

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP



Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

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**

Our church building is handicapped accessible.

Telephone: 315-668-6821

E-mail: ucentralsquare@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

**Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/pages/
UU-Central-Square/199139743511564](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)**

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

Since we knew we would be traveling this summer, we decided not to do too much with our garden. We didn't buy new plants and the weeding was light. We figured we'd start again next year. Much to our delight, when we returned home, we found that the garden was doing very well. A bit weedy perhaps, but the zinnias had gone to work and done what they were supposed to do. They had, with no help from us, put out beautiful flowers, and the bees and humming birds and butterflies were lined up waiting to get at them. It gave us a little perspective on how much we think we accomplish by our own hard work, while all along, so much is just there, waiting to blossom and come into its own without a bit of help. It's true that we still needed to get rid of the worst of the weeds and we put in some zinnias in the more desolate places, but, in general, we sat and just admired. Some of it was the result of years of hard effort (mostly Arn's) paying out their dividends. Some of it was the result of landscaping by Squirrel and Sons, a firm who does not always approve of our design efforts. Some of it was some pretty attractive flowering weeds and who knows why they decided to settle where they did but the whole was surprisingly harmonious. Sometimes we are so busy trying to make things happen that we don't always realize that things take time to unfold. As we sit with our lemonade in our unearned garden, I try to remember that an appreciative eye is as necessary as all the mulch and weeding and fertilizer, and the ability to love what exists is needed as much as heroic efforts.



Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ABOUT "A MAJOR EVENT IN HUMAN HISTORY"

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the August 2 service:

"One of the most interesting classes I took during my theological education was on 'The Self in the Drama of History'. We are raised with an incredibly naive concept of history, namely that what we read in history books is what actually happened. The reality is that history is always written from the perspective of the winners -- at the very least, every historian has a perspective she/he is conveying that leads her or him to focus on certain events and to ignore others. It is mind-blowing for us Yankees to read about Southerners talking about 'The War of Northern Aggression'. Are they kidding? No. That perspective is a part of Southern culture. (Do note I said 'a part'.)

"We are approaching the 60th anniversary of a major event in human history: the use of an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Our nation, as the victor, has created a 'history' of that event that bears little or no resemblance to 'reality'. Whose 'reality'?"

"Sunday we will be looking at 'Remembering Hiroshima'. I hope you will join us.

"Dave"

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

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

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED DURING THE JULY 11 BLOOD DRIVE

We had a beautiful summer day for our Saturday, July 11, blood drive. Unfortunately, when the weather is nice, donations are often down, so we did not make our goal for this drive but we were very close.

I want to send special thanks to Susan Wells, Susan Jennings, Renee Landers-Jennings and Janie Garlow for their help with this drive. I also want to thank Nancy Hallock for her wonderful brownies that were enjoyed by all.

Ellen LaPine
Social Justice Committee

HIGHWAY CLEANUP A SUCCESS; VOLUNTEERS GET NEW VESTS

Seven church members convened before the church service on Sunday, July 26, to pick up trash along the stretch of US Route 11 north of the church that the Social Justice Committee has “adopted” through the state Adopt-A-Highway program.

Those participating were Janie Garlow, Janet Jenkins, Claudia Jenks, Tracy Kinne, Ellen LaPine, Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods.

Special thanks go to Priscilla and Susan for purchasing and donating new reflective vests for everyone.

Again, thank you to all the volunteers.

The next highway cleanup will be in October.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings: Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods, July 26 and August 2, and Judy and George Tennant, August 9.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to host the social times on Sunday mornings: Lucy and Arny Stieber, July 26; Janie Garlow, August 2; and Judy and George Tennant, August 9.

Thanks to these people for volunteering to place flowers near the pulpit for the services: Susan Woods and Priscilla Sparks, August 2.

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.

GREEN MINUTE: BABY, IT'S HOT, HOT, HOT

Summer's finally here. For some, the giant electric bill is here, too.

Our bodies can get used to the hot weather when we expose ourselves to it instead of always using the air conditioner much like we get used to colder temperatures in the winter when we keep our houses cooler. If we find ways to cool off without the air conditioner, eventually we'll be comfortable with the air conditioning set at a higher temperature. Whether you have air conditioning or you don't, you may find some of these ideas helpful in keeping your home more comfortable.

Water cools you off faster than air. You get instant relief from cool water and as it evaporates you get a continual cooling effect. A damp towel or handkerchief around the back of your neck is a great way to make you feel cooler. You can also set up a sprinkler and have some fun running or walking through it (even if you don't have children). Put frozen water bottles in front of a fan so it gives a light spray from the condensation on the water bottles. Try using salt water in the bottles so it melts slower. Soak hot, tired feet in cool water. Take a cool shower.

Take two fans placed on either side of the building with one blowing cool air in and the other blowing out the hot air. I did this in an upstairs apartment I had years ago. The fan that blew in had the natural coolness from a shade tree so we took advantage of this all day and night. If you don't have shade, at least try this at night to bring in the cool air. If you have a basement, take advantage of the free geothermal coolness and place a fan in a spot that will push the coolness up to the main part of the house.



Put heavy drapes over south and west facing windows during the day to keep the heat out. If you want a temporary barrier instead of drapes, get some dollar store automobile windshield sun shades and use them to block the hot sun from coming into the house.

Be sure to drink lots of cool or maybe cold water to keep yourself hydrated and cool. Stay away from soda and alcohol. Try to cook more outside or cook during the cooler times of the day. Last, and maybe the best of all, enjoy a bowl of ice cream. If you're watching your calories, make low-calorie popsicles with fresh fruit or, one of my favorites, popsicles made of only frozen water with lemon. Everyone feels better with a cool treat, and, who knows, if you try some of these things your electric bill might be a lot cooler, too.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

CHANTING AND MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at timhart@a-znet.com or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

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

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

This report is being sent from a remote location on Piseco Lake. My face has rarely been seen at the UU Church in Central Square lately, but I am having a great summer.

There are no summer Social Justice Committee meetings planned, but I and the whole congregation send many thanks to Ellen LaPine for her work on the Red Cross Blood Drive and to Tracy Kinne for organizing the highway pickup.

I will keep in touch.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson

P.S. Does anyone have a car booster seat for a 6-year-old I can use August 4 through August 18? Please call or e-mail me. Nancy



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 Thursday, 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@twcny.rr.com or cperkins9@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to contact Chet Perkins via e-mail at cperkins9@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-668-6719.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is invited to contact Judy Tennant via e-mail at gtennant001@twcny.rr.com or via telephone at 315-638-5357.

The Spiritual Committee invites anyone who wishes to place flowers near the pulpit for the morning service on Sundays to do so.

There is a sign-up sheet for all volunteers in the dining room.



The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS WITNESSED FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND BUILT NEW WAYS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Portland, Oregon – The 2015 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) closed Sunday, June 28, in Portland, Oregon.

More than 5,000 Unitarian Universalists from around the world gathered for five days of workshops, worship, and witness around the theme of “Building a New Way.”



GA is the annual meeting of the UUA and is held each June in a different UUA region. Major highlights of this year’s gathering included:

- Indigenous communities, including Lummi and Chinook Nations, led a worship ceremony and public witness event for climate justice.
- Cornel West, prominent and provocative intellectual, delivered the Ware Lecture.
- The Rev. Clark Olsen, a UU minister and racial justice activist, received the UUA’s 2015 Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, the highest award bestowed by the association.

Delegates from UU congregations passed a Statement of Conscience resolution on reproductive justice as well as the following Actions of Immediate Witness:

- To support the Black Lives Matter Movement, calling congregations “to action, in order to become closer to a just world community.”
- To support local, national, and international climate justice campaigns, including the Lummi Nation’s opposition to the Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal in Washington State.
- To call for the closure of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) family detention centers.

More than \$70,000 was collected for the Living Tradition Fund, which provides grants and scholarships to ministers. Nearly \$20,000 was raised to support GA attendance for youth, young adults, people of color, and other marginalized groups. The collection at the Sunday morning worship service raised more than \$66,000 in support of the Reentry Transition Center, operated by Mercy Corps, Northwest.

For more detailed coverage, please visit [UU World](#).

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

SOME CHANGES IN OUTREACH, PUBLICITY

As everyone probably knows, efforts are under way to increase outreach and membership. Part of that will involve revamping the church website and continuing the use of social media, as well as more traditional media.

The consensus is that the website and social media most likely will be a visitor's first contact with the church. Members of the membership and outreach committees, chaired by Chet Perkins and Nancy Hallock, respectively, are exploring options for redesigning the church website and maintaining it. Suggestions and help are welcome. Contact Chet, Nancy, Janie and Steve Garlow, who maintain the Facebook page, or Andrea Abbott, student-minister-turned-recent-seminary-graduate.



There will be a change in responsibilities for the more traditional, "old" media of newspapers, radio and television, and their affiliated websites. Tracy Kinne will submit information to these outlets.

Good candidates for traditional publicity include special events such as the recent stained-glass window presentation, Voices for Worker Equality programs, the recent solar energy program, blood drives, the Renaissance holiday musical performance and the free community Christmas dinner. Some events that coincide with major religious observances or that include other churches also have a possibility of being broadcast or printed, such as our Maundy Thursday service or community ecumenical services in which we participate at Thanksgiving or Ash Wednesday.

Tracy needs to have information three weeks before an event. Sometimes submitting an item during a traditionally "slow" news time, when there are few other community activities going on, can increase the chances of getting it run or getting it better play. Submitting high quality photos, with complete caption information, is a good idea, too.

Again, to offer input on the church website and social media, contact:

Chet Perkins, cperkins9@twcny.rr.com, 668-6719

Nancy Hallock, njhallock@gmail.com, 675-8357

Janie Garlow, mjgarlow@aol.com, 436-2238

Steve Garlow, stvn723@aol.com, 396-1363

Andrea Abbott, andrea279@verizon.net, 635-7122

To submit an item to local newspapers, radio and television, contact:

Tracy Kinne, tracykinne@hotmail.com, 625-7965

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against the idolatries of the mind and spirit.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

AUGUST 2015 CALENDAR

2 – 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 Sunday. 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.

6– 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

9 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott 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.

13 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

16 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams 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.

20 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

23 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott 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.

27 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

30 – 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.

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.