



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.

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
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

MARCH 2014

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

As I write this it is a beautiful day, temperature almost up to 50 degrees. As you read this, who knows? We could have 50 inches of new snow or we could be sunbathing. I often wonder what people do in places where the weather is almost always the same and almost always a perfect 70 to 80 with blue skies. What boring lives they must lead! What do they talk about? Here, we are assured of change.

Actually, everywhere, no matter what the weather, we are assured of change. For many people in our congregation, the past few months have seen unwelcome changes while for others the past few months have brought some joys and delights. How do we meet change? How do we cope with the inevitable differences that the days bring? Often we can't make the world better for the people that are hurting, no matter how much we love them. We can sometimes feel guilty about our own good fortune when others around us are hurting. Keeping our balance in the rough March weather takes a strong inner core. It is my hope that our community fosters that in each of us so that we can withstand the changeable weather that will certainly come to us all.

Andrea Abbott

A SERMON BY THE REVEREND WEISSBARD

The Rev. David Weissbard has chosen as the title of his sermon for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, March 2, "That Heretical Son of a Monkey."

David writes:

"As strange as it seems, we are again in one of those recurring periods where the conflict between science and religion rears its ugly head. We missed the celebration of 'Darwin Day' on February 12th, but the recent debate between Bill Nye, 'The Science Guy,' and a determined religious fundamentalist makes it timely to look at and celebrate the impact of our spiritual ancestor, Charles Darwin."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, MARCH 31. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcnny.rr.com. His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

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

FILM FOLLOWS LIVES OF MIGRANT FARMWORKER WOMEN IN WESTERN NEW YORK

The Social Justice Subcommittee's Voices for Worker Equality series reaches its midpoint with the screening of the award-winning "After I Pick the Fruit: The Lives of Migrant Women" film at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 2.

Filmmaker Nancy Ghertner will speak after the screening of the 93-minute documentary. She also will sell DVDs of the film, with proceeds, less production costs, benefiting the Las Mujeres Divinas Scholarship Fund, which supports farmworker women and their children's education.

The series is co-sponsored with the Workers' Center of Central New York.

Here is some information about the film, gleaned from Nancy's Web site, www.afteripickthefruit.com:

"After I Pick the Fruit" follows five women farmworkers as they struggle to fulfill their roles as workers, wives, mothers and members of an isolated community in Western New York that's almost invisible to the outside world. It is an intensely personal film, born of friendships between Ghertner and each of the women, who ask to be identified only as Soledad, Vierge, Maria, Elisa and Lorena.

The film begins and ends in the apple orchards around Sodus, but includes footage shot in Chilapa de Diaz, Mexico; at the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas, the orange groves of Florida, the Capitol Building in Albany and the women's homes when the work day is done. Ghertner spent 10 years filming the women.

The Bush administration's post-9/11 crackdown on illegal immigration is pivotal. Three of the women are undocumented. Ghertner shows how raids in 2006 affect the women, their families, farmers and residents in and around Sodus.

"I was inspired to make the film after seeing women working in the fields and orchards near my hometown of Sodus," Ghertner says on her Web site. "I wanted to meet them, to understand how they lived and what happened – after they picked the fruit."

Once she got to know the women, Ghertner says she was driven "to make the invisible visible" and raise awareness about the human price of getting fresh fruit to the supermarket.

The film earned an award of excellence at the 2012 International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration, and Equality. It received a documentary award at the Southern Appalachian International Film Festival.

In 2012, "After I Pick the Fruit" was an official selection for both the Reel to Reel International Film Festival and the Twin Cities Film Fest.

The Voices for Worker Equality series will continue through the spring with presentations by:

- Dick deGraff and Vic Ladd-deGraff, owners of Grindstone Farm, an organic operation south of Pulaski;
- Our very own Rebecca Fuentes, organizer with the Workers' Center of Central New York. Rebecca is assisting dairy farmworkers;
- Former journalist yours truly, speaking about my award-winning Walmart memoir, "On Sale: Employers Get Good Workers Dirt Cheap."

Tracy Kinne

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE, OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Subcommittee usually meets at 9 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month; thus, the next meeting will be on Sunday, March 9. All are welcome to attend.

We will discuss our workers series presentation scheduled for Sunday, March 2, and the remaining three speakers, including the honorarium that we have agreed to pay them. We may need a special collection or a fundraiser.

We will set the dates for the Adopt-a-Highway pick-up for 2014. The Workers' Center April Breakfast, our representation there, and ideas for "Movies that Matter" will also be on the agenda.

Helping hands and minds are needed.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson

TIME TO ORDER COFFEE, CANDY BARS

Nancy Hallock will be sending an order for Equal Exchange fair trade coffee to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee coffee project on Monday, March 10. Please contact her at njhallock@gmail.com with questions and orders. This is for coffee or candy bars by the case.

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

HISTORICAL APPRAISAL OF CHINA SEMINAR

Ever wonder how old the china is that you inherited? How about the plate you bought at a garage sale that caught your eye, and you just had to have it? Can I get replacements for a set of china that belonged to my parents? How should I care for my old china? If china is crazed, will it break more easily?

If you have ever posed these questions regarding the dishes you have, or even want to get rid of, the seminar on china conducted by Barbara Kamerance can help you. Barbara has been collecting antique china for more than 20 years, and she has references and information that can shed some light on your heirlooms or collectibles.

The seminar will be held immediately after the Sunday, March 16, service. If you have china to be historically appraised, please bring the item with you. If you have a set or partial set, it is preferred that you bring a plate because plates most often have the makers' mark and the complete pattern.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara at bkamerance@gmail.com, or phone 402-2591.

"A NIGHT AT THE CABARET"

If you attended the Cabaret on Saturday, February 8, you had an opportunity to enjoy a variety of real talent. Thanks to Leigh Parry-Benedict and Barbara Kamerance for organizing this event. Thanks also to those who baked, set up snacks and donated to the raffle and auction.

Thanks to those who entertained us, including several church members who performed. The greatest thanks go to the students who played like professionals. We heard everything from the classics to jazz. They were great.

We are already planning to repeat this event next year. So, if you missed it this time, you will have another chance to enjoy an evening of real musical talent next year.

Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer

GREEN MINUTE: FISH HATCHERIES

I remember as a child visiting a fish hatchery in Crown Point as a family outing many times. Even though I was very young when we first visited, I remember the visits well and was always amazed at the fish every time we went. That facility is no longer in use but we are very fortunate that we have three within driving distance from where we live here in Central New York. They are located in Constantia, Altmar and Rome. Specific locations and times of operation are at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/21668.html.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) runs 12 hatcheries around the state, and each specializes in specific types of fish. They include brook, brown, rainbow and lake trout, steelhead, Chinook, Coho and landlocked salmon, walleye, muskellunge, tiger muskellunge, lake sturgeon and paddlefish. Several of the fish produced at the hatcheries develop from eggs taken from "broodstock" which are adult fish kept at the hatcheries for the purpose of providing eggs. Another source of eggs is from adult fish from local waters where the fish are captured by hatchery personnel and then spawned. I've seen this in April at the Constantia Hatchery and it is fascinating. The spawning process involves gently squeezing the eggs from the female and then fertilizing the eggs with milt squeezed from the males. The adult fish are then returned to the water unharmed.

The DEC says that most fish are taken to stocking sites on trucks specifically equipped with tanks of oxygenated water. We were fortunate to see this happening one spring at the Salmon River Reservoir. Some remote waters are stocked by airplane or helicopter. Fish are normally stocked to enhance recreational fishing or to restore native species to waters they formerly occupied. In order to assure the best survival for stocked fish, the various life stages of fish are stocked at different times of the year. Fingerlings (young fish 3 to 5 inches long) are generally stocked in the fall. Yearlings (older fish 6 to 9 inches long) are stocked in the spring.

There is no charge to visit the local hatcheries so it is an inexpensive and educational family outing. Very early spring is an interesting time to visit a hatchery during the spawning season but the hatcheries are fun to visit any time of year. Go to the Web site above to check when the hatchery you want to visit opens and the type of fish it raises. Your visit will be a day well spent.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

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.

A GOLDEN RULE RAINBOW

How wonderful to get the entire congregation involved in our class.

Thank you everyone for your help in building our Golden Rule Rainbow.

We have been studying how the Golden Rule is a common thread running through religions and how we may worship differently but we all strive for compassionate harmony.

Please stop in to see our finished creation.

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher

BOOK CLUB

"The Postmistress" by Sarah Blake was discussed the last week in February.

The next selection, "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri, is on reserve at the Onondaga County Public Library. It has been chosen as the 2014 CNY Reads One Book.

The onlib.org Web site contains information about the book and events.

Since 2001, representatives of Central New York's cultural, educational, and social service organizations have come together to sponsor "CNY Reads One Book," the largest "one book, one community" reads program in New York state.

The CNY Reads Consortium, currently coordinated by Onondaga County Public Library, and consisting of a rapidly expanding group of Central New York partners, promotes reading, research, discovery, and sharing of perspectives among local citizens by encouraging them to read the same book and to participate in programs related to that book.

Past selections have included Earnest Gaine's "A Lesson Before Dying," works by Arthur Miller, and John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath."

Nancy Hallock

BLOOD DRIVE

Nancy Hallock, Outreach Committee chairperson, reminds everyone that the church will host a Red Cross blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1.

She says that church members are still being encouraged to donate blood and to ask friends and family to participate.

Prospective donors may sign up online at redcrossblood.org.

Church members and friends have volunteered to work at the blood drive.

Anyone with any questions is asked to contact Nancy.

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view two segments from "Moyers & Company" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 7.

In the first segment, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and Bill Moyers discuss why science literacy is important for the future of our democracy, economy and standing in the world. They also talk about American students' poor performance on international math and science tests as well as the relationship between income inequality and education.

In the second segment entitled "The Deep State Hiding in Plain Sight," Mike Lofgren, a former Republican congressional staff member with the powerful House and Senate budget committees, joins Moyers to talk about what he calls the Deep State, a hybrid of corporate America and the national security state, which is "out of control" and "unconstrained." In it, Lofgren says, elected and unelected figures collude to protect and serve powerful vested interests. "It is ... the red thread that runs through the history of the last three decades. It is how we had deregulation, financialization of the economy, the Wall Street bust, the erosion of our civil liberties and perpetual war," Lofgren tells Moyers.

The video 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, March 6, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend.

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, March 19.

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

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.

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board has designated Andrea Abbott and Arnold Hook as the congregation's delegates to the Joint Ohio-Meadville and St. Lawrence District Annual Assembly at the Avalon Hotel & Conference Center in Erie, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday, March 28-29.

Board members acted at their regular meeting in the church dining room on Sunday morning, February 16.

The Board also approved the sale of the kitchen stove. B. Redington of Commercial Appliance Repair and Service evaluated the stove on Friday, January 24, and deemed it unsafe to use. Board members authorized Arnold Hook, chairperson of the Administration Committee, to investigate the purchase of a new stove.

Board members expressed their gratitude to Leigh Parry-Benedict and Barbara Kamerance for their roles in the presentation of "A Night at the Cabaret" on Saturday, February 8.

Winfield Ihlow and Marcia Burrell-Ihlow agreed to head up the annual Stewardship Luncheon on March 23 and the Stewardship Campaign in April.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to Tracy Kinne for volunteering to host the social time on February 23 and to Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods for volunteering to host the social time on March 2.

Thanks to Susan Jennings and Renee Landers-Jennings for volunteering to serve as greeters on February 23.

NAME TAGS

It has been requested that everyone wear name tags because not everyone can remember everyone else's name.

Mary Perkins requests that anyone who needs a name tag sign a sheet on the East Room's large table.

MISSION STEPS WALK

Multiple Sclerosis Resources of Central New York will conduct Missions Steps Walk, a fundraising event, at the Destiny USA Mall in Syracuse on Sunday, March 2. The proceeds assist multiple sclerosis patients in many ways.

Margaret and Tim Hart have a walking team. You can support them by joining the walkers or pledging dollars toward their team.

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.

A REMINDER TO ALL

All or parts of our church building can be rented by non-members and organizations.

Examples include non-member weddings, community activities, fundraisers, etc.

We have a building use policy and fee schedule that is available from Bob Haskell.

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.

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, March 2.

The fund is administered by Andrea Abbott and Executive Board members.

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.

MARCH 2014 CALENDAR

1 – 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the church will host a Red Cross blood drive.
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. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 12:30 p.m., The Social Justice Subcommittee's Voices for Worker Equality series will show the award-winning "After I Pick the Fruit: The Lives of Migrant Women" film in the sanctuary. This is also the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Subcommittee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The subcommittee 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.
4 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.
7 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.
8 – 9:30 to 11 a.m., Choir practices in the sanctuary.
9 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Subcommittee. 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., Religious education. Noon, The "Step 12 Group" workshop based upon Karen Armstrong's book, "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life," will meet. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Outreach Committee's Social Justice Subcommittee 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.
11 – 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., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., UU Circle historical appraisal of antique china seminar.
18 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.
19 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.
21 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.
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., Religious education. Noon, Stewardship Dinner.
25 – 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. Sermon topic: "Eating Soup With A Fork." 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

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.

CHURCH WEB SITE/FACEBOOK PAGE

Please remember the church Web site at <http://www.centralsquareuu.com/> and the church Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564>. You can also reach the Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook link at the Web site. To see the posts on the Facebook page, you have to click on "Most Recent Posts By Others" and "See All." To view the church's electronic calendar, just click on "Calendar" at the church Web site or click on "About" and then on "Products" on the Facebook page.

We have updated the church Web site so that it is easier to read the sermons. Just go to the Web site and click on "sermons" and a list of ministers will appear. Then just click on the name of the person whose sermons you wish to read and a list of sermons will appear. Then click on the sermon you wish to read. A shortcut: to go directly to the list of ministers, click http://www.centralsquareuu.com/selected_sermons.html

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.