the Day of Dead. The movie explores issues of family, personal determination, fame, creativity, forgiveness, love, tradition, and loyalty. It is also an amazingly sensitive and rich exploration of the Day of the Dead celebration, something our UUSO kids experience with Susan Ryder in our religious education program every year. (See her article about this year's celebration in the October 26th newsletter, available on our website.) The movie tickets cost \$5.00. If you would like to attend, but need financial assistance with your ticket, please let Rev. Craig know. COCO is rated PG (for thematic elements). If anyone has questions about the film, please contact Rev. Craig. (Cheryl and I saw it last weekend and thoroughly enjoyed it-- though you might need to bring a handkerchief or two.) No RSVP is required, but we will enter the theater at 11:00 a.m to get our seats. If you've already seen the movie, you are still welcome to join us the the discussion time afterwards. (We'll probably be there at 1:15 p.m.) There is also a 20 minute "short" before the movie involving the characters/setting of "Frozen". Hope to see you there.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We have already begun to celebrate the winter holiday season. Our church hosted the annual *Cookies and Crafts* event on Saturday December 2nd. If you missed it, watch for it next year in the beginning of December. The room was full of excitement and fellowship. It was a chance for all ages to have some delicious soup and muffins (and cookies) and to purchase beautiful gifts while benefiting our church. I had some lovely conversations and soaked up some much-needed peace in the middle of this busy time.

Many thanks to those of you who are already supporting the COAST (Coming of Age Spiritual Trek) group fundraisers. The COAST group offered childcare (by donation) at the Olympia Brown House as a fundraiser for their trip to Boston and to allow parents a break and some time to participate in *Cookies and Crafts*.

There are many meaningful ways for us all to celebrate the holidays with our UUSO community.

Religious Education participants are once again collecting warm mittens, hats, and scarves for children in our community. Look for a large basket near the Family Services Christmas Tree in the back of the sanctuary. Help your child to decide what to donate and bring to church to leave in the basket. We will bring all donated items to Family Services before the start of the New Year.

The Sunday service on December 10 will be a stay-together Sunday to hear some Stories of the Season told by Rev. Craig. Following this is our Holiday Workshop. This is a time to gather together and make gifts side by side with those of all ages. This is great way to get to know someone you might not have spoken with before as well as to spend time with old friends. Children especially love to be part of all of the festivities as they get to know adults in the congregation and make some special gifts. It is one of my favorite Sundays of the year.

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. This means that our traditional family service will take place at 10:30AM rather than in the evening. (There will be a meditative service at 7PM) At the 10:30AM service we are planning to do the popular no-rehearsal pageant. Children who have participated in this pageant in the past ask me when they will be able to do it again. This is it! Basically, the story of the birth of Jesus is told with calls going out for anyone who wants to participate as one of the characters. We have costumes and props galore. As each character is ready in costume they join together in the front of the sanctuary until the entire story tableau is assembled. It is also fun not to join as a character and enjoy watching the unfolding tableau and story. The story is interspersed with beautiful music and singing. Guests are welcome to join in or to watch this no-rehearsal pageant. My visiting Minnesota and New York City relatives have enjoyed participating in seasons past.

Wishing you Peace this Holiday Season,

Susan Ryder
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuso.org

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME AND LEARN ABOUT REALM AT THE HOLIDAY WORKSHOP!

On Sunday, December 10th, at the annual Holiday Workshop, we'll have a special table for adults! You have been hearing about Realm, our new UUSO database. Now come and check out the table where we'll have information about how to set up your own account (if you haven't already done that) and how to use the database.



Realm is very powerful, and over time we'll be rolling out more and more features that you'll see. For now, every adult congregant can create a login account where you'll be able to see and update your own record and contact information. You can also determine who can see your information and you'll be able to look up the street address, phone, and email address for others in our congregation.

If you have a smart handheld device - either an iPhone or an iPad or an Android - you'll be able to download an app where you can see the contact information for people in the UUSO. Bring those devices to the Holiday Workshop and we'll help you get the app loaded.

So, come and check out the Realm Table at the Holiday Workshop!

—Kathy Paranya for the Database Task Force

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE'S GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROGRAM

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to support for and awareness about our work to advance human rights. This year's GAYT theme is Small Change is Big Change. The theme Small Change is Big Change highlights the impact that UUSC's over 75 partner grassroots organizations, the "Guest" at Your Table, have had on critical human rights issues. One of this year's "Guest" is the Center for Social Justice (CSI), one of UUSC's nine partners working to promote human rights in Burma. CSI, with funding assistance from the UUSC, was able to create a leadership development program for Burmese youth in the Rakhine state. The goal of the leadership development program is to provide youth with the tools they need to become agents of change in their own communities through proficiency in leadership, conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, community development, project management, and community mobilization. CSI is planning to expand use of this leadership model to other regions in Burma with the goal of youth "not only claiming their rights but becoming accountable citizens."

Guest at Your Table brochures and envelopes can be found on the Social Action Team table. Please stop by the Social Action Table during social hour to pick up a donation envelope or a Guest at Your Table box to collect your donation in. Please return filled in envelopes with either a check or credit card information to the Social Action Team table by January 7, 2018. Thank you for your continued support of the Guest at Your Table program.

—Social Action Team

CHANCEL TABLE OPENINGS

Only January 14 is spoken for in 2018. Please consider signing up for any month, but especially January!! Perhaps you have a beautiful painting, photograph, sculpture, plant to share, or a person or occasion you would like to honor with flowers, memorabilia. Your creativity is welcome. Just call me at 432-8673 or e-mail alice.pott@icloud.com. Thanks. —Alice Siegfried

LAST WEDNESDAYS FILM SERIES—DEC. 27TH

Please plan to attend an uplifting film by Michael Moore--part of the Last Wednesdays Film Series on Peace and Justice for All:

DECEMBER 27 Where to Invade Next (2016)

Explores with great humor what the U.S. could do if it didn't spend all its dough on militarism. Moore travels the world and sees how other democracies handle everything from health care to drug laws.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., vegetarian meal at 6:00, film at 7:00 with discussion to follow. Free of charge. Childcare available, please contact the church office with number and ages of kids by Friday, December 22.

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION GIFTS DUE SUNDAY, DEC. 10TH

Please bring your unwrapped gifts with their accompanying tags attached to church this Sunday. Carol Malz and Rhiannon Ham will then organize the 80 gifts for the 4 families and take them to Family Service. A big job—thanks to Carol and Malz and all of you who have contributed so generously.

—Social Action Team

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

The UUSO Spring Congregational Meeting minutes and the proposed Fall Congregational Meeting minutes are now available on our website under <http://uusoo.org/online-documents/> If you wish to pick up a printed copy or have one mailed to you, please contact our office administrator at uusoo@uusoo.org, or at 607-432-3491.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The UUSO Office will be closed for the week following Christmas and will reopen January 3rd. Please have your announcements for the 12/24 and 12/31 Orders of service to the Office by Dec. 20th.

DECEMBER 24TH
**CHRISTMAS
SERVICES**

Join us for one of our candlelight services
celebrating the birth of Jesus
and his message of peace & hope.

Family Service 10:30am <i>Christmas Pageant</i>	Meditative Service 7:30pm <i>Contemplative & Traditional</i>
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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA**
12 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

DEC 10 • 10:30AM • UUSO @ 12 FORD AVE.

STORIES OF THE SEASON

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG



There are many stories told during this season of holy days and holidays. Tales of hope and love, joy and generosity. Come, let us share a tale or two.

This Sunday there will be a second collection during service for Caring Connections.

**Stay Together Sunday*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir.
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Suzy Beddoe & TBA
Ushers: Need Volunteers!
Chancel Table: Donna Behrendt
Sound System: Beth Small
Holiday Workshop Following Service



Winter is Coming

— December 17 —
Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

The motto from the popular book and television show is a reminder that hard times are coming, and everyone must work together to survive the coming storm. There's truth waiting for us in those words.

**Children to Classrooms at 10:30AM*
With Music provided by Music Director Tim Horne and the UUSO Choir.
Worship Associate: Alex Schultz

Coffee Hour Hosts: Carol Malz
Ushers: Mary Ambrose
Chancel Table: Suzanne Miller
Sound System: Julian Pecenco

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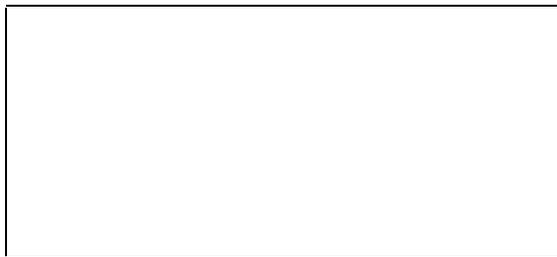
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UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for December 20th issue
is December 18th, 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



YOUR 10 GREEN HOLIDAY TIPS



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Amy Forster-Rothbart Vice-President
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