

New York State
Convention of Universalists
195th Annual Meeting – Fellowship and Workshops
October 22-23, 2021

“BRIDGES AND BOUNDARIES”
African Americans and American Jews

The themes of freedom and liberation appear again and again in the literature, art and music of both African Americans and American Jews, and each has borrowed experiences of the other to give voice to their own group's conception of identity.

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Gretchen S. Sorin

Gretchen Sullivan Sorin, Ph.D., is Director and Distinguished Service Professor of the SUNY Oneonta Cooperstown Graduate Program. The Ric Burns documentary, “Driving While Black,” is based on research by Dr. Sorin.

Having earned her B.A. from Rutgers University, Dr. Sorin received her M.A. from SUNY Oneonta, and her Ph.D. in American History from SUNY Albany.

She writes, “My particular area of expertise is exhibition development and I continue to enjoy creating exhibitions that address issues of social justice. Using artifacts, art, and documents, museums can teach visitors how to evaluate evidence and determine its veracity, understand the way that American democracy works and when it has failed.”



Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

12 Ford Avenue

Oneonta, NY 13820

All Unitarian Universalists and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Full vaccination and masks are required.

We are planning for a hybrid (In-person and Zoom) meeting.

Please check the website nyscu.org for updates.

NYSCU Annual Meeting and Conference
Fellowship and Workshops October 22-23, 2021
Fee: \$30 pre-register; \$35 at the door
[<https://www.formdesk.com/uiforms/NYSCU>],
Housing: Clarion Hotel, 55 Market Street,
Oneonta, NY Phone: 607 432-7500 Rate is
\$115/night if reserved by October 10, 2021.
Mention NYSCU for group rate.

Dr. Gretchen Sullivan Sorin is Director and Distinguished Service Professor at the Cooperstown Graduate Program. Dr. Sorin has more than thirty years' experience as a museum consultant, working for more than 250 museums. She has served as a guest curator for many exhibitions including the traveling exhibition, *Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews* for the Jewish Museum in New York. Dr. Sorin writes and lectures frequently on African American history and museum practice. Her books include *In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, and *Through the Eyes of Others: African Americans and Identity in American Art*. She is co-writer and senior historian of the documentary "Driving While Black: African Americans on the Road in the Era of Jim Crow," which has been shown on PBS.

New York State Convention of Universalists
Friday evening – casual get-together at UUSO
Saturday at First UUSO, Oneonta:
8:00 Continental breakfast & registration
9:00 Opening worship – Rev. Rachel Baker
9:15 10:00 Keynote "Bridges and Boundaries"
10:00 10:30 Keynote Dialogue
10:45 break
11:00 Business Meeting
11:45 Lunch (carnivore, vegetarian, vegan,
gluten-free choices provided)
12:45 First workshop session
1:45 Break
2:00 Second workshop session
3:00 Closing worship
3:15 Meeting adjourns

Keynote: Dr. Gretchen Sullivan Sorin
**"BRIDGES AND BOUNDARIES:
African Americans and American Jews"**
*The themes of freedom and liberation appear again
and again in the literature, art and music of both
African Americans and American Jews, and each
has borrowed experiences of the other to give voice*

to their own group's conception of identity. A visual essay links texts and images of more than 100 works of art and artifacts, first seen in an exhibit at The Jewish Museum, to explore the historical places at which the paths of African Americans and American Jews have crossed in meaningful ways.

WORKSHOPS -- Session I:
Continuing discussion with Dr. Sorin.

**"Oneonta & Liberal Religion: Looking Back
at the Community & the Congregation"**

Bob Brzozowski

This presentation will include short histories of the town and city of Oneonta, the Universalist church in Oneonta & Otsego County, the UU Society of Oneonta (UUSO), and the congregation's place in the community over 170 years. You'll hear about the famed orator Rev. Edwin Chapin's visits to the boomtown that was Oneonta in the late 19th century and the connection between a famous Oneontan and the Rev. Starr King,

-- Bob is the UUSO historian. He retired as executive director of the Greater Oneonta Historical Society earlier in 2021. He served on Oneonta's Common Council. He has been active for decades in local history, historic preservation, and elder care. He and his wife, Jane Bachman, have been UUSO members since 1998.

WORKSHOPS -- Session II:

"Introduction to the Restorative Process"

presentation by CER (Central East Region, UUA). Come explore how the framing of centering repairing harm rather than punishment can better align with our theology and give us tools to deepen our ability to live through conflicts in ways that better serve the well-being of our communities and ourselves.

"Promoting ESG Investing"

presented by JW Burns; (NYSCU financial advisors)

The United Nations Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. The Compact asks companies to align their operations and strategies to ten universally accepted principles, which were set up to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect the planet. There is a major focus on the social aspect of environmental, social and governance (ESG), with most CEOs saying, "Our response to the pandemic has caused our focus to shift toward the social component of our ESG program."