



# 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  
Telephone: 315-668-6821

Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>  
Our church building is handicapped accessible.

### 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
Rita Thornton, Music Coordinator	315-699-4824	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Nancy Hallock, Vice President	315-675-8357

AUGUST 2011

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

After a very hot July, we look forward to a very hot August. These hot summer days used to be called the dog days. They were called that because of their conjunction with the Dog Star, Sirius, which rose at sunrise during July and August in ancient times. These days were considered evil by the Romans, days when the blood boiled and dogs went mad. They were also considered to be days of stagnation and lack of progress. We might wonder at the influence of the stars as we watch the drama in Washington. Perhaps we, too, feel lack of progress in our own lives. Perhaps this is all right. Summer days, at least in this part of the world, are meant to be languid, lazy times. My own dog, who has mapped out all the coolest places in the house and shifts to them each in turn during the day, reminds me that there is a time for contemplation and meditation as well as a time for action. I assume she is contemplating and meditating. At the end of August we will celebrate the 3rd annual Blessing of the Beasts. This is a service that recognizes the role that the rest of the animal kingdom plays in our lives and prompts us to remember the intricate web of being in which we all live. It prompts us to remember that all living creatures share one home and that we have no other place to go. Perhaps we can all, like my dog, find some time for meditation and contemplation, and use this time to reforge a conscious connection with the world around us. Perhaps, as we see how we are connected with all that surrounds us, we may find a way to live together.

– Andrea Abbott

### THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO FOCUS ON “MATURITY”

The Rev. David Weissbard will be in the pulpit at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 7.

He writes, “My August sermon will be ‘The Challenge of Maturity’. It seems to me that ‘maturity’ is one of those squishy words that mean different things to different people. By some definitions, ‘mature’ is the last thing I would want to be -- and truth is I probably never will be. It certainly is not the same as ‘old’ because there are a lot of immature people of advanced age. We will be exploring the meaning of ‘mature’ and what it has to do with religious living.”

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on THURSDAY, AUGUST 25. 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).

## AHOY, CHURCH MEMBERS!

Please join me for an evening cruise Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, on Ramsey's Dream, my 33-foot Ketch. Weather permitting, we will set sail at 1700 hours (5 p.m.) and will sail around Mexico Bay on Lake Ontario for two hours. The "rain date" will be Thursday, August 4th.

Please bring a life jacket, if you have one.

Please call me at 963-3798 before you come because sometimes the wind is questionable.

The address at my camp is 221 County Route 40.

Directions:

From the village of Mexico, drive north along State Route 3 for about four miles, and then turn left onto Route 104B. After a mile, turn right onto County Route 40, across from Schneider's Bar. It's also the road to the state boat launch.

From Oswego: Take Route 104 east for about eight miles or so, and make a left onto Route 104B; travel an additional few miles until you reach the small hamlet of Texas; make a left onto County Route 40.

Hope you'll join me, and my son, Spencer, for a sail on beautiful Lake Ontario.

Ramsey Ludington

(Editor's note: There is a sign-up sheet at the church or you may contact Janie Garlow at [mjgarlow@aol.com](mailto:mjgarlow@aol.com) or at 436-2238 to reserve a seat. Thank you.)

### VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view the first episode of "We Shall Remain," a PBS "American Experience" series, when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 5.

"We Shall Remain" is the story of Native peoples' valiant resistance to expulsion from their lands and the extinction of their culture.

In episode 1, "After the Mayflower," the Wampanoag of New England negotiate a treaty with Pilgrim settlers in 1621. A half-century later, as a brutal war flares between the English and a confederation of Indians, this diplomatic gamble seems to have been a grave miscalculation.

Again, we plan to have supper before the discussion group at the Akropolis Restaurant on Route 11 in Central Square. Please let Janie Garlow know at [mjgarlow@aol.com](mailto:mjgarlow@aol.com) or at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, August 4, if you plan to attend so that she may make a reservation a day ahead.

Everyone is invited to attend.

The Video Discussion Group is also scheduled to meet in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 19.

### 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, August 17.

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

The women's and men's groups meet separately. For more information about the women's group, you may contact Nancy Haskell.

For more information about the men's group, you may contact Chet Perkins.

### BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board held its annual retreat at the home of Betty Figie on Saturday, July 16.

Members spent three-fourths of the discussion period trying to compile a calendar of activities for the 2011-2012 church year.

They spent the rest of the discussion period focusing on the church's religious education program.

The Executive Board will conduct its next regular monthly meeting in the church dining room at 9 a.m. on Sunday, August 7.

### RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Random Acts of Kindness is our 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, August 7.

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

### GREEN MINUTE: THIS IS THE TIME TO CHECK OUT LOCALLY GROWN FOODS

If you have a garden you know that it is really starting to come in now. You've got lots of beans, zucchini, cucumbers and just a hint of red in the tomatoes. If you have a garden and an over-abundance, don't forget to share with your neighbors and friends. I'm out of town visiting relatives as I write this and had the joy of bringing some swiss chard to them. They were thrilled to have a treat they haven't had in a long time, and I had fun sharing.

For those of you without a garden, there are farmers markets all over the area with locally grown foods in abundance. Don't forget the farmers market downtown or your local grower of blueberries and other fruits that are just coming into season. Check your local newspaper or online to find the closest market to you and what hours it operates.

This is also a good time of year to check out local growers who deliver, such as Grindstone Farms. They will deliver to a designated spot where you pick up your order that you easily placed online or via phone.

My apologies for not having Internet references as I normally do but I felt that it was a good time to remember just how much wonderful food this area has to share with us. Try to support local growers and meat producers. Such locally grown food is healthy, supports our local community and tastes great!!

– Ellen LaPine, Outreach (Social Justice) Committee

### COMMITTEE TO TACKLE WATER RIGHTS AWARENESS PROJECT

The Social Justice component of the Outreach Committee met July 10. Melanie Cutillo and I discussed a water rights awareness project. Melanie has studied and written about water issues in college. I sent for study material from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), and Melanie sent for information on a United Nations program. The August meeting will be a discussion on this project, and hopefully the committee can develop a plan of how to proceed. Water is a major part of the hydro-fracking issue. I encourage all to keep up to date on the recent legislation. I cannot meet August 14 as scheduled, but would like to talk after church on August 7 if possible. Please let me know if you can attend.

Thanks to Ellen for another Green Minute. I hope all of you are taking advantage of the local farm markets.

Bye for now,

– Nancy Hallock, chairperson

### BOOK CLUB MAKES A SELECTION

A September date for the Book Club has been set, but the "tote" is not available yet. You can start reading the selected book with copies from a library or book store: "The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," by Jamie Ford. We can talk as far as you have read. Each person should bring a suggested title and set a schedule for the coming year. We plan to meet every other month, but will be flexible.

– Nancy Hallock, chairperson

### DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Doctrine of Discovery Program was a real success. Thanks to everyone who came, listened and asked good questions. This program has been developed specifically for Unitarian Universalists and has been presented at both May Memorial and First UU. The audience in Central Square was the largest group that program leaders had given this

presentation to, according to Sue Eizholer, leader of the D of D project. She was surprised and happy for such a good turnout. Thanks to Sue and the group for such an educational and in-depth program.

– Ann Peterson

### DRUM CIRCLE

We will be drumming from 6 p.m. until 8'ish on Friday, August 12. Extra drums and rattles will be available. The Drum Circle welcomes people of all ages and invites those who have never drummed before to attend. You will find the atmosphere relaxed and welcoming.

– Ann Peterson

### HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO SOLO

If anyone would like to sing or play a musical solo at one of our morning services, please contact Music Coordinator Rita Thornton at 699-4824.

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.**

### **MARCIA MOORE TO PREACH ON AUGUST 14**

**Marcia C. Moore, professor emerita of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego, will lead the worship service at our church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 14.**

**Marcia has chosen as her sermon title “A Few Life Lessons From a Poet, Birds and Assorted Wise Beings.”**

**Marcia, who grew up in Schenectady, earned a bachelor’s degree in speech and hearing from SUNY Geneseo, and a master’s degree in speech pathology and audiology from the University of Connecticut. She later undertook studies in gerontology.**

**She and her husband, Charles, moved to Oswego where Charles earned his degree in technology education in 1968. Marcia worked in rural Oswego County, Florida and the Virgin Islands, before joining the SUNY Oswego faculty in 1971.**

**She started the speech pathology and audiology program, which fell victim to budget cuts of the late 1970s, but she went on to spend her career at the college, teaching in, and eventually chairing, the communication studies department.**

**Her philosophy of treating her students with a “respectful, open attitude” was rewarded in 1994 with the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.**

**After retiring from SUNY Oswego, Marcia continued her career by consulting at nursing homes where she helped stroke victims speak and eat again.**

**Marcia has been an active member of both the college and the Oswego community. She served on the Faculty Assembly and committees such as the Disabled Students Council and Intercollegiate Athletics Council.**

**She was a member of Save Our Shores, the Lakefront Revitalization Committee, and the Port of Oswego Authority Advisory Board. Marcia led the Oswego Heritage Foundation as president and chairperson of several committees.**

**The former president and board member of the Oswego Art Guild loves to do watercolors, figure drawing and wood block prints.**

**She has occupied the pulpit at the church she attends while living in Hudson, Florida, during the winter months. Both Marcia and Charles are members of our church, she having joined in 1996, Charles in 1997.**

**The Moores live in the city of Oswego.**

**(Editor’s note: Unbeknownst to Marcia, much of the above article was excerpted from a story written by Michele Reed in the Summer 2009 issue of the Oswego Alumni Magazine.)**

### **JULY 31 SERVICE TO FEATURE RALPH SINGH**

**Ralph Singh, of Gobind Sadan USA, a Sikh spiritual community, will be in the pulpit for the service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 31.**

**Ralph, who also chairs the Wisdom Thinkers Network, writes, “At age 22, I followed my inner Voice on a classic spiritual quest for Truth and came face to face with the One who appeared to me in a remarkable Vision in New York. His name is Baba Virsa Singh ji of Gobind Sadan, and He is one of the greatest spiritual beings to have walked this earth in recent history.**

**“I lived at Babaji’s feet in India for six years where he taught me to follow the most difficult path of all – leading a spiritual life while fully engaged in the trials and challenges of everyday life: marriage and raising a family, running a business, and serving in community projects aimed at alleviating the problems of the world.**

**“One seminal event required me and our local community to put our faith on the line. Following September 11th, four teenagers torched our place of worship north of Syracuse, thinking we were Bin Laden supporters. We went public with a powerful statement of forgiveness that I delivered from Baba Virsa Singh which drove out the hatred and opened the door for healing. It galvanized the community.**

**“Now I’m a grandfather with two grown sons and my wife Joginder of 39 years. I have sold my primary business and devote most of my time through the Wisdom Thinkers Network giving voice to wisdom through sharing stories and creating roundtables to help reinforce the fabric of our society. Our Stories to Light Our Way project has begun to reach children in both secular and religious settings allowing them to learn how people all over the world teach values and connecting them to a voice for good.**

**“There is so much to be thankful for, so much to forgive, and so much to learn as we move along our path.”**

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.**

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM PREPARES FOR FALL

September is just around the corner as plans for the fall religious education programs are being completed.

We will continue our adult programs: Video Discussion Group, Drum Circle and special programs that will be offered by congregational members during the year (titles to follow).

We will be splitting our children's RE program into two groups. The younger children will continue to work on the "Tapestry of Faith" program they began last year, and the older children will be working on creating their own sacred space and the "Tapestry of Faith" program for older kids, "Windows and Mirrors."

We are in for a very exciting year.

Got an idea? Want to teach a class? Just let us know!

– Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson

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## PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

I often think, and tell some of you, that the First Universalist Society of Central Square is quite fortunate.

It is among the smallest congregations in the Saint Lawrence District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Because of financial reasons, the Society does not employ a full time, resident, ordained minister. And yet the Society is able to present what I call a "strong pulpit" each Sunday. This is even true on holidays and during the summer months, times when some other Unitarian Universalist churches are closed. Sometimes there does not appear to be many in our pews for a service, but when one considers the number of active members the percentage may be high. It is sometimes amazing and heart-warming to witness how the attendance increases in the last few minutes before a service begins.

Our church building is in good repair. Despite a small budget, over the years the Society has installed an elevator to make the building handicapped accessible, repaired the big window on the east side of the sanctuary, restored the two front doors to the church building, installed a new ceiling in the back room downstairs, improved the sound system and purchased a CD recorder for the sanctuary, repainted some rooms, repaired damage to the inside of the church caused by winter weather and re-sided the religious education wing. The Society has also provided a handicapped parking area and planted a Memorial Garden. The Society was able to accomplish many of these projects because members and friends contributed hard work and generous financial support in addition to their yearly pledges. Of course, some more work remains to be done. The big window on the west side of the sanctuary needs attention, as do the bell and the stained-glass window in the church belfry.

If you read last month's newsletter, you might have seen a list of activities in which the Society participates in the Central Square community. I would say it is a good list considering the size of the congregation.

We have not been as active in the denomination lately as we might have been. But if I recall correctly, our congregation, as I said among the smallest in the Saint Lawrence District, had the highest percentage of Chalice Lighter participants in the district this past year.

Everything in our Society is not perfect and not everyone shares the same views, but as the Rev. David Bumbaugh said in a service in our sanctuary on November 1, 2009, "We do not negate, or deny, or diminish our differences, but we know that on this journey what matters is that unity which underlies all our differences and which makes us one, in spite of time and death and the space between the stars."

Yes, I believe our First Universalist Society of Central Square is quite fortunate. I hope you do, too.

Bob

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## RECYCLE YOUR MAGAZINES

The Outreach (Social Justice) Committee is asking you to bring magazines to the church dining room on the first Sunday of each month so that you may exchange them for others.

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.

### ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

The annual church picnic will be held after the church service on Sunday, September 11. The picnic will be held at the home of Betty Figie again this year. In the case of rain, we will have the picnic in the church dining room on the same date.

The UU Circle will provide a meat-and-cheese tray with rolls and condiments. Food for the rest of the picnic will be a potluck, as we have done in the past.

Save this date and plan to spend an enjoyable afternoon under the shade trees at Betty's home.

More details will follow at a later date.

– Ann Peterson  
UU Circle secretary-treasurer

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### AUGUST CALENDAR

5 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room to view the first episode in the PBS “American Experience” series “We Shall Remain.”

7 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets in the dining room. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “The Challenge of Maturity.” 11:45 a.m., Outreach (Social Justice) Committee.

11 – 8:30 a.m., Spiritual Committee meets in the dining room.

12 – 6 until 8'ish p.m., Drum Circle.

14 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Marcia Moore. Sermon title: “A Few Life Lessons From a Poet, Birds and Assorted Wise Beings.”

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 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Tanya Atwood-Adams.

28 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. “Blessing of the Beasts.”

### CHANTING AND MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart at [timhart@a-znet.com](mailto:timhart@a-znet.com) or at 315-439-2541.

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.

