



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	315-303-4760	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

APRIL 2013

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

I think those bumps on the branches of the maple tree are buds. They're pretty tightly furled and I want to tell them to stay well wrapped up. Maybe by the time this is printed, we will have lovely warm weather and it will be safe for them to stretch out and become leaves. But I've seen snow in April (I bet you have, too) and I remember the year that the apple crop was devastated by a late frost. I want to tell the tender little buds to be careful and don't do anything rash. But buds are, by definition, young, so they probably wouldn't pay any attention to me anyway. Thank heavens. The sap is rising. We need bold buds and bold people to take risks, to do rash things, to unfurl themselves and stretch themselves, even when the weather looks unpromising. I hope our church will also be willing to try some new endeavors, take some risks and that we will also unfurl ourselves and become the force that we can be. The winter is necessary. It gives us time to prepare, to cocoon, to wrap ourselves up in ourselves and build ourselves up for the challenges ahead. But now it is spring and we are called to think about what we can do for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the wider world. Come join us as we see what the spring will offer as we plant new ideas and wait for the spring rains and the sun to encourage their growth.

Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ON "HOLES IN OUR SOULS?"

The Rev. David Weissbard writes regarding his sermon at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7:

"It is the contention of some Christian devotees that we are born with holes in our souls that only belief in Jesus can truly fill. It may come as no surprise to you that I do not agree about the nature of that hole. My April sermon will explore those holes (if they exist.)"

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, APRIL 29. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. 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 CIRCLE PLANS SPAGHETTI DINNER

The UU Circle will hold a fundraising spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. The event will also include a silent auction and raffle for a gift basket. Your participation and help are needed to make this a success. Church members are asked to sell 10 tickets, and fliers are printed and ready for distribution in your community, as well as to your friends and family. Anyone who would like to donate an item for the auction or for the gift basket is asked to contact Nancy Hallock, njhallock@gmail.com. (See note below.) There is a sign-up sheet for contributing baked goods for dessert for the dinner posted in the church dining room as well as a sign-up sheet for helping with the dinner itself (preparing, set-up and clean-up). This event is being held to raise needed funds for our church.

Upcoming events sponsored by the UU Circle will be the “Three-S Festival” on Sunday, May 5. There will be a salad potluck for one “S”; the others will be “Showing and Sharing” your talent, your story, or your anecdote with the congregation. We hope this will be a fun event with everyone participating.

The Ethical Living Workshop will be held in either May or June and will be changed to “Ethical Eating” for its focus. Wegmans Food Markets program on healthy eating will be used as a framework for the workshop as well as contributing information from church members.

Barbara Kamerance

SILENT AUCTION

Please consider donating to our auction on April 13. So far I have two books by Roy Reehil, “Buzzword” game (unopened) and Mr. Perfect doll (slightly used). A painting? Vase? Jewelry? Rocks? Use your imagination.

We also need donations for the Gourmet Basket, for which we will sell raffle tickets. So far: fancy olive oil, pasta, chocolate bar. Pick up an item from the grocers.

This is not just a UU Circle event. It is a needed congregational fundraiser. Thanks much.

Nancy Hallock

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view “Taming Capitalism Run Wild” when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 5.

Richard Wolff, professor of economics emeritus at the University of Massachusetts and currently visiting professor in the Graduate Program in International Affairs of the New School in New York City, joins Bill Moyers in this “Moyers & Company” segment to shine light on disasters left behind in capitalism’s wake, and to discuss the fight for economic justice.

Also, after marching on Washington with restaurant workers struggling to make ends meet, activist and author Saru Jayaraman talks about how we can best support their right to a fair wage. Jayaraman is the co-founder and co-director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United and the author of “Behind the Kitchen Door,” a new exposé of the restaurant industry.

The group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant the same evening. Please let Janie Garlow

know by Thursday, April 4, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Bob Haskell

BOOK CLUB UPDATE

There are a few copies left in the book tote of “Cutting For Stone” by Abraham Verghese.

This popular novel is the story of twin brothers, Marion and Shiva, born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by the death of their mother and the disappearance of their father, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age in Ethiopia.

Moving to New York City and back, this is an unforgettable story of love, betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles – and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

We have the books until May 6. The discussion date is to be announced.

Nancy Hallock

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

OUTREACH COMMITTEE/SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Social Justice Subcommittee met Sunday, March 10.

We discussed our workers rights project. Tracy Kinne reported that the Workers Center of Central New York would be willing to have an outreach program at our church on a Sunday afternoon. We have suggested June 9, but that date has not been confirmed. We will be responsible for fliers and other promotions to attract workers. In the meantime, we will compile pertinent facts of conditions and services in Oswego County.

I was contacted by Barrie Gewanter, director of the Central New York Chapter, New York Civil Liberties Union. She is looking for support for two issues. First, immigration reform through New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform and Alliance for Citizenship. She is organizing lobby groups to visit Reps. Richard Hanna and Bill Owens on this issue. She also has sent an invitation for all to attend a forum to be presented by Eleanor's Legacy in Syracuse on April 11. They will address the Governor's 10-point Women's Equality Agenda (WEA). She asks if our church will sign on as an official endorser of the WEA. She said there is a plan for a similar presentation at the State University of New York College at Oswego, date and time to be announced. Please contact me if you want to participate in activities planned for either of these issues.

The Outreach Committee is responsible for the Membership Subcommittee, which has not been active for quite a while. We need to reactivate a group to discuss attracting more church members. I know this is an ongoing concern and please consider helping contribute some ideas and plans for future growth.

Another \$150 donation has been made to Pure Water for the World by our church. Thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hallock, chairperson

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, April 17. 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 Nancy Haskell or Chet Perkins. Everyone is invited to attend.

CUUPS CORNER: APRIL 2013

The Wheel of the Year turns and the Central New York Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is holding regular rituals on the sabbats.

Our last sabbat – Ostara, a festival marking the vernal equinox and the return of spring – was a well-attended Saturday afternoon service at First Unitarian Universalist Society, 109 Waring Road in DeWitt.

The next sabbat is Beltane. Our CUUPS tradition has been to join with the Morris Dancers for their May Day celebration at dawn. Here's the link for more information about that event: <http://rgoldman.org/morris/mayday.htm#Syracuse>.

Our chapter contact is Laura Hudson. If you would like more information about CUUPS, please contact her either via phone at 315-391-9949 or via e-mail at hudlakat@yahoo.com. We also have a Yahoo group you may join at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CNY-CUUPS/> and a Facebook page you can check out at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/CNY-CUUPS/180472471758>.

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.

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 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: CAR BATTERY RECYCLING

Car batteries represent a remarkable recycling success. A typical car battery includes about 25 pounds of lead, 2 pounds of plastic and about 10 pounds (about a gallon) of sulfuric acid. These materials are used time after time by the 7 companies in the United States that operate 13 battery recycling factories.

Basically, after a dead battery arrives at one of the recycling plants, a hammer mill will grind a battery that might start out the size of a Thanksgiving turkey into pieces no bigger than half the size of a cell phone. Then a system where lighter materials float and heavier items sink separates the various materials constituting the battery. Recovered lead goes through a furnace for melting and refinement and in the end becomes lead ingots weighing about 65 pounds. These ingots are bundled and shipped for use in new batteries.

Recovered plastic is washed and melted into pellets, then shipped to injection molding plants producing new battery cases. The sulfuric acid is neutralized and filtered to trap solids, leaving only a sodium sulfate solution. A crystallizer boils off any remaining water to leave only sodium sulfate crystals, a salt which is used in the textile, glass and pulp paper industries.

How did battery recycling become the norm? In the 1970s a change in federal regulations created what is known as a "core charge." When you buy a battery, you are charged a spent-battery fee if you don't bring back your junked battery. As companies saw the financial potential of cradle-to-grave, total battery management, they became more professional and began marketing battery exchange programs to consumers. Battery recycling has a huge impact since it is estimated that about 130 million batteries will need replacement each year.

Imagine the enormous demand for raw material without recycling. For example, the lead from the mine is brought to the surface by trucks, graders and mining equipment. This ore is probably only 5 percent lead by weight, the other 95 percent being dirt, shale and other minerals or metals that aren't processed, creating the huge piles of material lying around old mines. Thanks to the push toward recycling, about 80 percent of all lead used worldwide is recycled and it works just as well the 10th time as it did the first.

Check with auto parts stores, tractor supply companies and the like; most have programs where they collect used vehicle batteries. So, the next time you need a new battery, be sure to take your old one to the store to turn in to avoid the "core charge" and know that the old battery will be recycled into a new one.

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

BOARD SPLINTERS

Barbara Kamerance of the UU Circle's Coordinating Committee informed Executive Board members at their meeting on Sunday, March 17, of the Circle's plans for a fundraising spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. The dinner will benefit the church's Operating Account.

She also announced that the UU Circle workshop on "Ethical Living" had been postponed, probably until October. She said that the UU Circle potluck luncheon on Sunday, February 24, featuring a talk by her husband, David, on ancient Egyptian religious practices, including mummification, spirituality, and the afterlife, had gone well.

Robert Haskell reminded the Executive Board that the \$5,000 it had borrowed from the New York State Convention of Universalists to complete the restoration of the large stained-glass windows on the west and north sides of the sanctuary had been received. The interest-free loan is for three years. The Executive Board has approved a plan for the installation of a mesh covering for the three large stained-glass windows in the sanctuary at a cost not to exceed \$1,200. The work is expected to take place this spring.

The Executive Board accepted various treasurer reports, including one for February, one for the first nine months of the church year, and one for the church's bank balances.

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.

STEWARDSHIP LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

I want to begin by emphasizing how fortunate I think we are that a congregation of our size is able to have the activities that we have each Sunday.

First, I believe that each Sunday, despite the fact that we are financially not able to employ a full-time, or even a half-time, minister, we have a strong pulpit with Andrea Abbott, the Rev. Libbie Stoddard, the Rev. David Weissbard and the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. Three are ordained ministers, one is a divinity student. To be able to have speakers of this caliber each Sunday in a congregation of our size I find to be truly amazing. I don't feel that I can emphasize this too much or too often.

Second, I think that we are fortunate to have Leigh Parry-Benedict as our music coordinator and talented performer. Leigh has brought a variety of music to our services and is willing to try new approaches to the music program. She has occasionally played the organ, the first time the organ has been played in several years. She has been able to recruit more voices for a choir. Of course, the choir needs more voices. But Leigh is a pleasure to work with, and she tries to please every one.

Third, I think we are fortunate to have Ronna Schindler as the dedicated leader of our religious education program. Ronna is fully prepared each Sunday with a new lesson. However, the major disappointment with the program is that we seldom have children on many Sundays. In the coming year I believe that the congregation needs to increase its efforts to attract new members, especially those parents with children of religious education ages.

And this year we have Nathan Drabot supervising the nursery. This is the first time that we have had anyone in the nursery in a number of years.

Then, of course, there is the vital social time after the service. Members and friends provide refreshments, bearing the costs themselves. Someone asked a few months ago if one of David Weissbard's sermons, "Excremental Theology," might frighten people and keep them away from a service. The response was no, that the only thing that would frighten people was if you told them there would be no coffee hour after the service.

So, as I said, I think that we are fortunate that a congregation the size of ours is able to have the activities that we have on Sundays.

But I have to be realistic and point out that all of this costs money.

The congregation raises that money in various ways. The major source of revenue is pledges, commitments by an individual or a family to provide a certain amount of money during the coming church year. Then we raise other moneys through loose collections, special collections, Fair Share contributions, various building usage fees, UU Circle activities, dividends and interest.

The question seems to be asked each year: How should we conduct a pledge campaign? One suggestion has been that we hire a professional fundraiser. Another is that we ask members of the congregation to call on other members to ask for pledges. This latter effort was tried several years ago but it was not viewed as a success. So the Executive Board has decided to continue a rather low key effort this year, feeling that the congregation is so small that each one knows the needs of the church, that it does not take a professional fundraiser to tell anyone.

I might point out that this year's budget of \$26,950 is about \$1,100 less than the \$28,100 budget of 2011-2012. Just before this year's budget was submitted to the congregation last June, the Oswego Satellite Office of ARISE Child & Family Service, Inc. informed us that it was terminating its program under which it paid the church \$150 a month for unlimited use of church rooms for its activities. As a result, this year's budget was quickly reduced by about \$1,100. And this year's budget is about \$4,000 less than the \$30,000 budget of 2009-2010 and about \$14,000 below the \$40,000 in income in 2008-2009.

Despite this year's reduction, we have been able to keep total expenses in line with this year's budget. But

(Continued on Page 6)

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.

STEWARDSHIP LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

(Continued from Page 5)

our income has not kept pace, so there is a chance that our Operating Account will finish in the red this year. This would not be the first time for this to have occurred. In 2007-2008 the Operating Account finished about \$2,000 in the red. In other recent years, the account has finished in the black.

One suggestion has been made that we reduce costs by reducing church activities. I, for one, am strongly opposed to cutting back on any of our activities. I would view such as a tragic mistake. I strongly believe that we can find some way to raise enough money to continue the activities that we have and hopefully enough to expand them. And we can begin that effort with a successful pledge campaign starting today.

I am not going to ask each of you to increase your pledge. I know that some of you cannot increase your pledge. In fact, I know that some of you cannot make a pledge at all or will have difficulty maintaining your existing pledge. But for those who can increase your pledge, I ask that before each of you signs a pledge card that you give some thought as to how much the church means to you and how important it is to you to continue to have the church activities that we now enjoy, and then let your heart be your guide.

Pledge cards are available now.

Thank you.
Bob Haskell

(The above remarks were delivered at the Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, March 24.)

ON FILLING OUT YOUR PLEDGE CARD

Somehow, March is wrapping itself up, and the church held its annual Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, March 24. Presentations were made, discussions were held, and the annual pledge cards were distributed. On the pledge cards, the area for contact information only needs to be completed if your information changed from last year or if you are new to the congregation. There are areas on the pledge card for your contributions toward the operations of the church, your Fair Share, and for the repayment of the loan for the window restoration. If your pledge has not changed in several years, I encourage you to reevaluate what you are comfortable pledging and see if you can stretch your comfort level by just a bit.

As we wrap up the current church year in the next two months, and start in on a new one, I also encourage everyone to find a new way to serve the church; whether you are able to increase your financial pledge, or if you are able to find more time during the "Love Your Church" cleanings and outside maintenance needs. Perhaps you have been considering helping plan and organize a fundraising event, or helping in the execution of a church activity. Whatever you choose, there are many ways to be a steward to our church and I hope each and every person is able to discover which suits him/her best.

Regards,
Cara Lajewski
Assistant Treasurer

Editor's note: A pledge form is reprinted on Page 7.

The completed form may be mailed to the church or handed to any member of the Executive Board: Robert Haskell, Winfield Ihlow, Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, Barbara Kamerance, Ann Peterson, Betty Figie, Nancy Haskell, Nancy Hallock and Mary Jane Garlow.

The Board hopes that the forms will be returned as soon as possible, especially by the end of April so that a proposed budget may be readied in May for the new church year.

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.

The First Universalist Society of Central Square
Post Office Box 429
Central Square, New York 13036-0429

June 1, 2013, through May 31, 2014, Pledge Form



As an expression of love and appreciation for the work of the church:

My annual pledge is: \$ _____

To be given in increments of \$ _____

Weekly Monthly Annually

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

The information above is an addition or change to the current directory.

Fair Share Fund: I would like to give an additional donation to Fair Share. This year, the dues are approximately \$75/member. \$ _____.

Window Fund: I would like to give an additional donation to the window account to refinish and restore our stained glass windows. \$ _____.

One-time donation: I would like to give a one-time gift to the work of the church.
\$ _____.

Signature _____ Date _____

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IT IS YOUR INTENT TO COMPLETE PAYMENT OF THIS PLEDGE BY MAY 31, 2014. CIRCUMSTANCES DO CHANGE AND YOU MAY MODIFY OR CANCEL YOUR PLEDGE WITH A CALL OR LETTER TO OUR TREASURER.

THANK YOU!

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO MAKE BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Our numbers may be small but our program is strong.

We are close to completing Spirit of Life in American sign language.

Pouches for our story stone were made, palm frond crowns were fashioned for Palm Sunday and eggs were decorated.

With warmer weather just around the corner the children will be making a butterfly house with the help of Ron Kringer, and working in the church's meditation garden.

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

APRIL 2013 CALENDAR

5 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group to view “Taming Capitalism Run Wild” when it meets in the Goettel Room.

7 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “Holes in Our Soles?” Random Acts of Kindness. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. This is 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.

13 – 9:30 to 11 a.m., Choir practices. 4 to 6 p.m., Fundraising Spaghetti Dinner and a silent auction.

14 – 9 a.m., Spiritual Committee. 9:30 a.m., Social Justice Subcommittee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Subcommittee asks everyone to donate food items for the Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at St. Michael's Church Parish Center.

17 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

19 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

21 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

28 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Andrea Abbott, student minister, and Leigh Parry-Benedict, music coordinator, will conduct a Maundy Thursday communion service at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 28.

UNLOCKED DOOR

Once again the door to the east side of the church was found to be unlocked and ajar one day earlier this month. It is requested that the last person or persons to leave the building after church activities on any day of the week to be sure to lock the door. It would be helpful if the person or persons would also check the front door and the door on the west side of the church to make sure that they are locked, too.

Some of the lights have been found to have been left on in the church in recent weeks. Thus, it is also requested that the last person or persons to leave the building after church activities turn off the lights.

Visit our church Web site at <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>