



Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

The First Universalist Society of Central Square

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3243 Fulton Street (Route 49, near Route 11)
Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429
Our church building is handicapped accessible.
Phone: 315-668-6821 E-mail: uucentralsquare@gmail.com
Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564>
Our Mission Statement

The mission of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is to be a welcoming, diverse congregation, which values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

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|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Andrea Abbott, Student Minister | 315-635-7122 | The Rev. Libbie Stoddard, Minister Emerita | 315-343-4352 |
| Leigh Parry-Benedict, Music Coordinator | 315-657-5904 | Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson | 315-623-7685 |
| Winfield Ihlow, President | 315-342-5939 | Janie Garlow, Vice President | 315-436-2238 |

AUGUST 2014

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

What could be more wonderful than summer in Central New York? Blue skies, shady lawns, flowers blooming. This is an earthly paradise. And it's a busy paradise. There are festivals of every kind, music festivals, jazz and classical, country and pop. There are festivals that celebrate balloons and ducks and lavender and corn, beans, and squash, harbors, rivers and lakes. When you are out of festivals, there are fairs of all sorts, too: antiques, cars, canoes, arts and crafts, county fairs and, the culmination of the summer, the State Fair. Naturally, every fair, festival and celebration requires fireworks. We are visited; we visit others. We vacation. We camp and hike and boat and swim and try to capture every moment of the glorious weather that we can. We know that summer in Central New York is a wondrous thing, but it is also a brief thing and we know what follows summer. I wish for every person receiving this newsletter a wonderful August. I hope that for all of you it is truly a time to enjoy the golden sun, the refreshing rain, the adventure of open roads or the calm of cool evenings in your own yard. In the midst of these myriad activities, I would also wish for you some time to stop and savor this season, some time to simply be in the beauty that is our summer.

Andrea Abbott

A SERMON BY THE REVEREND WEISSBARD

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, August 3: "We 'all know' that it is important to have goals for our lives. But, I don't know or believe that. I am an advocate of 'Living Without a Goal'. Sunday I will tell you why."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, AUGUST 25. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com. His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

GREEN MINUTE: WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Many years ago I found a blue jay in my yard that would not fly and just kept flopping around in circles on the ground. It was a mature bird and didn't seem to have anything wrong with it to make it act that way. I made some phone calls and found out that there was a New York State certified wildlife rehabilitator just down the road from me. I called her and she instructed me to carefully put the bird in a box and take it to her. When I checked on the bird the next day she said that it had an injured leg and would be as good as new in a few days.

Wildlife rehabilitators aid in the care and recuperation of injured or sick wild animals. All wildlife rehabilitators are licensed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and volunteer their time to provide services to wildlife.

Today with the Internet it is even easier to find a wildlife rehabilitator. The DEC has a list at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83977.html. The list is arranged by county and also shows the types of animals the rehabilitators work with. Not all rehabilitators can work with every type of animal.

It is very important to note that if you come upon young wildlife that appears to be without its mother, LEAVE IT ALONE. The mother is probably nearby or the young one may be working through the first unsteady steps of normal development. We watched two young robins work through this phase in my yard this year. We just kept an eye on them, gave them wide berth so we didn't disturb them and most importantly left them alone. They did just fine.

If you feel that the animal is truly in trouble, contact a wildlife rehabilitator for advice before you act.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

UU CIRCLE

The UU Circle is planning the annual church picnic. The date and location are to be announced soon.

It is a good time to gather in early September to catch up with everyone and to have some really good food. Good eats and good company; be sure to plan on being there.

Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer

DRUM CIRCLE

We drummed with a blending of some relaxing and interesting rhythms on Sunday afternoon, July 20. We always have extra drums and rhythm instruments, Middle Eastern and African. We played in the Goettel Room and really enjoyed the sound there.

We will continue to have the Drum Circle on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited to come and play or to just drop in and listen. You don't have to be a musician to join in. Don't be shy.

Ann Peterson

COFFEE AND CHAT

Women and men of the church will gather for Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread on Route 31 in Clay at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20.

All are welcome to join in casual conversation and to enjoy coffee or tea and other goodies.

For more information about the group, interested persons are invited to contact Mary or Chet Perkins via e-mail at mperkins9@twcnny.rr.com or cperkins9@twcnny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

Everyone is invited to attend.

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 22.

The group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant on Route 11 just north of Central Square at 5:30 p.m. on the same day. Please let Janie Garlow know via e-mail at mjgarlow@aol.com or via telephone at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, August 21, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another
and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION VOTES ON DIVESTMENT AND REACHES OUT IN LOVE AT ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Providence, RI—The 2014 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) closed Sunday night, June 29. Over 4,700 people attended the annual meeting which featured worship, educational workshops, public witness, and UUA business.

Highlights of the meeting include:

An overwhelming vote in favor of the UUA's divesting from fossil fuel companies in its Common Endowment Fund.

A successful fundraising event called Brave Souls: UUs Pledge Over the Edge that raised half a million dollars for Unitarian Universalism. Unitarian Universalists from across the movement, including UUA President Rev. Peter Morales, rappelled from the top of the Rhode Island Convention Center.

A public witness event at WaterFire, Providence's downtown community arts festival, which drew thousands of participants.

The annual Ware Lecture given by Sister Simone Campbell, who received a rousing response from the audience to her advice to "walk towards trouble."

The selection of "Escalating Inequality" as the Congregational Study/Action issue (CSAI) for congregations to examine in-depth over the next four years. This CSAI calls on Unitarian Universalists to challenge extreme inequality—now pervasive in our society—just as prior generations led movements fighting for the abolition of slavery and seeking fully inclusive civil rights for all.

Delegates at GA 2014 also passed the following Actions of Immediate Witness:

To support a "Uganda New Underground Railroad" to safely extract LGBTQ people from persecution in Uganda

To affirm congregational commitment to gun violence prevention

To support the "Pray for Relief" faith summit from July 31 to August 1 on stopping deportations

A special collection on Saturday raised \$24,000 for the UUA's [Standing on the Side of Love](#) campaign, which celebrated its fifth anniversary at this year's meeting. The collection from Sunday morning worship service raised roughly \$50,000 for partner organizations [Housing First Rhode Island](#) and [McAuley House](#).

Detailed coverage of the agenda, justice work, and worship at GA can be found on UU World's [General Assembly blog](#).

The [UUA](#) is a faith community of more than 1,000 congregations that bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance, and social justice.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times: Janie Garlow, July 27; Judy and George Tennant, August 3; and Lucy and Arny Stieber, at their Pleasant Lake home, August 10.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters: Lucy and Arny Stieber, July 27 and August 3; and Renee Landers-Jennings and Susan Jennings, August 10.

RETURN THOSE BOTTLES

You may continue to help the environment and make money for the Outreach Committee by leaving your returnable bottles at the church.

A barrel into which to place your bottles stands near the entrance to the church kitchen.

Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, is returning deposit bottles and cans for the committee treasury.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Random Acts of Kindness is the congregation's program to financially assist those in need, whether church members/friends or people in the wider community.

Finances are provided by the congregation through a special once-a-month offering, normally on the first Sunday of each month. Random Acts of Kindness envelopes are found on the back of the pews.

The next Random Acts of Kindness will be observed on Sunday, August 3.

The fund is administered by Andrea Abbott and Executive Board.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

AUGUST 2014 CALENDAR

3 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Random Acts of Kindness. 10:50 a.m., There is no formal religious education program through the summer but children are still welcome to go back to the classroom for summer fun if they would like. 11:45 a.m., Social time. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The committee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.

5– 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

7 – 6:30 p.m., The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary.

10 – 9:30 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Robert Cleveland leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., There is no formal religious education program through the summer but children are still welcome to go back to the classroom for summer fun if they would like. 11:45 a.m., Social time. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

12– 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

17 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Blessing of the Animals. 10:50 a.m., There is no formal religious education program through the summer but children are still welcome to go back to the classroom for summer fun if they would like. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 12:15 p.m., Drum Circle.

19 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

20 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

22 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets.

24 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., There is no formal religious education program through the summer but children are still welcome to go back to the classroom for summer fun if they would like. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

26 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

31 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott facilitates the worship service. “Labor in the Pulpit.” Jeanette Zoeckler reports on the low-wage worker study. 10:50 a.m., There is no formal religious education program through the summer but children are still welcome to go back to the classroom for summer fun if they would like. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

FUNDRAISER FOR A MINISTER

For anyone who'd be interested:

There is going to be a fundraiser at the Hillview Community Church (an American Baptist congregation) at 7382 O'Brien Road in Baldwinsville (Town of Van Buren) from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 2. We will be doing music from 4 to 5 p.m.

Pastor Joe Folckemer was diagnosed six months ago with a form of incurable cancer. The treatments to help him (extend his time and provide some comfort) have had a major impact on his and his wife's financial situation. His daughter and friends at the church are organizing the event.

We have known them for quite a long time and hope others will come to help one way or another.

Thank you,
Rich Fuhrman

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community
with peace, liberty and justice for all.