



# 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 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

FEBRUARY 2013

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

February has begun, our short month, the month in which it is said the days begin to lengthen and the cold begins to strengthen. February is also the month where all the stores are festooned with hearts and naked little angels fooling around with sharp pointy objects. Valentine's Day is meant to celebrate one kind of love, romantic love. There are many other kinds of love that don't have their own holiday. We need holidays that celebrate the kinds of love that expand our minds and our hearts. These are the kinds of love that exist between parents and children, between friends, between people that we have not met but for whom we feel compassion and sympathy, the kinds of love that lead people to volunteer time and money in disasters. These are very important kinds of love, because romantic love can so often only be about the self, but these kinds of love call us to go beyond the self. February is also Black History Month. Abolitionists such as John Brown and Angelina Grimké were moved to love for those in bondage and went beyond the limits of their lives to try to end slavery. We might ask ourselves how we can be moved to love for others that will inspire us to go beyond our ordinary lives in the service of love. Let February bring more light, more strength to change what needs to be changed.

Andrea Abbott

### THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ON "THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL"

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the February 3 service:

"As I look at the sermons I have delivered at Central Square, it seems to me that I have tended to assume a lot about what a UU church is, more than sharing sermons which make explicit what I assume. For my sermon on February 3, I will try to make some of my assumptions explicit. You may, of course, view the church differently, but perhaps we can have a conversation about 'The Quest for the Holy Grail'."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26. 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.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUSES ON WORKERS

The Social Justice subcommittee of the Outreach Committee met last on Sunday morning, January 13, when we discussed a plan for 2013. We plan to learn more about the problems of rural workers and about the upcoming minimum wage legislation.

As part of our education, Andrea Abbott and I accompanied Tracy Kinne to a leadership meeting of the Workers Center of Central New York in Syracuse on Monday, January 14. We met a group of warm and dedicated persons. They welcomed us and agreed to assist us in presenting a program in Oswego County. A representation of their work can be read in an editorial printed in the Post-Standard on Thursday, January 17. I have a copy at church to share.

On January 24 the Center conducted a program open to the public during which workers shared their difficult experiences and helped others learn their rights. Andrea, Ellen LaPine, Nick Abbott-Hook and I attended.

We will continue to collect coins and bottle return money to donate to Pure Water for the World.

Please attend our next meeting on Sunday morning, February 10. Get involved and share ideas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Hallock, chairperson

## GREEN MINUTE: ETHICAL EATING

“What does ethical living mean?” That was a question that was raised recently when the upcoming workshop on ethical living was being announced. I thought that it was an excellent question. Part of ethical living can be ethical eating so I hope this month’s Green Minute helps folks begin to decide just what the ethical eating part of ethical living means to them.

The best definition I have run across says that ethical eating means you strive to make educated decisions about your food choices and the impact such choices have on our community, animals, and our environment, and then you strive to reach the best conclusion for you and your health.

Ethical eating, in my opinion, does not mean that you are vegan or vegetarian although many who choose to eat a vegetarian or vegan diet are also concerned about where their food comes from and the food’s effects on their health. It also does not mean that you are a strict “Localvore” although those who eat a rich diet of locally grown and produced foods certainly can be eating ethically. If you eat meat, are you automatically not eating ethically? Absolutely not. However, you may want to know how the animals were raised and slaughtered.

Ethical eating can be trying to buy local vegetables and meats when you can. It can be educating yourself about factory farms and deciding for yourself if you want nothing to do with food produced in this way or maybe you won’t eat only certain foods that are mass produced. It may be eating organic but knowing how far that organic food was shipped before it arrived in your kitchen. It may mean only eating fish and eggs or maybe only locally produced beef, pork and chicken or maybe just trying to eat less meat and more vegetables.

The bottom line is that every positive effort you make toward eating ethically is important and worthwhile. Ethical eating, like ethical living, is not about absolutes or being militant in only your belief of what ethical eating should be. Seeing this as a black and white issue can oftentimes make it very hard to maintain the standards you have set for yourself and can be a deterrent to others who are interested in making some changes that fit for them. Ethical eating is about the effect your actions have on your community, on nature, on the world community and on your own health. Ethical eating is about doing the best you are willing and able to do and about nurturing a will to keep doing better no matter what path you take.

Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

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## 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.

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

### CIRCLE ELECTS SIX OFFICERS

The UU Circle elected officers during its annual meeting and potluck luncheon conducted after the worship service on Sunday, January 13.

Those present voted to expand the Circle leadership to six members. It was decided that the Circle should function with a Coordinating Committee of Five and a secretary.

Last year's team of Ellen LaPine, Janie Garlow and Barbara Kamerance will remain on the coordinating committee. George Tennant and Nancy Hallock were added by a vote of those present. Ann Peterson continues as secretary, a position that she has held for a number of years.

The UU Circle organizes social activities and fundraisers. Everyone in the church community is a member of the UU Circle and is invited to give the leadership ideas and to help with activities. One does not need to commit to a year of serving on a committee. There are many ways that one can help the UU Circle raise money or plan a simply good social time or fun event. Don't be shy.

Ann Peterson

### BOOK CLUB TO READ "THE TORTILLA CURTAIN"

The Book Club discussed "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel when it met at noon on Sunday, January 27.

The club has chosen as its next book to read "The Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle. The book is the 2013 selection of "CNY Reads One Book."

I do have one of the movies recommended as like-themed to include in discussions. It is "Crossing Arizona" and deals with the issue of immigration. The Video Discussion Group plans to show the film in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 1.

The second movie is "Under the Same Moon" and is being shown free at the Liverpool library in February.

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

### MANY THANKS

We have many people to lend a hand to keep things organized, shining and decorated at our beautiful church.

This month is no exception. These are a few of the folks who helped this month. Janie Garlow, Nancy Hallock, Arne Hook, Andrea Abbott and Patricia Cerro-Reehil all helped decorate the sanctuary and put up the Christmas tree. Thanks for making the church beautiful for the holiday.

The UU Circle held a bake sale. Our wonderful bakers made some of the traditional favorites and some new goodies for everyone to purchase for the holidays. Thanks for having such wonderful baked goods for all of us.

Thanks to all who volunteer

The Executive Board  
via Ann Peterson, corresponding secretary

### CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

What a wonderful time was had by all at our annual Christmas Day dinner. Sharing laughter and good food with old and new friends. We had about 45 people in attendance.

Thanks go out to all those who helped make this possible:

Andrea Abbott and Arne Hook, Tim Hart, Tracy Kinne, Mary and Chet Perkins, and Lucy and Arny Stieber.

Kurt and Ronna Schindler

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.

#### DAVID KAMERANCE TO SPEAK AT POTLUCK LUNCHEON

The UU Circle will hold a potluck luncheon after the church service on Sunday, February 24. The guest speaker following the luncheon will be David Kamerance who will speak about ancient Egyptian religious practices, including mummification, spirituality, and the afterlife. The program will include information about and photos of King Tut artifacts, the Book of the Dead, as well as photos from Dave's personal research collection.

The UU Circle coordinators will meet for a planning session on Sunday, February 3, immediately following the Sunday service. If anyone would like to contribute ideas for events, please come to the meeting or contact Janie Garlow, Ellen LaPine, Ann Peterson, George Tennant, Nancy Hallock or Barbara Kamerance.

#### WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS DEPEND ON INTEREST LEVEL

Five workshops/seminars are in the planning stages. All of them are dependent on the interest level of members.

There are two sheets on the large table in the East Room to tally interest for planning two of the workshops.

The first sheet is for the Ethical Living Workshop tentatively planned for March. Topics will be "Changing Lifestyle Ethics," "Ethics in Eating and Cooking," "Environmental Ethics," "Budget and Financing" and "Physical and Mental Health." The workshop will be conducted by members of the congregation. The workshop would be held on a Saturday, with participants bringing their own lunch.

The second workshop will be centered on the book, "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. This would be a series of meetings conducted by Andrea Abbott either on specific days or after the Sunday services.

Barbara Kamerance

#### CHOIR TO REHEARSE "GUIDE MY WAYFARING FEET"

The choir has gotten off to a great start! I'm looking forward to working with the current members as well as possibly growing our small, but dedicated group. Rehearsals are on the second Saturday of each month and every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. This month's Saturday rehearsal will be from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on February 9. We will be working on a beautiful arrangement of "Guide My Wayfaring Feet."

I want to send out a thank you to the Fuhrmans for sharing their talents for the offertory on January 27. They will certainly be welcome back any time to perform.

If there is anyone else in the congregation who would like to share his or her talents by performing a song during a service, please let me know, and I will make sure to schedule you in.

Sincerely,  
Leigh Parry-Benedict,  
Music coordinator

#### 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.

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.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SCHEDULES STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

The Executive Board decided at its regular monthly meeting in the dining room on Sunday morning, January 27, to conduct a Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, March 24. Arnold Hook offered to be in charge of the luncheon, as he has done in recent years. The luncheon will precede the annual Stewardship Campaign scheduled to begin in April.

Board members extended their gratitude to Rob Benedict for setting up a new humidifier next to the piano in the sanctuary, to Ann Peterson for creating the Covenant of Rights Relations document that has been placed on the large East Room table; and to Marcia Burrell-Ihlow for paying for this year's church Web site fees.

## A HARDER YEAR FINANCIALLY

Greetings! We are well into 2013, and have probably gotten used to writing it on our checks by now! The amount in our Operating Account (approximately \$1,800) does not include the Window Fund, which has approximately \$1,150 in it. We have not yet received the loan for which an application was submitted to the New York State Convention of Universalists. That amount, \$5,000, would be repaid over the next three years. This means that our Window Fund collections necessarily must continue, along with the funding for the operations of our church.

This year has been a harder year, financially, than we had last year, as we have come upon several repairs, unexpected needs and also expenses deemed crucial for the growth of the church. Several of these items were not included in the budget for last year, and some have been covered in the current year by generous donations. I think in our small church, it is especially easy to see that it is made up of individuals, and without the generosity of individuals – of their time, expertise, or money – the church could not continue as it does. I know I see it every week in the announcements when it is listed who has contributed the refreshments so that we may gather after services as a community, and I see it every week in the updates to the spreadsheets, and as I put together the contribution forms for tax deductions. It is not just contributions for the heat and the lights, the snow plowing, the music program, contributions to the UUA and St. Lawrence District, and for our wonderful array of speakers and ministers, but also for things like small repairs that arise (any car or home-owner knows about that!), the cleaning of the rugs, new appliances that become necessary, handicap and emergency exit signage, and even paper towels and napkins. They are all the things that, when put together, make our church warm and welcoming, an enjoyable place to be and to spend time. Many of those items are purchased and/or executed without the knowledge of most, but were any of it to stop, would certainly become noticeable.

As always, we ask everyone to step forward with any skill sets they may possess – even just a willingness to help out! – to help keep the church moving forward. While we are not yet into our Stewardship Campaign, this is a good time to pause and reflect on what we have each individually contributed to our church in the past, and what we are able to contribute going forward. We are always looking for ways to rejuvenate our programs and efforts, as well as having fresh ideas, and having new people to bring forth a different perspective.

Lastly, the 2012 Donation Contribution forms have been emailed to all those with e-mail addresses on file. If you do not have an e-mail address on file, or if you specifically requested a hard copy be mailed to you, you should be receiving it via USPS shortly. Please contact me if you see any discrepancies, or if you have not received your form.

Regards,  
Cara Lajewski,  
Assistant Treasurer  
[clajewski@gmail.com](mailto:clajewski@gmail.com)

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.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN KEEPING BUSY

January found our children making personal UU principle journals, dancing and drumming, working on our world peace pole and each week learning another line to “Spirit of Life” in American Sign Language.

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

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### A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear First Unitarian Church of Central Square,

We want to sincerely thank you for your generous donation to the CERG Disaster Relief Fund. Your monies have helped our congregations, their members, their ministries, and other victims recover from the devastation of hurricane Sandy.

Our records show that you have denoted \$254.6

Donations to the CERG Disaster Relief Fund have been officially received and recorded by the Joseph Priestly District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Joseph Priestly District is a 501c(3) organization and, as such, monies donated to it may be tax deductible. Please consult a tax specialist for advice. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation.

Thank you again for standing on the side of love with the victims of Hurricane Sandy on their long road to recovery.

In Faith and Service.

Rev. Andrea Lerner, Metro New York District

Rev. Chris Neilson, St. Lawrence District

Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, Ohio-Meadville District

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, Joseph Priestly District

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### 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 Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at St. Michael's Church 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.

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### 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, February 3.

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

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## PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

How much money does it take to finance our church and its activities? I really do not know, but I can assure you that it takes a good deal more money than our congregation budgets each year.

This realization hit home recently when I told a person upon whose advice I often rely that I was planning to pay for several items purchased for the congregation and not to bill the church. She -- and by this I am not referring to my wife Nancy -- objected. She said that if I did pay for the items and did not bill the church that the congregation would have no real basis for knowing what it actually cost to operate the church. So I took her advice and reluctantly billed the church. I have urged others to bill the church in the past for purchases they had made, but I think that my pleas often fell on deaf ears.

After that recent incident, I started to think of all of the money that has been given to benefit the church by various members and friends of the congregation beyond their yearly pledges. One fairly obvious example is the donation of refreshments for the social period after the service each Sunday. A relatively few members donate time and refreshments fairly often. Other examples are the contributions made by the Administration Committee, not only in monetary purchases for which the church is not billed but also in time and effort to keep the building in good shape. And this year members and friends have contributed money to restore two large stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. There have been numerous other contributions. All of these gifts are greatly appreciated and the church may not have been able to operate without them, but because they are not budget items they do not give the congregation a true picture of what it costs to operate the church.

Perhaps we could ask members and friends who purchase items but do not wish to bill the church to inform the treasurer of the amount spent so that she might paint a truer picture of the expenses. Or we might encourage more people to bill the church if the Executive Board has approved the purchases. Or we might hope that somehow members and friends might find a way to increase their yearly pledges.

Now I do not have figures to back this feeling up right now, but I fear that the church's Operating Account will finish in the red this church year. There are various reasons for this. One is that the church lost several thousand dollars in income this year when ARISE decided not to use our building on a regular basis. That single action forced the Executive Board to reduce its proposed 2012-2013 budget. The congregation has also lost a number of active members who have moved away, and the church has not taken in any new members. The congregation also continues to feel the effects of a decision made several years ago to greatly reduce efforts by the UU Circle to raise money for the church because many of its fundraising efforts placed a considerable strain upon a small number of people. Instead, UU Circle efforts have become primarily social. This year has also seen an increase in expenses. We now provide nursery service for the first time in many years. There has also been what I would term a small increase in the cost of our music program. I offer no apology for either of these increased expenses, feeling that both are necessary for the welfare of the church.

One unusual action undertaken by the Executive Board this year was the decision to move forward with the restoration of the large stained-glass windows on the west and north sides of the sanctuary. Upon investigation over quite a few months, it was realized that it might take a year or more, if ever, to receive possible grants for this work. And not knowing how long the windows might hold up, the Board members secured a bid of \$5,800 for each window from Edward Dehors. Mr. Dehors had restored the large stained-glass window on the sanctuary's east side several years ago. The Board decided to use approximately \$5,000 from reserve funds to partially pay for the \$5,800 restoration cost for the window on the sanctuary's west side. The Board has also applied to the New York State Convention of Universalists for a 3-year \$5,000 loan to partially pay for the restoration of the window on the sanctuary's north side. The church had received a similar loan several years ago to help pay for

(Continued on Page 8)

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**PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS**

(Continued from Page 7)

four new furnaces. The NYSCU decision on the latest application is expected by the first of March. The Board also asked members and friends to contribute toward the projects. It is hoped that enough money will be raised to meet the remaining costs of the window restoration and perhaps to install new plastic covering on the outside of the windows. Work on the first window has been completed; work on the second is under way.

I must tell you that I am extremely proud of the morning services that a church of our size and limited financial means is able to present each Sunday. I strongly believe that the congregation must do everything in its power to continue to do so. I sometimes wonder if everyone realizes just how truly fortunate we are. I know that I have said this on several previous occasions. Could such services be further improved? Of course. More people could join the choir, more people could fill the pews, more children could attend the RE program.

I have compiled a list of congregations of 52 or fewer members in the St. Lawrence District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The data include the size of their budgets and their Fair Share. Fair Share is the minimum amount that a congregation is requested to contribute each fiscal year in support of the work of the district and the UUA. The chart does not include the Fair Share for the UUA's Annual Program Fund (APF). That amount for 2012-2013 is \$58 per member certified by the congregation by February 1, 2012. I think I read that this figure for 2013-2014 will rise to \$60 per member certified by the congregation by February 1, 2013.

Bob

**ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT FAIR SHARE 2012/13**

Formula 7/1/12-6/30/13: The budgeted expense congregations reported to UUA by Feb. 1, 2012 X 2.42%.

Congregations	Members 2012-13	Expenditures Reported to UUA	Fair Share	Congregations	Members 2012-13	Expenditures Reported to UUA	Fair Share
Albion	26	\$31,000	\$750	East Aurora	50	\$27,300	\$661
Athens	43	\$62,000	\$1,500	Fredonia	49	\$58,126	\$1,407
Auburn	34	\$50,000	\$1,210	Hamburg	16	\$17,500	\$424
Barneveld	48	\$23,905	\$578	Hornell *	12	\$1,547	\$37
Big Flats	52	\$17,380	\$420	Little Falls	46	\$42,895	\$1,038
Brockport	32	\$17,417	\$421	Niagara Falls	40	\$66,100	\$1,600
Central Square	45	\$23,571	\$570	Salisbury Center	14	\$5,250	\$127
Chautauqua	35	\$17,605	\$426	Saranac Lake *	40	\$29,310	\$709
Cortland	22	\$33,581	\$813	Watertown	49	\$45,795	\$1,108

\* Congregations that did not report numbers to UUA by February 1, 2012. Last year's numbers are used in this chart.

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.

## VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view "Crossing Arizona" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 1.

A synopsis of the documentary film reads:

"With Americans on all sides of the issue up in arms and Congress embroiled in a knock-down-drag-out policy battle over how to move forward, 'Crossing Arizona' shows how we got to where we are today . . .

"Heightened security in California and Texas has pushed illegal border-crossers into the treacherous Arizona desert in unprecedented numbers – an estimated 4,500 a day. Most are men in search of work, but increasingly the border-crossers are women and children seeking to reunite with their families. This influx of migrants crossing through Arizona and the attendant rising death toll have elicited complicated feelings about human rights, culture, class, labor and national security.

"'Crossing Arizona' examines the crisis through the eyes of those directly affected by it. Frustrated ranchers go out day after day to repair cut fences and pick up the trash that endangers their livestock and livelihoods. Humanitarian groups place water stations in the desert in an attempt to save lives. Political activists rally against anti-migrant ballot initiatives and try to counter rampant fear mongering. Farmers who depend on the illegal work force face each day with the fear that they may lose their workers to a border patrol sweep. And now there are the Minutemen, an armed citizen patrol group taking border security into their own hands. As up-to-date as the nightly news, but far more in-depth, 'Crossing Arizona' reveals the surprising political stances people take when immigration and border policy fails everyone."

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, January 31, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend.

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## 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, February 20. 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

The Central New York chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans will hold its Imbolc sabbat at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 1, in the Memorial Room of May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, 3800 East Genesee Street, Syracuse.

Imbolc is an ancient festival, Celtic in origin, and considered one of the greater sabbats. Its primary purpose is to celebrate spring's impending

replacement of winter. In this sense, Imbolc may be seen as a spiritual alternative to the secular celebration of New Year's Eve.

In addition to celebrating the sabbats, the CUUPS chapter will sponsor some other events this spring.

The first will be a "Dessert & Divination" Fundraiser to benefit members of SPIRAL, Syracuse University's student Pagan organization, who are earning money for an interfaith field trip to England. Come to enjoy some delicious desserts and have your tarot card reading! This fundraiser will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, in the Social Hall at May Memorial. All are welcome to attend!

The second event is a "Talking with the Runes" class led by Kurt Hohmann. It will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays starting February 28. The four classes will end on March 21. The tuition is \$50.

For more information about CUUPS and its activities, please contact Laura Hudson at 315-391-9949 or [hudlakat@yahoo.com](mailto:hudlakat@yahoo.com).

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.

## FEBRUARY 2013 CALENDAR

1 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group to view “Crossing Arizona” when it meets in the Goettel Room.

3 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “The Quest for the Holy Grail.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., The UU Circle coordinators will meet for a planning session. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which you are asked by the Outreach Committee’s Social Justice Subcommittee to bring magazines to the dining room so that you may exchange them for others. Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson, 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 – 9:30 to 11 a.m., Choir practice.

10 – 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 everyone is asked by the Outreach Committee’s Social Justice Subcommittee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael’s Church.

15 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

17 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 9:45 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

20 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

24 – 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. 11:45 a.m., UU Circle potluck luncheon. David Kamerance will speak about ancient Egyptian religious practices.

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## 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](mailto:timhart@a-znet.com) or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

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## 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](http://www.centralsquareuu.com/selected_sermons.html)

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## 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.

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