



# 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](mailto: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
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

DECEMBER 2013

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

We will soon be in the season of Advent, when the Advent candles are lit, one by one, each Sunday and we sing our Advent carol. This is the season of anticipation, waiting for Christmas Day. Why does a Unitarian Universalist church observe Advent, many have asked. If we look around us, we have all been involved in Advent since about Halloween. The whole country, at least the retail part of it, has been observing Advent for far more than the four weeks that tradition allots it. No matter what your religious tradition, Christmas is the major event of the year, like it or not. Whether we call it Christmas or The Feast of Lights or The Winter Holiday, or Festivus for the Rest of Us, it is pretty hard to ignore. So, the question is not whether we will observe Advent, but how. Will we only observe it by engaging in the exhausting and relentless demands of "the holiday season," shopping, cooking, decorating, wrapping? Or could this also be a time to think about why this particular time of year seems to call for lights, music and hospitality? What is it that we are anticipating? Perhaps it is the message that even in the longest and darkest night we can still find hope and joy. And that they are often found in the unlikeliest places. May all of us find the warmth of hope and the light of joy shining through this season and all the new year.

Andrea Abbott

### THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO FOCUS ON DOUBT

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the December 15 service:

"It is common for people to think of religion in terms of beliefs. Some of us tend to apologize for our uncertainty, that there is something wrong with us, that we are deficient because of our uncertainty. A few years ago I became aware of a book that I believe should be required reading for UUs. I believe it is wonderfully out of synch with current UU trends as I perceive them, and speaks to the best in our tradition. My subject for December 15th is 'Celebrating Doubt'."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, DECEMBER 30. 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](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com). His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

## “A VERY RENAISSANCE CHRISTMAS” KICKS OFF UU CIRCLE EVENTS

Here are UU Circle events for the coming months. Dates may change if there are conflicts and there will be more information on each event as we get closer to the date:

December 1: “A Very Renaissance Christmas”

The Christmas season will be upon us soon. Ann Peterson’s local Renaissance group will present “A Very Renaissance Christmas” play on Sunday, December 1. The play will include music presented by the Troubadours’ Guild. The Actors’ Guild will present some of the play from a script as well as some impromptu humor for your entertainment and amusement. Don Sears, known as Thrommell in our Renaissance time, is a serious history buff so you can expect to hear some interesting facts from times gone by as well as getting a good laugh. There will be a potluck luncheon after the church service. The Circle needs several more dessert and side dishes for the luncheon. The play will begin at about 1 p.m. This will be a wonderful program for everyone, so bring your friends and family. There is no charge for the play, but if you wish to make a donation to the food pantry, it would be welcomed.

December 22: Family Sunday and UU Circle Bake Sale

For the second year, we will celebrate a Family Sunday for the service on December 22. Please invite your family members to share our service and fellowship. Everyone is asked to bring some homemade holiday sweets, including cookies, candies, breads, etc. for the UU Circle In-house Bake Sale which will be held after the Sunday service. This is a good time to bake your own favorites and to purchase some of those specialties that our fellow members are so good at making.

January 19: Annual meeting and election of officers immediately after the morning service. This event will include a soup and salad potluck luncheon.

February 8: Cabaret Night

March 16: Your heirloom china appraisal with potluck.

April 4: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

May 4: Plant and bulb sale.

June: To be announced.

Janie Garlow, Ann Peterson and Barbara Kamerance

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is now reading “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Copies are available in the church dining room.

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, “The book is an epistolary novel, whose main character is a female newspaper columnist. She receives a letter from a Channel Island man who has acquired a book, ‘Essays of Elia’, which contains her name and previous London address on the flyleaf. He writes to her, asking for help in finding a biography of English essayist Charles Lamb, and mentions that he is a member of the Island’s only book club. Intrigued both by the man’s love of Mr. Lamb, and by the intriguing name of the book club, she enters into a correspondence with the man, which leads to an ever-growing web of letters, then a visit to the island, which ends in a permanent residence there.

“As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends – and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

– born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island – boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all. Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society’s members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact which the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.”

If you have started this book, I’m sure you are enjoying it and will agree that we should be ready to discuss this earlier than most. I suggest that the group meet at noon on December 15.

Read on.

Nancy Hallock

## CHANTING AND MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart. His e-mail address is [timhart@a-znet.com](mailto:timhart@a-znet.com). His telephone number is 315-439-2541.

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

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

Our 12th annual Christmas Day dinner will be held at the church from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 25. All are welcome to attend.

We would love to have people bring in cookies or pies to share.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, to share time with others, and to help clean up.

For more information, please contact me at 623-7685.

Kurt Schindler

### SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE, OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Subcommittee met on Sunday morning, November 10. We are concentrating on our planned series of speakers for a community project. Our aim is to educate and raise awareness about the conditions suffered by low-wage and minority workers. So far we have six speakers, one a month, starting in January.

We have Tracy Kinne to thank for contacting these folks and arranging their scheduled appearances. Now we will work on publicity and details here at church.

Our next meeting is at 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 8. All are welcome to attend.

I want to mention our recent contribution of \$187 to Pure Water for the World. That money was raised by returnable bottles and cans, but mostly from your generous coin donations to the collection plates each Sunday.  
Nancy Hallock, chairperson

### GREEN MINUTE: LESS STUFF FOR CHRISTMAS

In many ways the holidays have become all about stuff. We stuff ourselves and our homes with stuff that is often forgotten almost as soon as it is unwrapped. All of this excessive consumerism has a negative effect on our wallets, on the environment and on ourselves as we lose touch with some of the simple yet very important things in life while we collect more stuff.

Check out [www.buynothingchristmas.org](http://www.buynothingchristmas.org) and you will find a Web site dedicated to reducing the excesses of Christmas. It has ideas on how you can buy less this Christmas and still have a wonderful holiday season. The initiative was started in 2001 on the west coast of Canada by Mennonites who want to de-commercialize Christmas, and redesign a lifestyle that is richer in meaning, smaller in impact on the Earth and greater in giving to people less privileged. Although the Web site is called "Buy Nothing," they accept that not everyone will be able to do this so they offer suggestions on how to make changes to reduce and what you might try to do to get there. The Web site is worth digging around in because it has many ideas, including reading suggestions such as Bill McKibben's "Hundred Dollar Holiday" that several of us read a few years ago.

Some suggestions that I found at the Web site are:

Go through your loved one's old clothes, cut out squares and then make a wall hanging, toy, an ornament, etc. from the scraps of cloth.

Buy a used book and on the inside cover write what there is about the person that made you think he or she would enjoy the book.

For elderly people in your life, research old newspaper and magazine articles, cut them out and then give them to the people in a creative fashion.

Make a puppet from a sock.

Knit a new sweater, socks, scarf or mittens from yarn you got from a resale shop.

Do something exciting, meaningful and/or challenging together, such as taking a course, hiking, biking, visiting a museum or learning to dance.

Gives seeds and explain how best to grow them. Maybe include a recipe or two for edible plants.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season filled with lots of wonderful memories and less stuff.

Ellen LaPine  
Outreach Committee

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.

## BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board, conducting its regular monthly meeting in the church dining room on Sunday morning, November 3, agreed to express its gratitude to “Love Your Church” project participants Betty Figie, Janie and Steve Garlow, Alec Panos, Susan Jennings, Ronna Schindler, Susan Wells, Priscilla Sparks, Susan Woods, George and Judy Tennant, Arne Hook, Andrea Abbott, Barbara Kamerance, Mary and Chet Perkins and Nancy Hallock. The Board also thanked Pat Dolan for replacing the outside motion detector lamp because it was falling apart.

Andrea Abbott informed the Board that several members of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central New York would present a program after the morning service on Sunday, November 17.

Andrea Abbott also discussed with Board members the recommendations proposed by the Spiritual Committee for the church altar.

Ann Peterson spoke about the “A Very Renaissance Christmas” play to be presented by her local Renaissance group on Sunday, December 1. She said that there would be a potluck luncheon after the morning service and before the play.

The Board agreed to ask the New York State Convention of Universalists for a loan to enable the purchase of enhanced listening devices for use in the sanctuary. The Spiritual Committee proposed the use of such devices.

Nancy Hallock, chairperson of the Outreach Committee, said that the congregation’s observance of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s annual Guest at Your Table program would begin on Sunday morning, November 24.

Andrea Abbott reported that both her studies at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and the “12-Step Group” workshop based upon Karen Armstrong’s book, “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life,” were going well.

Delegates Andrea Abbott and Arnold Hook spoke of their attendance at the annual meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists held at St. Paul’s Universalist Church in Little Falls on October 25–26. Ronna and Kurt Schindler also attended the meeting as church delegates. The Convention elected Tim Hart as president.

Nancy Hallock announced that the Book Club had chosen “Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” for its next read.

## LIONESSE CLUB COLLECTING GIFTS

The Central Square Lioness Club is collecting gifts for the Lions Club Christmas baskets again.

It has been the custom of this church to donate knitted mittens, hats and scarves each year. So if you are able, grab your knitting needles and have your contributions at the church by Sunday, December 8.

If you cannot complete your knitting by that date, the Lioness Club will be glad to receive your mittens, hats and scarves at any time after that for next year’s Christmas gifts.

## VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view the third and final segment of “The Life of Muhammad” when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 6.

The documentary presented by Rageh Omaar

traces the life, work and words of The Prophet Muhammad.

In the third segment, Omaar analyzes and investigates key events during the later part of Muhammad’s life, including the introduction of a moral code known as Sharia and the concept of Jihad.

The program also explores Muhammad’s use of marriage to build alliances, and looks at the key messages included in his final sermon.

In line with Islamic tradition the program does not depict any images of the face of Muhammad, or feature any dramatic re-constructions of Muhammad’s life.

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](mailto:mjgarlow@aol.com) or via telephone at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, December 5, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

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.

## GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES

As part of its annual Guest at Your Table program now being observed by our congregation from November 24 to January 5, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee cites “Stories of Hope” as a way to get to know some of the people behind UUSC's work.

One “Story of Hope” focuses on Danielle Neus:

“You may have heard of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP). It's an organization that has strengthened rural communities around Haiti through popular education and farming that is good for the Earth. Danielle Neus, spokesperson for the Bright Educators of Delmas (GEAD), has brought this kind of community building to Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti that's still affected by the devastation of the 2010 earthquake. Danielle is teaching people in Port-au-Prince how to grow personal gardens using recycled tires. This gives them the knowledge and tools they need to eat healthily, make a living, and build strong, safe communities in Port-au-Prince.

“Danielle learned the importance of community organizing and farming as a child. She spent a lot of time with her mother who was working as an ‘animator’ (someone who works to create change in Haitian communities). She also helped her grandfather, who was a farmer. When Danielle first discovered MPP, she saw her passions coming together: people working with one another to learn not only how to grow food and eat well, but also how to build thriving communities. She signed up for an MPP training, and there she met Emmanuel Exuma, Guerna Salomon, and Adelaine Joseph — three young adults who shared her vision of strong and healthy communities. They joined together to start GEAD.

“In a country that was already struggling, the earthquake made it very difficult for families to live well in Port-au-Prince. Food was hard to come by, and most of the vegetables available in the city had no nutrients because they were poorly grown or harvested. After losing their homes and access to steady food, water, and other supplies, Haitians were left with communities that were split up and they had no way to make a living within the city. Danielle immediately saw how tire gardens could benefit the people of Port-au-Prince. So she began a project with the other GEAD members to bring the idea to the city.

“Now, with the help of MPP and UUSC, GEAD is working to give Haitians a way to return to the city. Their initial project trained 60 families to make tire gardens, which allowed them to grow cabbages, eggplants, spinach, and other food that's healthy to eat and valuable to sell. And GEAD uses popular education, which invites Haitians to work together — to learn from each other, combine their resources, and find solutions that benefit the entire community. Danielle shares the GEAD motto: ‘We are all one, we remain one, and we will die one.’

“Danielle says that, in order to achieve common goals, honest communication is everything. The group that started GEAD finds success because each member is able to speak freely about their dreams and their fears. She believes that community members must talk openly and work together, because they may all have the same goals and never know it if they don't speak up.

“The next step for GEAD is to open its own training center in the city, so that they can train more families at a faster rate. It would also allow GEAD to locally produce compost, a vital material that currently must be brought in from the countryside. Danielle believes that providing training for youth is especially important, because moving communities forward is a responsibility shared by every generation. Her goal is not just to teach her fellow Haitians to plant seeds and grow food, but also to plant the seeds of community organizing and empowerment so people may rebuild their lives.”

Members and friends of the congregation are asked to take Guest at Your Table boxes home and put donations into them, as if sharing with special guests, to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

If you did not pick up a Gift at Your Table box on Sunday, November 24, you may still pick up one in the church dining room. It is requested that boxes be returned no later than Sunday, January 5.

If you would prefer not to take home a box, you may give a check to Nancy Hallock, our congregation's Gift at Your Table program coordinator, or support UUSC directly online at [www.uusc.org/givetoguest](http://www.uusc.org/givetoguest). Donations received online will be automatically credited to our congregation.

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.

## PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

I would guess that there are some of you, maybe all of you, who must think that I am pretty naive based upon what I sometimes write here. I certainly concur with that conclusion, but I remind myself that is why I must leave sermonizing to the professionals.

I think that I have spent a great deal of my life reading, trying to figure out what life is all about. But I also wonder if what I am really trying to do is to find some way to escape the hardships of life. As you can see, even at 84, I am still not sure what I am actually doing. But whatever it is, I expect to keep on doing it as long as I am able.

As part of my reading, some time ago I came across a sermon entitled “Albert Schweitzer and ‘The Philosophy of Civilization’” by the Rev. John Isom. I was particularly moved by what he terms “Basic Assumptions of Schweitzer’s World and Life View”:

“Assumption One: ‘The fact of all facts is this, we are surrounded by mystery’. There is much we do not know and in all probability we never will.

“Assumption Two: ‘All there is is will to live’. That is Schweitzer’s answer to the question: ‘What is the universe?’ When all we know and don’t know about the universe has been carefully evaluated, that is the most rational assumption about the essence of the universe that our knowledge can justify. The assumption may be translated to read, ‘All there is is Life’. Don’t overlook the significance of the first word ‘All’.

“Assumption Three: Life as such is the supreme reality we have to deal with. This third basic assumption grows logically from the second assumption: ‘All there is is will-to-live’. What life as such is we do not know. We do know we are manifestations of it, just as all things in the universe are manifestations of it.

“Assumption Four: This assumption may be translated to read ‘Our worldview must be determined by our life view’. Another translation would read ‘Our conception of life must determine our theory of the universe’. The ethical resources we need to make true progress, on the human level, is to be found, if anywhere, in what we can know about life as it is manifested in us, rather than in what we can know about all the other forms of life that make up the rest of the universe, be those forms identified by us as ‘living’ or ‘non-living’.

“As we proceed, keep in mind the first assumption: ‘The fact of all facts is this, we are surrounded by mystery’. Our objective knowledge of the rest of the life in the world and our subjective knowledge of our human life is limited. ‘We see through a glass darkly. We know only in part’. Without being humbled by these facts the ethics we need will never be found, regardless of where we look for it. The ethics we need to make true progress must, as Schweitzer would contend, be able to ‘do without an infallible philosophical system’.”

I am impressed by what I read in this sermon, and that is one reason why I expect to continue reading as long as it is possible for me to do so.

Bob

### IF A WORSHIP SERVICE IS IN DOUBT

There are various ways to find out if a worship service will be held on a Sunday morning when winter weather is raging.

1. You may call Janie Garlow at 436-2238 or Chester Perkins at 668-6719.

2. You may turn to Channel 10 television, Channel 9 television and WSYR radio. Ann Peterson, an Outreach Committee member, has made arrangements with those media outlets to broadcast a notice of any cancellation.

3. You may check your e-mail for a message from Bob Haskell.

The decision as to whether a worship service will be conducted will be made by 8:30 a.m.

### 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, December 18.

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.

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.

## NEWS FROM THE UNIRONDACK CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

### Executive Director's Report By Dan Gottfried

What an incredibly exciting and challenging year! I can't believe everything we accomplished and all that lies in front of us.

Unirondack owes a debt of gratitude to so many, from our generous donors to our incredible summer staff to our super welcoming Spring/Fall manager to our amazing Facilities Manager to our dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers to our supportive congregations to all of you. WOW! Thanks and thanks again.

This year we finally renovated the Showerhouse. Like so many other wonderful improvements over the last several years, the Showerhouse renovation was the brain-child of Devin Hollands, our current Board President. If it weren't for Devin's vision, perseverance and hard work, it would not have happened. And we did it at the same time that we were having one of our best summers ever and a full fall and spring season. All told, we had 531 summer registrations, over 300 weekend registrations and more than 250 people joining their congregations for a weekend retreat at Unirondack.

And people continue to discover Unirondack from new places in our UU world. This year we had staff and campers from Canada, California, Connecticut, France, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

Unirondack is moving forward on a number of fronts. We are working to strengthen our connections with the other UU Camps and Conference Centers and the UUA. We are continuing to develop a leadership team that will give us continuity and stability. We are improving our facilities and developing a comprehensive plan for maintaining our infrastructure. We are continuing to improve our program and to provide more staff development for our summer staff members so that our campers have the best experience we can offer.

And so much has been done already. We have poured close to half a million dollars into our facility and equipment in the last 5 years. We have carried through on beginning to build a new endowment to provide a foundation for our future. We have opened membership to our families and alumni and significantly increased participation in our community. The list goes on and on, and it gives us all hope.

So what can I say except thank you, thank you, thank you. And let's continue to move forward together.

(For much more information on Unirondack, its latest newsletter may be found by clicking on the Web site address: [http://www.unirondack.org/wp-content/themes/unirondack/pdfs//Unirondack\\_Newsletter\\_Fall2013.pdf](http://www.unirondack.org/wp-content/themes/unirondack/pdfs//Unirondack_Newsletter_Fall2013.pdf))

#### 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](mailto: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, December 1.

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

#### DOWNSTAIRS SCOTTY

The Outreach 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 Downstairs Scotty collection box is in the church dining room.

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.

## DECEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

1 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood Adams leads the worship service. Random Acts of Kindness. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., Potluck luncheon 1 p.m., “A Very Renaissance Christmas” play. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Outreach Committee’s 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.

6 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room to view the third and final segment of “The Life of Muhammad.”

7 – 9:30 to 11 a.m., Choir practices in the sanctuary.

8 – 9 a.m., Social Justice Subcommittee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. Deadline to donate knitted mittens, hats and scarves being collected by Central Square Lioness Club for the Lions Club Christmas gift baskets. 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 St. Michael’s Church Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

15 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Sermon topic: “Celebrating Doubt.” 10:50 a.m., Religious education. Noon, Possible meeting of the Book Club.

18 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

20 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

22 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Family Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:30 a.m., UU Circle Bake Sale

24 – Christmas Eve candlelight service.

25 – 12 noon to 4 p.m., Christmas Day dinner open to all.

29 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

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## FAIR SHARE APPEAL

The Fair Share is the amount of the contribution our congregation is asked to give each fiscal year to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and its St. Lawrence District (SLD).

These contributions finance programs, services and resources that directly benefit and strengthen our congregation and the Unitarian Universalist movement as a whole.

Fair Share is based upon the number of members a congregation certified for the UUA General Assembly the previous February. This year’s combined Fair Share contribution is expected to be about \$75 per member.

Our congregation has a line item in our budget, which covers \$2,000 of our contribution. Each year we try to pay our Fair Share in full. We are asking members if they are able to do so to write a check for \$75 payable to the church and to designate “Fair Share” on the memo line. This would help us reach our goal. For more information, you may contact Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, treasurer.

## 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.

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement you would like to be included in the church’s weekly e-mail announcements, please send it to Janie Garlow at [mjgarlow@aol.com](mailto:mjgarlow@aol.com) by 1 p.m. on Sundays.

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