



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of May 29, 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Minister's Article	1
Religious Education	2
Sawdust	3
Society News	4
Worship Services	7

MINISTER'S MUSINGS



UUSO at Otsego Pridefest

LGBTQ Pride is the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. It promotes their self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and visibility. It promotes community, inclusion, support, and love.

Come celebrate every part of the human tapestry at the 3rd annual Otsego Pridefest! UUSO is a proud supporter of this annual community-wide celebration and the folks that work so hard throughout the year to raise the funds and plan the event. UUSO will once again have a booth in the park for Pridefest. Stop by, hang out for a while, and help us share our pride in our faith tradition and our deep support of our LGBTQ community. We will have a few new additions to the booth this year-- including a special booth for the Minister. (Hint: The Minister will be "IN" and blessings will be less than 5 cents.)

Informational Meeting – Minister's Settlement Agreement

Over the last few months, several people have asked questions and expressed concerns about aspects of my ministry with UUSO. Questions about days off, vacation, study leave, sabbatical time, housing allowance, responsibilities, compensation, and other important issues. Most of the answers to these questions can be found in the settlement agreement the congregation entered into with me when I was called by the congregation 10 years ago. By and large, the letter of agreement is based on a standard one suggested by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Every congregation tweaks it a little based on their own past experiences and anticipated needs. Per the agreement, the Board and the minister look over the agreement and make necessary changes every three years. The next time for this assessment of the settlement agreement is August of this year, so this is an opportune time to look it over and make sure everyone is on the same page. So, the Board will be facilitating an informational meeting focused on our settlement agreement this Sunday at 12:15 in our sanctuary. A copy of the current settlement agreement will be projected for all to see. We'll answer questions, listen to concerns, and take suggestions for adjustments the Board and I might consider moving forward. Everyone is invited and the more people we have, the more informative and meaningful our conversation will be. I look forward to a frank, respectful discussion.

Cooperatively,
Rev. Craig

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are three Sunday's left in our Religious Education Program until we take off for the summer. Next Sunday is the Flower Communion Service, God's Secret Garden, where people of all ages worship together in the sanctuary. This is a popular service for families as everyone brings a flower and leaves with a different flower from someone else in the congregation. There will be extra flowers available for those who need them.

The following Sunday, June 9th, will be RE Fun Day. This year it will be a Take-Apart Party for all RE participants. The Explorer's class had so much fun doing this in March that they asked to do it again. Onlookers from other classes also wanted to be involved. We will celebrate the spirit of invention by looking inside household appliances and figuring out what makes them work. We need donations of broken electronics such as remote control toys, "dancing" solar toys, radios, toasters, irons, hair dryers, computer mice and keyboards, coffee makers, mixers, clocks, lamps, calculators, and DVD Players. Things that would be unsafe to take apart include televisions, microwaves, toaster ovens, vacuum cleaners, shredders, cell phones, computer monitors, and laptops. Participants will be able to answer questions like, "Why did that little wheel spin when I pushed the on button?" We will take out all batteries, cut the power cords off and wear safety goggles. Please ask me if you have any questions concerning usable items. Items can be left downstairs at Chapin. We are also looking for volunteers from the congregation who have a good understanding of electronics and could help as things are taken apart. We could also use loans of tools for the day. Please mark them so they return to you. We need Philips and regular screwdrivers of all sizes, crescent wrenches, allen wrenches, and pliers. We don't need hammers, drills, saws or working electric tools. This party was originally scheduled to be held at the Olympia Brown House but has been changed to begin at Chapin at 10:30. Many thanks in advance to those who help us.

Our last Religious Education gathering will be at the Olympia Brown House at 10:30 on June 16th. We will host the Annual RE Celebration and Ice Cream Party. All RE participants, teachers, youth advisors, and Hogwarts professors are invited. We will have make-your-own ice cream sundaes and activities for all. There will be dairy-free options available (please let me know and I will make sure this option reaches your child). We hope to have a Quidditch match.

Suzanne Miller, Prue Stelling, Chava Granett, Deb Bruce, and I worked to make the Mara Kern Library more accessible to RE participants this year. Many have checked out Mara Kern Library books. Please help your child remember to bring them back to church. For your summer reading adventures you can explore the Mara Kern Library at the Olympia Brown House whenever the building is open. There is a wonderful children's collection in the front room as well as a great adult collection in the dining room area. There are also CD's and DVD's for both children and adults.

I hope your RE participants can join us at the flower communion and at our two parties!

Susan Ryder

UUSO Director of Religious Education

DRE@uuso.org

SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

The Board met on May 22 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Minutes Approval and Review of Reports

We approved the April 24 BOT minutes and reviewed the Minister's Report, DRE Report, and Treasurer's Report. The regular meeting was shortened to allow time for an executive session of the board.

Next Board Meeting:

Our next regular BOT meeting will be on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Congregants are welcome to observe. Following the regular BOT meeting, the newly formed board for 2019-20 will meet to elect the board officers for the coming fiscal year. We will hold the Sounding Board on Sunday, June 23 after the service to hear any comments, questions, or concerns to be brought to the Board. If you are 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
UUSO Board of Trustees
President
president@uuso.org



JOIN US
SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH
FOR OUR BLM
BANNER RE-DEDICATION
CEREMONY

ASSESSMENT OF THE MINISTRY

In January and February, four groups met to discuss questions about worship and ministry at UUSO in sessions facilitated by members of the Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry. All members and friends were invited to attend one of the groups and share their thoughts and experiences. The Board has reviewed the ideas from these sessions, and the Worship Team and Reverend Craig will be looking at and responding to the feedback.

In each group, participants were posed four questions. The first question asked participants to recount an engaging, moving worship experience, and the second asked what made the experience engaging and moving. We heard many examples that emphasized inclusivity and lifting up marginalized groups, such as the Transgender Remembrance Service, Youchaou and the Mali Project, and Reverend Kimberley's women's themed services. We also heard a lot about the role of ritual, including our weekly rituals such as the Doxology, Affirmation and Hymn of Aspiration and specific rituals, such as lighting candles at the Taize service and on Christmas eve and the collective alter that was created during Reverend Kimberley's women's service. Another category of engaging, moving worship experiences related to looking at current issues in a spiritual context. Examples included asking moral questions such as how are we to lead our lives, as well as calls for the community to address social justice issues and find a way forward together. Finally, a number of participants emphasized the importance of community ownership of our shared ministry. Specifically mentioned were Reverend Evin's service that provided tools for how to be with each other in community and the creation of our covenant.

The third question asked about strengths of our worship at UUSO. Some themes that arose were the structure and content of the service, with an emphasis on it being consistent, reliable, and incorporating great musical talent. It was mentioned that there is often a call to action and a chance for emotional expression, including both laughter and tears. There was also appreciation for the beautiful chancel table displays and the variety of guests in the pulpit. Another theme emphasized how welcoming and engaged the congregation is. A final emphasis was on good facilities, including the chairs, the sound system, and the new coffee hour tables.

The final question asked how our worship can contribute more to our wider ministries at UUSO. One emphasis in the responses was on practicing our covenant as a framework for working together within and outside of UUSO and for learning from change. Another set of responses emphasized using our worship to motivate our outreach through interdenominational activities and our presence at community events such as Pride Fest.

—Amy Forster Rothbart
UUSO Board of Trustees
Vice-President



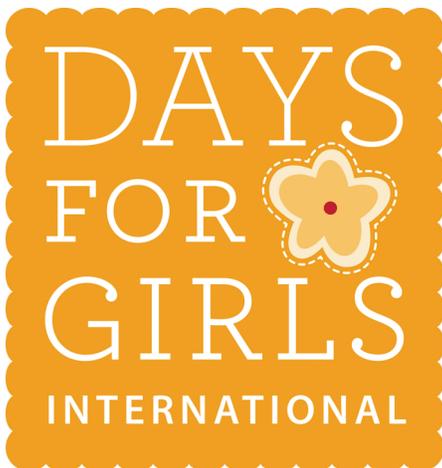
BOOK & PLANT SALE

The Annual UUSO Book and Plant Sale is this week! Friday, May 31 is the members and Friends sale, from 5pm-9pm and June 1 will be our open to the public sale, from 10am-2pm. The all you can fit in a bag for a dollar sale will begin at Noon.

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.



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 website <https://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



The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will meet this Sunday at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. Each month the group learns about and supports organizations that help women and girls in developing countries improve their lives. The program of study and giving this month is Kakenya's Dream in Kenya. The purpose of the project is to train 3,500+ youth in sexual and reproductive health and leadership skills. This will be achieved by empowering young Maasai girls who are at risk for FGM and early marriage to stay in school, learn about sexual and reproductive health, child rights, and life skills through girl-centered programming. All are welcome to come to the monthly meetings. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. —Linda Wilcox 433-2985.



Circle of Life

Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform the congregation of the death of long-time member, Barb Meeks. I was notified by Barb's daughter, Jenny Grimes, that her mother had died Monday, May 27th. Barb had been moved into hospice care some weeks ago after a serious decline in her health. She was still staying in her apartment at the Plains, but was mostly restricted to a bed by the window in her living room, where she could look out at the trees and the birds. I was able to visit with her last Sunday afternoon, after the service. While she was weak, she was awake for most of my visit. She enjoyed hearing the well-wishes and messages of love I brought from members of our community. Barb was an active part of the UUSO community, contributing in so many ways. Most recently, she managed to make it to the Mali Dinner, a program which she helped start at UUSO and believed in deeply.

We will be lighting the Candle of Life in Barb's honor at the worship service this upcoming Sunday. Her memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 9th, at 2:30pm, with a reception to follow.

As always, if you feel deeply affected by this loss and would like to talk to someone, I am always available. It is in the sharing of our stories that we best honor and grieve those who have left a mark on our hearts and in our lives.

With Sadness,
Rev. Craig

CELEBRATING OUR SHARED MINISTRY FINANCE COMMITTEE

This year has been one of major transitions for the Finance Team—a new chair (Kari Reynolds), Treasurer (Arlana Young), and search for a new bookkeeper, (Taylor Czyzewski was recently hired) as well as some new committee members (Amanda Osterhout, Walter vom Saal, and Alan Zimmerman, CPA). The committee is also fortunate to continue to have Margaret Davis and Julia Gregory as veteran members with expertise and historical knowledge. There have been some difficult aspects as with any change and also some remarkable progress. An internal financial audit is in progress, updated policies and procedures are being written, and our bookkeeping is now caught up and accurate thanks in large part to Taylor who also happens to also be an accountant. This committee takes on the essential responsibility of stewarding the generous contributions of our congregation and grant/fundraised revenue. We are so fortunate to have such a hard working committee with rich experience and expertise in the area of finances.

ALL RE TAKE-APART-PARTY JUNE 9TH!

We are looking for broken appliances and toys. Please see the RE News article for specific items needed. Contact Susan Ryder for more information. (DRE@uuso.org)

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

God's Secret Garden
Flower Communion

JUNE 2 | REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG



Each of us is a seed in the divine secret garden.
We don't know what lies within us, what we'll grow
into being, what gifts we'll offer to the world.
The secret, the mystery, the divine-- is beautiful!

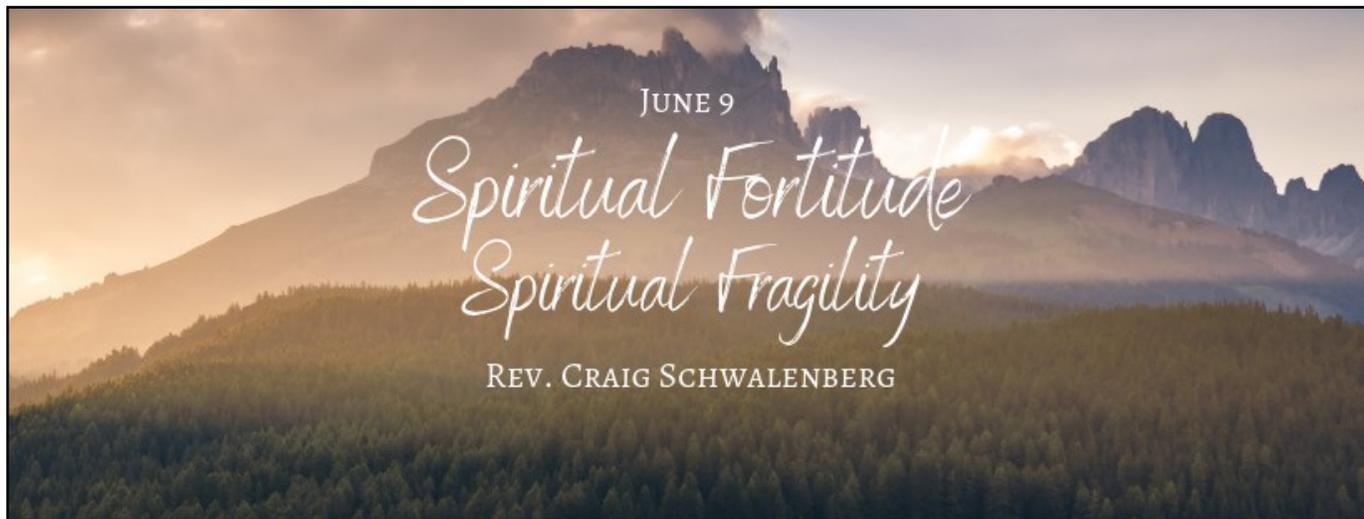
**Stay Together*
With music by Music Director Tim Horne & the UUSO
Choir.
Worship Associate: Julian Pecenco

Coffee Hour Host: Arlana Young & Pat Donnelly
Ushers: Bob Brozowski & Rosalind Thomas
Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas & Congregation
Sound System: Scott Segar

JUNE 9

Spiritual Fortitude
Spiritual Fragility

REV. CRAIG SCHWALENBERG



What does Spiritual Fortitude look like?
What does Spiritual Fragility feel like?
How do we foster Fortitude over Fragility?

**Children to OBH*
With music by Music Director Tim Horne.
Worship Associate: Justine Roefs

Coffee Hour Host: Carol Malz
Usher: Kim Yousey-Elsener & Sue Troost
Chancel Table: Memorial Committee
Sound System: Patrick Rost

**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
revcraig@uuso.org
Tues-Thu: 10-3
(Appointments recommended)

Evelyn Warren
Editor & Office Administrator
uuso@uuso.org
Tues-Thu: 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



@UUSOneonta



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



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

UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for the week of June 12
issue is June 10th at 9AM,
sent to newsletter@uuso.org.

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

Verbal Announcements:
Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service