



UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

Week of June 12, 2019

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

THE POWER OF WE - In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly, we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle, and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalist. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.

~ www.uua.org/GA

General Assembly

Every year, per our Unitarian Universalist Association bylaws, we gather together for a General Assembly at which we elect our faith's representatives and leaders, discuss and issue statements on social justice issues, worship and celebrate, amend our bylaws and policies, and socialize and connect with one another. Our General Assembly is held every year in the third week of June in a roving location. This year it is Spokane, WA. Next year, it will be in Providence, RI (about 4 hours from Oneonta!) Attending General Assembly can be a meaningful, eye-opening experience. We are so used to thinking of ourselves as isolated and small-- a view that is challenged when surrounded by 2,000-4,000 Unitarian Universalists eager to worship, sing, learn, and act together in one place.

Assembly On-Line

If you can't go to General Assembly in person, you can check much of it out on-line. Our UUA tries very hard to live-stream most of the big events and presentations. People can even register as an off-site participant. (Off-site registrants can watch and ask questions at live sessions.) Even if you aren't registered, you can watch the following events on-line. They can be found on-line at www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019.

Welcoming Celebration

WED 6/19 7:00p – 8:00p (4p – 5p EST)
The Banner Parade, Opening Worship, Recognition of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall Riots, Singing, and Closing

Service of the Living Tradition

THU 6/20 7:00p – 8:30p (4p – 5:30p EST)
Our service celebrating our religious leaders and honoring their professional milestones. The sermon "It Is Time Now" will be delivered by the Rev. Lindi Ramsden of the Starr King School for the Ministry. The music director for the service will be John Hubert of the First Universalist Church of Denver.

Ware Lecture

FRI 6/21 7:30p – 8:30p (4:30p – 5:30p EST)
The Ware Lecturer this year will be Richard Blanco, an award-winning poet. He was chosen by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. History. His identity as a young, Latino, gay, immigrant inspires much of his writing.

Sunday Worship

SUN 6/23 10a – 11:30a (7a – 8:30a EST)
Co-lead by Dr. Emily Jaworski, Marty Swisher, the Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, and the Rev. Marta Valentin.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Sunday, June 16, will be the last day of religious education programming for this church year. We will host our annual ice-cream party at the Olympia Brown House, beginning at 10:30. There will be make-your-own ice cream sundaes and a quidditch match if the weather cooperates. We plan to make a collage from the most interesting parts of appliances that we disassembled last Sunday. There will be another chance to make pompom creatures. Mostly, we will celebrate our time together in UUSO Religious Education. This party will be for those currently in grades K-12.

There continue to be services in the sanctuary over the summer. Even very young UU's can find meaning in any of the summer services (with your guidance) where they will always find songs, rituals, and community. "Chalice Bags" are available as you enter the sanctuary with quiet activities for children (and adults) who like to stay busy during a service. Childcare is also available for children ages 10 and younger.

Although there are no religious education classes for children and teens until fall, there are many ways to celebrate spirit in our lives in the summertime! The Fabulous Mara Kern Library remains open whenever the Olympia Brown House is open. You can look at the Youth part of our UUSO webpage at uuso.org for some RE activities for families. Realm, our church directory is available at onRealm.org, should your child or teen like to get together with RE friends over the summer. They might be interested in a new climbing wall at Oneonta's Table Rock Bouldering. www.tablerockbouldering.com

Other summer activities to consider are UU overnight and family camps. People from our congregation look forward to their time at Camp Unirondack near Lowville, NY www.unirondack.org; Ferry Beach in Saco, ME www.ferrybeach.org; or Star Island Family Conference and Retreat Center on Island of the Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire <https://starisland.org>. I have heard rave reviews of SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute) in Blacksburg, Virginia www.suusi.org. This year's camp will be from July 14 – 20 with registration ending June 23rd. Many camps have discounts or scholarships. Evelyn has flyers for some programs in the church office.

Here's to Many Summer Adventures Ahead!

Susan Ryder
UUSO Director of Religious Education
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Personally, I am looking forward to getting together with colleagues at the UU Ministers Association Ministry Days at the beginning of the week. My friend and colleague, the Rev. Joan Montagnes (currently serving our UU Congregation in Buffalo) will be giving the 25-year reflection at Wednesday's annual 25/50 service. I've also been asked by UU Trauma Response Ministry to coordinate our exhibit booth again this year-- so I'll be spending a lot of time greeting people and explaining who UUTRM is and what we do. The bonus of working that booth is hearing from all the folks we have helped in the past year who stop by to express their gratitude. I do have a few workshops I want to check out:

- **The Minns Lecture “White Supremacy Today”** by the Rev. Colin Bossen (a Meadville classmate), The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray (our UUA President), and Dr. Marc Loustau.
- **Liberal Religion Beyond Optimism** by the Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd (another Meadville classmate and a fabulous colleague.)
- **A New Way: White Men and Anti-Racist Feminism** by Chris Cross
- **Power in Covenants – Redeeming Our Time Together?** by the UUA Commission on Appraisal. A look at how covenants in congregational life shape our ability to create change in our faith and in our world.

The Ware Lecture and the Service of the Living Tradition are always emotionally and spiritually moving for me. I will be sharing my experiences at General Assembly and some of what I learn at the worship service at USSO after I return. (Sunday, June 30th - “The Power of We”) Hope to see you there! While I'm at Ministry Days and General Assembly, I will only be checking my email once a day and I'm never sure what my cell-phone coverage will be like in the convention center. If you have an emergency during this time and can not reach me, please call our Board President, Karen Palmer, or our Office Administrator, Evelyn Warren.

Cooperatively,

Rev. Craig



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFF-SITE PARTICIPATION**

Technology has re-shaped the meetings landscape in recent years—providing new opportunities to connect General Assembly (GA) on-site participants with those who cannot attend in person. GA is transforming from an event at which one needs to be present to experience into a hybrid meeting—incorporating off-site delegate participation, live-streaming of events, and social media to create an interactive experience for on-site and remote attendees.

Learn more at : <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>

**WANTED:
IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**REWARD:
FUN & INCOME FOR THE UUSO**

- Do you have an idea for a UUSO fundraising event that could also be open to the community?
- Would you like an intergenerational fundraising event for our families and friends?
- How about a craft beer and cider tasting event at a local venue while childcare is provided at UUSO?
- Would you attend a luncheon and cabaret after service on a Sunday?
- Does a trivia night sound fun to you?

Join the Stewardship and Fundraising Committee to brainstorm ideas on **Sunday, June 23 at noon in the OBH living room**. If you don't have an idea but would like to help plan or volunteer at an event, please come. If you can not attend, contact Kari Reynolds (reynoldskari@gmail.com) if you have an idea or want to volunteer.

**CELEBRATING OUR SHARED MINISTRY
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

\$140,000! Seven members! \$20,000 each! Not enough for the Cayman Islands, but 1000 Islands? Block Island? Ain't gonna happen. Your Endowment Committee is nothing if not sober, conscientious and dedicated to stewardship. The current members are Margaret Davis, Chair; Larry Armstrong, Financial Secretary; Bill Benedict (aka Colonel Clynk), Recording Secretary; Donna Behrendt, Bob Rothenberg, Deb Bruce, and Keith Willcox, who is also BOT liaison. We meet quarterly, after Larry has received the financial statements. (The statements tend to reflect the stock market and over time tend to be good.) Our next meeting will be in July, date to be determined, at OBH, and members and friends are welcome.

We are glad we've been authorized to establish the Legacy Fund, for the benefit of the Society into the future. It will nicely complement the Community Fund and the Mara Kern Library Fund, for which we are also responsible. Details pertaining to the new fund remain to be worked out. It will be fun. We'll keep you posted.

Respectfully,
Keith Willcox



Volunteer to help us make Days for Girls Feminine Hygiene Kits to help keep girls in school! On Saturday, June 22, UUSO will host a second day of sewing needed items for Days for Girls, an international service organization with an active branch in Unadilla. We will begin at 10AM and go to 2PM.

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 www.daysforgirls.org/ for details of the organization's work, and the flyer and other info on Social Action table on Sunday during coffee hour for details on this and upcoming events scheduled at UUSO, including specific materials needed. Previous sewing experience is not necessary.

—Dawn Kilts, for UUSO Social Action Team

UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

JUNE 16

LIMINAL SPACES

REV. AILEEN FITZKE

Sometimes our lives lead us into
In-between spaces,
seemingly stuck in the hallway of life,
not yet ready to open a new door.
What if these liminal spaces
are something much more?

**RE Ice Cream Party at OBH*
With music by Music Director Tim Horne.
Worship Associate: Keith Willcox

Coffee Hour Host: Pat Donnelly
Ushers: Elayne Mosher-Campoli & Ben Friedell
Chancel Table: Alice Siegfried
Sound System: Nathan Elsener

JUNE 23 | UUSO

**THE SECRET
INGREDIENT**

KIM YOUSEY-ELSENER

When is a cake not just a cake?
When it is a calling.
When one finds ministry in baking,
there is always a secret ingredient.

**No Religious Education—Summer Break*
With music by Music Director Tim Horne & the UUSO
Choir
Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz

Coffee Hour Host: Brian Bendlin & Kim Yousey-Elsener
Usher: Sallie Han & Rosalind Thomas
Chancel Table: Grace Smith
Sound System: Beth Small

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
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UUSO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND
HAVE A FAITHFUL
CONVERSATION.
TUESDAYS, AT OBH
@ 11:30AM.
(CANCELLED 6/18)**

UUSO DEADLINES:

UU News Articles: Deadline for the week of June 26
issue is June 24th 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