



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of May 15, 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Minister's Article	1
Religious Education	2
Sawdust	3
Society News	4
Worship Services	6

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Black Lives Matter Rededication & Recommitment!

Our new Black Lives Matter banner has arrived and will be installed over our Chapin Memorial Sanctuary entrance the weekend of June 8th-9th. After the worship service that Sunday, we will gather to rededicate the new banner and to recommit ourselves to being an anti-racism, anti-oppression congregation. Members and friends of UUSO of all ages are invited to attend and participate. Guests from the wider community that share our commitment to this work are being invited to join us for this celebration.

### Beware of Church Scam Attempts

According to reports from my colleagues and from the UU Money Digest group, there are several scams going around specifically targeting members of congregations. One scam uses an email sent from a church leader (the minister or the Board President) that claims to be in a situation where they need some money quickly. (Car breaks down, doctor visit copay, etc.) In another, an email is sent from the church office or minister asking the person to pay for a gift card for some person in need, with a convenient link you can click to make the donation.

If you receive a request for funds from myself or another church leader, it is likely to be a scam. While I have solicited funds from members for folks in need, I will never do so with a "link" you can click in the email. And I always ask for a return email confirming your intent. If you are ever in doubt, please call or text the person the email is supposedly from and make sure.

### Ramadan Greetings

I received a nice card from Omar Siddiqi of the Osmanli Dergah community last Friday.

*Dear Rev. Schwalenberg,*

*I am writing to you on behalf of the Osmanli Dergah community to express our best wishes and prayers to you and your congregation on the first day of Ramadan. May this holy month bring us all peace and contentment. We are grateful for your friendship.*

*Sincerely,  
Omar Siddiqi*

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims celebrate the first revelation of the Quran to the prophet Muhammad during this month by fasting during daylight hours, praying, and celebrating the breaking of the fast with family and friends. If you want to wish someone a "Happy Ramadan", you can say it just like that. If you want to be more traditional, you can say "Ramadan Kareem" (Have a generous Ramadan.) or "Ramadan Mubarak" (Happy Ramadan.)

I'll be joining the Osmanli Dergah community for a Ramadan Dinner and celebration this Sunday (5/19 @ 7:30 p.m.) along with others they have invited from the wider community. If you would like to join me for this celebration, please let me know ASAP so I can properly RSVP. I'm sure they would allow me to bring 2-3 guests from UUSO.

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*"The insect in the plant, the moth which spends its brief hours of existence hovering about the candle's flame - nay, the life which inhabits a drop of water, is as much an object of God's special providence as the mightiest monarch on his throne." —Henry Bergh (1813-1888)*

UUSO Religious Education classes often hold up Unitarian Henry Bergh as an example of someone who made a difference in the lives of animals and children. He founded the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1866. He went on in 1875 to found the first child protection organization in the United States, the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Both Explorers and Hogwarts classes discussed Henry Bergh's work on Sunday, May 10.

They also brought in some animal guests. The Hogwarts class hosted Clifford the albino corn snake, Khan the cat, and guinea pigs Chip and Teddy. The Explorers class had a visiting litter of kittens. Everyone enjoyed being with these animals and talking about their care. Teagan and Aubrey's family just got some horses. Amelia W. had two dogs. Charlotte also had a dog. There were many more pets among them all than just those visiting!

The kittens were named Bo(hemian), Rhapsody, Radio Ga Ga, Fat Bottom Girl, Champion and (perhaps you guessed) Queen. They were already named when they were taken in to foster by Amelia MC's family. She told us they had only had them for a month. They were currently 7 weeks old. The Susquehanna SPCA had rescued the litter from living in the wild with a feral mother. Amelia's family was to help the kittens learn about people to get them ready for adoptions into people's homes. Amelia W's family had also fostered rescue animals. They and others had adopted rescued pets.

The Explorers and Hogwarts classes visited each other to get to know all the pets. The nursery group visited the Explorers and played with kittens. All were very gentle with all the pets as they talked about animals in their lives and how to best take care of them.

There were still some children interacting with the pets when the class was over. Everyone lay on the floor on their backs, cuddling with the kittens. They called it "cat yoga".

In appreciation for the creatures in our lives,

Susan Ryder  
UUSO Director of Religious Education



# SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board met on April 24 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

## **Summary of the Ministry Assessment of Worship**

After opening words and check in, we discussed our Ministry Assessment of Worship and the subcommittee's summary report.

## **Minutes Approval and Review of Reports**

We approved the March 27 BOT minutes, reviewed the Minister's Report, DRE Report, and Treasurer's Report. Financial reports continue to be brought up to date by our new bookkeeper. The draft budget is being prepared to present to the congregation at the annual meeting with input from the congregation, finance committee and board.

## **Stewardship Campaign**

We discussed the possible reasons for decline in pledges and recognize that they may be multiple including economic hardship, lower engagement, and dissatisfaction with one or more aspects of UUSO. The Board is working with the Stewardship Committee to understand this more clearly and learn lessons to benefit from as we move forward as a congregation to fund our Mission.

## **Next Board Meeting:**

Our next BOT meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Congregants are welcome to observe. Childcare is offered on request, please submit by 1 week prior.

We will hold the Sounding Board on Sunday, May 19 after the service to hear any comments, questions, or concerns to be brought to the Board. If interested in placing an item on the BOT meeting agenda, please contact the president, Karen Palmer at least two days ahead of the meeting.

Karen Palmer, President  
UUSO Board of Trustees  
greenspeech3278@gmail.com

### BOOK & PLANT SALE

The Annual UUSO Book and Plant Sale is coming May 31 and June 1. Start combing through your books and checking out your gardens to see what you might want to donate - and replace with something else from the sale! But please find other homes for textbooks, encyclopedias, moldy books, magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed Books, or anything recorded off the TV or radio. More information to follow. Contact Deb Bruce at 433-0356 with any questions.

### INFORMATION SESSION ON THE MINISTER'S AGREEMENT WITH THE CONGREGATION

On Sunday, June 2 at 12:15pm, Rev. Craig and the Board are offering the Congregation an opportunity to review the current Minister's Agreement, ask questions, and provide input. This will help inform us when we update the Agreement this August as is required every three years. Childcare will be provided.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Twenty five of us shared food and conversation at the three Candlelight Dinners May 5. Thanks to hosts Rosemary Summers and Bob Baker, Molly Swain, and Alice Siegfried. Next one in July or August. —Alice Siegfried



Volunteer to help us make Days for Girls Feminine Hygiene Kits to help keep girls in school! On two Saturdays, June 8 and June 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., UUSO will host a day of sewing needed items for Days for Girls, an international service organization with an active branch in Unadilla. Days for Girls increases access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social enterprises, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigmas and limitations for women and girls. See web-  
[www.daysforgirls.org/](http://www.daysforgirls.org/) for details of the organization's work, and the flyer and other info on Social Action table on Sundays during coffee hour for details on these events scheduled at UUSO, including specific materials needed. Previous sewing experience is not necessary.

—Dawn Kilts, for UUSO Social Action Team

### ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the UUSO will be held this Sunday, May 19, at 12pm in the Sanctuary, at 12 Ford Avenue. At this meeting Nominees for Board, Committee on Ministry, Moderator and Nominating Committee will be presented; revisions to the Society Bylaws and Endowment Committee Bylaws will be considered; and a draft budget will be presented. All Members are encouraged to attend. *(Limited copies of meeting documents will be available. Please see UUSO News, UUSO Community FB group, or Realm if you wish to have a copy on hand.)*

—Mary Ruhoff, Moderator

**THE UUSO OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
FRIDAY, MAY 24TH, FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.**

## **CHANGE FOR CHANGE—CALL FOR LOCAL CHARITY NOMINATIONS**

As part of our community ministry, we support local social-justice and service organizations. Our Change for Change program gives the small change from our Sunday collection plates during a month to a local non-profit selected by the Social Action Team. Information about the activities of each monthly recipient is posted in the church foyer and included in each Sunday's Offertory description in the Order of Service.

The Social Action Team will soon be preparing the list of Change for Change recipients for September 2019 through August 2020. If you would like to nominate a local charity with a 501(c)(3) tax exemption or a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization, to be among the organizations the UUSO supports, please contact the coordinator of the Change for Change program, Kari Reynolds at reynoldskari@gmail.com by May 31.

Some of the charities and organizations we have supported over the past few years include:

- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - South Central NY Chapter
- Delaware Opportunities, Inc.'s Big Buddy Program
- Catskill Area Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc.
- Family Planning of South-Central New York
- Family Service Association of Oneonta, NY
- Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County
- Literacy Volunteers of Otsego and Delaware Counties
- NAACP Oneonta Branch
- NAMI-Otsego County (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Oneonta Community Health Center
- Oneonta World of Learning (OWL)
- Opportunities for Otsego Violence Intervention Program
- Otsego 2000, for Climate Change Action
- Super Heroes in Ripped Jeans (animal rescue and re-homing)

### **LET US REMEMBER**

The following UUSO members, former members, families, and friends who have passed away have been added to our **Memorial Plaque** at the back of the sanctuary: Ilene B. Arlet, Arlene Peabody Ehlers, Julie "Jill" Evans, Peggy Fowler, Margaret C. Hathaway, Mary Krupp, Deborah K. Misner, Patricia Panteleoni, and Roop Verma.

"Though they are no longer with us in body, they will always be here in spirit." (Ruth Tarter)

—Arleen Benedict, Chairperson  
Memorial Committee

### **MEMORIAL BOOKS ON DISPLAY MAY 26**

Biographical items such as obituaries, orders of Memorial Services, and photographs of those who have passed away are added to our Memorial Books of Records. These items have been expertly put in the Memorial Books by Mary Ambrose, a member of the Memorial Committee. The Books will be displayed on the chancel table for the Sunday service, May 26th. After the service the Books will be available for the congregation to view.

The Committee will also have forms available for people who wish to have their names on the plaque after their deaths. This is helpful because sometimes it is difficult to find the birth date of those who have passed away.

—Arleen Benedict, Chairperson  
Memorial Committee

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES  
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



Building the Beloved Community is Heart Work.  
Building the Beloved Community is Home Work.  
Let's make sure our Heart and Home  
are both in the right place.

*\*Children to Classrooms*  
With music by Music Director Tim Horne & the UUSO  
Choir.  
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco

Coffee Hour Host: Beth Small  
Ushers: Kim Yousey-Elsener & Che Baysinger  
Chancel Table: Molly Swain  
Sound System: Nathan Elsener



Join our own Beth Small for reflections  
on the impact of living overseas  
and learning a foreign language.

*\*Children to Classrooms*  
With music by Music Director Tim Horne.  
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Host: Rosemary Summers & Cathi Wiltsey  
Usher: Kim Yousey-Elsener & Sallie Han  
Chancel Table: Memorial Committee  
Sound System: Julian Pecenco

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA**

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Tues-Thu: 10-3  
(Appointments recommended)

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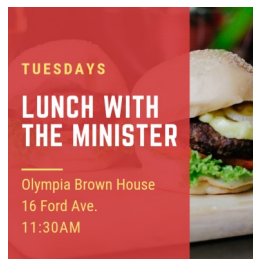
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607-432-7323



@UUSOneonta



**BRING YOUR LUNCH  
AND HAVE A FAITHFUL  
CONVERSATION.  
TUESDAYS, AT OBH  
@ 11:30AM.**

## UUSO DEADLINES:

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for the week of May 29 issue is May 27th at 9AM, sent to [newsletter@uuso.org](mailto:newsletter@uuso.org).

**Order of Service Announcements:**  
Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service  
(Please send to [OOS@uuso.org](mailto:OOS@uuso.org))

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

### UUSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karen Palmer President  
Amy Forster-Rothbart  
Vice-President  
Arlana Young Treasurer  
Adrienne Martini Clerk  
Mary Ruhoff Moderator  
Keith Willcox  
Nathan Elsener  
Jennifer Hyypio  
Rosemary Summers



### Small Scale Composting Guide

The Cornell Waste Management Institute has a great fact sheet to teach you all about this environmentally friendly and practical process to keep organic material out of the waste stream and enhance your gardening success!

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/smallscale.htm>