



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>

Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

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
Winfield Ihlow, President	315-342-5939	Janie Garlow, Vice President	315-436-2238

OCTOBER 2014

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

Down the street I see that Halloween decorations are up already. At least we got past Labor Day before they started to appear. Halloween rivals Christmas as a major holiday now, it seems. I loved Halloween as a child but now, as the skeletons and plastic graveyards multiply around me, I think we could be in the “too much of a good thing” territory. Why do people love this holiday so much? There is attraction in fear. There certainly is excitement in fear. Fear, especially of the pretend kind, can be fun. But this has also made me wonder about the role of fear in the rest of our lives. Do we have too much of that as well. Of course, terrible things do happen and we should all take precautions for ourselves and our loved ones to be safe. But offering safety from real or imaginary dangers has become a tool of manipulation as well. Are there really terrorists hiding under the bed? Does downtown Central Square need tanks or bazookas for its defense? Who benefits from our heightened sense of danger? One danger is that we will lose our ability to explore, to dare, to try. The drumbeat of fear can also make us too quick to exchange freedom for security. Yes, things have changed in this world. It is a more complex society, one in which the old restraints of close communities have been lost. So let us take sensible precautions, whether we’re going up a stepladder or driving in an unfamiliar place or locking our doors, but let’s also remember FDR’s famous statement and live lives that are full and meaningful – and fun.

Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO FOCUS ON 6TH COMMANDMENT

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the Sunday, October 5, service:

“I have jumped around in my occasional series addressing the Ten Commandments. I have yet to address the 6th, which I would suggest is one of the most controversial ones. What does it mean, ‘Thou Shalt Not Kill’? We’ll explore that Sunday with the title, ‘Thou Shalt Not Kill . . . Except’.”

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, OCTOBER 27. 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.

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

BLOOD DRIVE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

There are lots of benefits to giving blood. First, it feels great to donate! Second, you get free juice and delicious cookies. Did you know it's something you can spare – most people have blood to spare ... yet, there is still not enough to go around. You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when it is needed – most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do. You will be someone's hero – in fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.

Please consider taking about an hour of your time to give blood. We will have one of our regularly scheduled Saturday blood drives from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 25. You will be able to give either whole blood or double red cells during this drive. You can make an appointment by using the sign-up sheet that is in the dining room, by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS. Walk-ins are also welcome.

We need volunteers to help during the drive. There is a sign-up sheet in the dining room if you would like to help during the drive. Please contact Ellen LaPine if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Social Justice Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee met on Sunday, September 14. Attendees were Nancy Hallock, Janet Jenkins, Tracy Kinne, Ann Peterson and Ellen LaPine.

We worked on finalizing details for our fundraising sale of aprons and T-shirts, and will be updating the congregation soon.

Ellen announced that the Red Cross Blood Drive for October was waiting an official date. It has since been set for Saturday, October 25.

The next Adopt-a-Highway pickup is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 19. Participants are urged to wear gloves and old shoes. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will provide hats, vests and bags. Volunteers may sign up at church or call me at 675-8357.

Tracy confirms that Ngoc Huynh will speak at noon on Sunday, November 2, as the Voices for Worker Equality series continues.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has presented another option for the Guest at Your Table program. The UUSC suggests hosting a meal during which human rights are highlighted and regional food might be served. This is to be an educational and enlightening "dinner." We will also be asking for donations to the UUSC at this meal. I'm suggesting we make a plan to use this event as our contribution to the UUSC program. I have thought that the collection boxes for Thanksgiving-Christmas can be a burden at a time when all charities are asking for money. We will work on this and would appreciate your ideas and time.

Some of our committee members are planning to participate in a demonstration at the Oswego Walmart on Black Friday. I have a few copies of Tracy's book "For Sale" that I suggest you read. Her experiences while working at Walmart will convince you why we should support the nationwide protest.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hallock, chairperson

PUBLICITY SUBMISSIONS

Please have all publicity items involving church activities and committee activities to Barbara Kamerance at least three (3) weeks before the event. For these submissions, a detailed description of the event is needed, especially for newspaper articles. Please send the information about the event by e-mail to bkamerance@gmail.com.

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 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.

NGOC HUYNH TO SPEAK ABOUT CHALLENGES FACED BY REFUGEES

Ngoc Huynh, who works for Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, will speak in the sanctuary at noon on Sunday, November 2, about the challenges faced by refugees. (Her name is pronounced NOWk (as in cat) Hun (like Attila).)

The program is another in the Social Justice Committee's Voices for Worker Equality series.

Ngoc, who worked as a reporter at The Post-Standard in Syracuse for 12 years before being laid off last year, came to the United States in 1981 as a child refugee with her family.

After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Ngoc's father and uncles were jailed by the Communists for having served in the South Vietnamese Army and for having fought alongside Americans. They were sent to "re-education" camps. Ngoc's mother sold everything she owned on the black market to buy food and formula for Ngoc's newborn brother and the rest of the family.

Members of the new regime killed Ngoc's great-uncle in a public execution, forcing the women and children of the family to watch and leaving his body in the town square to rot. Ngoc's grandfather begged the night guard to allow him to give the man a proper burial, but the guard just laughed. After receiving a hefty bribe, the guard relented.

Ngoc's grandfather knew there would be more killings, so he crowded 50 family members and friends into a fishing boat that measured about 10 feet by 52 feet and set out for Thailand in August 1979. Although the United States was giving asylum to boat people, the group had to escape to the nearest refugee camp. After a few days at sea, a Japanese oil tanker picked up the group and took the people to Japan. Ngoc almost died on the voyage, she says her mother has told her.

Ngoc came to the United States with her family in 1981. The family settled in Lincoln, Nebraska, but there were few Vietnamese in the area. A lack of interpreters hampered the family.

The worst part, Ngoc recalls, was the ignorant remarks by other residents who called them "commies" and said they should return to "their own country." Ngoc was beaten and picked on in school. Her parents raised a family of five working for \$2 an hour.

Ngoc persevered and earned her bachelor's degree from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

She says she loves her work at Catholic Charities, where she is a job development manager in the Refugee Resettlement Services program. The program helps about 600 refugees in Onondaga County each year.

In recent years, most of the refugees have come from Bhutan, Burma, Iraq and Somalia, fleeing persecution, war and other violence. They have a variety of skills, experience and education. Some have college degrees and are fluent in several languages. Others speak little or no English.

Their employment backgrounds include work in academia, sales, restaurants and manual labor. Ngoc, who works out of the Northside Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), helps the people apply for jobs, register for English classes and secure medical care.

Ngoc lives with her husband, Frank Cammuso, and their son in Syracuse.

UU CIRCLE EXPRESSES ITS THANKS

Thank you to everyone who brought such delicious food to the potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 28. Great food and great conversation, story and song. Thanks so much for everyone who pitched in to set tables, pick up and wash dishes. It was so appreciated.

Ann Peterson, secretary-treasurer

DRUM CIRCLE IS PLAYING AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN RHYTHMS

The Drum Circle will be held after the coffee hour on Sunday, October 19. As always, there will be drums, rattles, rhythm sticks, maracas and zills available. We are playing African and Middle Eastern rhythms. Come and relax with the rhythms with us. Grab a drum and play or just listen. As a bonus, we can teach you to play the spoons.

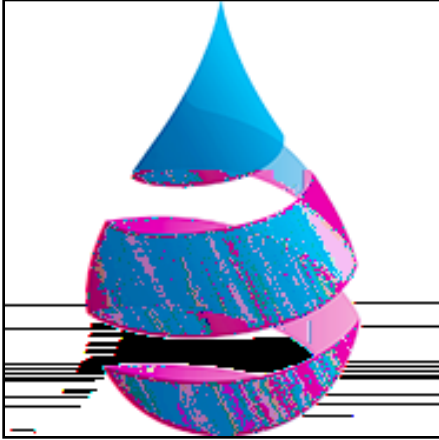
Ann Peterson

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: PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD

“It’s been 20 years since Pure Water installed its first filter in El Salvador. Then a modest Rotary Club project, Pure Water has grown into a respected and expanding international organization. A past top-ranked Great Nonprofit, Pure Water for the World is a two-time national Classy Award social impact finalist. In our 20 years, we’ve brought sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene solutions to more than 755,000 individuals. In addition, our staff has been recognized at the White House, and the governor of Vermont has declared Pure Water for the World Day.



“But more important than any accolades or honors are the strong, lasting and organic partnerships Pure Water has built with each of our target communities for the past two decades. We’ve worked hard to establish trust in the regions where we work, and we’re known for our quality sustainable and adaptive programming. Communities know and trust our work and they actively seek us out for partnership.

“During the past year, Pure Water has remained committed to fostering such trust and partnerships. We’ve worked with 1,413 households and 110 schools to install 1,656 filters and 444 latrines that together reached 27,280 individuals. We’re committed to the long-term efficacy of our programming, and we have conducted monitoring and evaluation visits to 1,822 households and schools.

“And it is thanks to another type of partnership that we are able to accomplish all of this. Through your generous support, we continue this lifesaving mission and empower others through our training program to do such work as well – creating a ripple effect of positive action. As we begin another year of work, we thank you for your strong, lasting partnership.”

Above are parts of a letter from Carolyn Crowley Meub, executive director of Pure Water for the World, thanking us for our support. If you wonder where those coins you place in the collection plate on Sunday go, her letter gives an overall picture of Pure Water’s work. If you would like to see its completed projects in Haiti, go to www.purewaterfortheworld.org/pure-water-projects. You’ll see two maps of Haiti with water droplets. Click on each droplet to see the project details and the number of individuals helped by the project.

On behalf of the Social Justice Committee, thank you for your generosity toward this important cause.

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on September 7. It was decided that a six-headphone system will be purchased to be used by those with hearing difficulties during services and events in the sanctuary. The water problem at the east side entrance will be addressed by Arne Hook and Winfield Ihlow. This will be somewhat difficult work and volunteers to help with the work would be appreciated. Estimates will be obtained to paint the ceiling in the sanctuary and to place hardware cloth and new frames around the stained-glass windows that have not already had this done.

Regarding publicity, the person in charge of the event should contact Barbara Kameraner no later than three weeks prior to the event so that she can get the event listed with the media and social media. Earlier notice would be appreciated.

Arne Hook and Andrea Abbott will attend the New York State Convention of Universalists conference on October 3 and 4.

In response to a concern raised about security, Arne Hook will install a bell at the back west side door and a sign will be placed on the east side door stating that it will be locked as of 10:30 a.m. during services.

Ellen LaPine
Recording Secretary

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO REFLECT ON MEANING OF "SUPER HERO"

October begins with our annual angel release.

Learning by our heart, we will be spending time creating random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty. Encouraging compassion and the worth and dignity of every person, we will explore what it really means to be a "super hero."

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

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, October 16.

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

For more information about the group, you may contact Mary or Chet Perkins. Everyone is invited to attend.

OCTOBER 2014 CALENDAR

2 – 6:30 p.m., The choir will conduct its monthly rehearsal in the sanctuary. 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

5 – 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 program. 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.

9 – 5:30 to 7 p.m. (note change of starting time), Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

12 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Committee. 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 program. 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.

16 – 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.

19 – 8:30 a.m., Adopt-a-Highway pickup. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

23 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

25 – 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive at our church.

26 – 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 program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

30 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

NOVEMBER 2014 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. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Noon, Ngoc Huynh, who works for Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, will speak in the sanctuary about the challenges faced by refugees. 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.

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.

STEPPING FURTHER INTO OUR REGION

Your district leadership is making good progress moving from our district structure to a regional structure. The first draft of our comprehensive plan to blend the St. Lawrence, Ohio-Meadville, Metro New York and Joseph Priestly districts into the Central East Regional Group (CERG) is now in the hands of the district board members. After their critique, a second draft will be widely available to our congregations and other stakeholders for review. Your input will be collected at Forums on Regionalization this Fall and used to write the third draft. A final draft will be available well before District Assembly where we will discuss and vote on the proposal.



Right now our regional Transition Team (which I chair) is forming five new working groups to research specific issues and recommendations for this plan.

Legal: address bylaws, policies, procedures and incorporation issues.

Stakeholder Outreach: identify what we need to do, say and ask each of our stakeholder groups.

Listening: Compile, interpret and share feedback from stakeholders.

Volunteer Engagement: Create job descriptions of CERG board members and processes to assist Nominating Committees with this transition.

Training: How and when to train-the-trainer for our Forums on Regionalization.

The fundamental goal in this effort is to improve the services to our congregations. We are already experiencing some of this with the support we receive from our regional (not district) staff: Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, Pat Infante, Mark Bernstein, and Evin Carvill-Ziemer. Regionalization will allow us to fully blend these staff members with the staff of all four districts, and to eliminate the redundancy of four district boards. There are even plans for our district and region to be able to use the expertise of other UUA staff across the country. Very significant changes are underway, all to improve the support to our congregations and beyond.

Jeff Donahue
SLD President
Posted 9/10/2014

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.

DOWNSTAIRS SCOTTY

The Executive Board has designated the second Sunday of each month as the date for the collection of food for our Downstairs Scotty. The Outreach Committee will later take the contributions of food to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square. The committee will continue to accept

non-food items for the Downstairs Scotty on the second Sunday of each month and at all other times. Such non-food items include soap, detergent, bathroom and facial tissues, toothpaste, and the like. Our collection box is in the church dining room.

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.

DON'T FORGET THAT MEMO LINE!

When you are writing a check for the church, please write on the memo line the purpose for which the check is being written.

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.