

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.*

Telephone: 315-307-3400


E-mail:
uucentralsquare@gmail.com

*Church website:
[http://www.
centralsquareuu.org](http://www.centralsquareuu.org)*

Facebook page:
[http://www.facebook.com
/pages/UU-Central-Square
/199139743511564](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UU-Central-Square/199139743511564)

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

The goal of world community with
**peace, liberty
& justice for all** #6



Ours is a liberal religion that is guided not by a set creed or dogma, but by an open-minded quest for truth and meaning. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and join together to make a difference in our communities and the world.
Learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or find your local UU congregation at uua.org

NURTURE Your Spirit. **Help HEAL** Our World.

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.

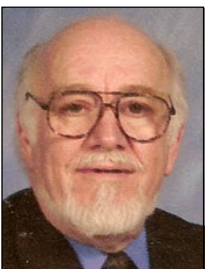
UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

A MINISTERIAL MOMENT, OR MORE

While I began musing on writing musings, it suddenly began to rain, a real downpour. It was so needed here. I could see the leaves and flowers opening up to receive a nice long drink. The grass soaked up every raindrop and started to look less like a coconut door mat. If I'd been younger (say 60-plus years younger), I think I would have gone out and danced in the raindrops. I swear I could smell the color green. In all my rejoicing, I did spare a moment's thought for disappointed youngsters (and their parents), and wondered if any were chanting "rain, rain go away" as we used to do. Rain always falls on someone's long planned vacation but it has been so dry this year that I hope the vacationers realize their sacrifice is in a good cause. In a perfect world there would be no rain for the entire summer, only fluffy clouds in a blue, blue sky. That is how a child, unaware of the problems of drought, might see things. But we are not children and we know that rain is necessary to keep the Earth replenished. People in California and other parts of the West know this very well now and in drought-stricken regions, perfect blue skies have a very different meaning. We are beginning to understand that we must have a balance between our desires and needs and the desires and needs of the rest of the planet. That is part of growing up, being able to see beyond our own wants to the necessity of living in harmony with all Creation. So, come on rain. Spoil a picnic I'd hoped for. Rain out an event, even two, that we've been planning. Let us enjoy the renewal of life that water brings and rejoice in the balance of the Earth.



The Rev. Andrea Abbott



THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO ASK "WWUUD?"

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, August 7: "Back in the 1990s, there was a fad, particularly among Evangelicals, of asking 'What Would Jesus Do?' as a way of making ethical decisions. That didn't last a whole long time because it was complicated to place Jesus in our time, and partly because some people did not like the tough guidance asking that question provided. This Sunday we will look both at the process of asking what Jesus might do and, more relevantly to us to ask, 'What Would UUs Do?'"

COFFEE AND CHAT

Women and men of the church will gather for Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread on Route 31 in Clay at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 18.

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

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

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

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on Sunday, July 17, and had a busy first meeting of the church year, discussing improvements to the church building, upcoming activities (see calendar and elsewhere in this newsletter) and a request to possibly change the time of the Sunday service.

Kurt Schindler had asked the board about starting the Sunday service earlier, at 9:30 a.m. The board decided the fairest way to handle the request would be to informally survey the congregation.

To that end, Winfield Ihlw agreed to put together a one-question survey, with space for comments, to be distributed via email and paper copies, which will be available in the sanctuary. The Rev. Andrea Abbott will execute the survey. Please, if you haven't done so, take a minute to fill out the survey. If you have any questions, see Andrea or Janie Garlow, board president.



Arne Hook, who oversees buildings and grounds, reported that the contractor has pieces of the pulley ready for the bell tower. Arne was hoping to learn in the next couple of weeks what would be needed to get the pulley in the tower. The pulley is about 5 feet in diameter, but the tower opening is about 4 feet. Arne expected the pulley would need to be put in the tower in two pieces, then put together. Arne had no price yet.

He planned to negotiate with the contractor to see if the contractor might be willing to paint the sanctuary. Janie noted that the ceiling, especially, needs to be painted.

The lift had stopped working the day before (it has since been repaired), during the bimonthly American Red Cross blood drive, causing quite a problem for Ellen LaPine, blood drive coordinator. The lift had allowed one gentleman to come downstairs in his motorized wheelchair, but when he was ready to go back upstairs and out of the church, the lift wouldn't work.

The battery on his wheelchair was extremely heavy, so Ellen managed to get some men from the Masonic Lodge to help. They transferred the (very patient!) man to the church wheelchair and carried him upstairs. Ellen sent a thank you note to the Masonic Lodge.

The lift repair service was expected to come within the week. Arne noted that the lift has had problems several times rather recently, and he was hoping to be available during the repairs so he could learn what is going wrong and possibly how to prevent future problems. If he couldn't be there, either Janet Jenkins or Steve Garlow would videotape the repairs for him.

Arne also is working on improving the sanctuary sound system. He will ask our cleaner, Kim, to clean the dining room chairs.

(Concluded on Page 4)

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

**BOARD SPLINTERS
(Continued from Page 3)**

The board extended thanks to Janet Jenkins for trimming the hedge and to Janet and Mary Fran Yafchak for weeding the garden.

Arne has purchased a Brita water filter to keep cold water in the refrigerator, but it will need to be cleaned weekly, most likely as part of social time duties. The board thanked Priscilla Sparks and Susan Woods for providing bottled water until Arne could get the filter. Arne noted that people dislike the taste of unfiltered tap water, and the use of the filter will reduce energy and recycling issues involving the use of bottled water.



Chuck Glahn would be installing an air conditioner in the Goettel Room. He will remove it at the end of the season. Thank you, Chuck.

Arne has been replacing fluorescent bulbs with light emitting diodes, making the purchases at Costco. He has been taking the fluorescent bulbs to Ace hardware for proper disposal.

We've had some problems with one of the coffee pots, and of course, with this congregation and its love of coffee, this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Janie will purchase a new coffee pot, but in the meantime, the decaffeinated pot will be used for regular coffee, and the small coffee maker, in the kitchen, will be used for decaffeinated.

Ellen bought a "butt out" for smokers, but someone keeps moving it inside. The board discussed trying to secure it in some way, perhaps with a weight. Please, if you're moving the "butt out" inside, don't, because we're worried if it's inside it will give off some smoke. Thanks. Ellen will arrange for removal of two unsightly receptacles.

Janie and Janet are working on building use guidelines, which will include a designated smoking area. They also will review the very basic, broad contract that the church has every group that uses the facilities sign.

Janie reported that Cathleen Kelly, who teaches yoga at church on Thursdays, will present a program, "Ecstasy of the Soul," from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 13, in the sanctuary. She expects 100 participants. Proceeds will go to the church.

She also would like to have a sunrise event in August. Janie agreed to find out details.

Janie reported that progress is being made to find someone to staff the nursery, since Haley Drabot will be leaving for college in August.

Arne reported that he and Mary Fran are working to keep the new website, www.centralsquareuu.org, up to date, meeting every other week to make revisions and additions. Austin Tennant is still planning to help, but scheduling conflicts had prevented him from meeting with Mary Fran and Arne. The board is grateful to Mary Fran for all her work on the website, and also to Arne for stepping up to the plate on maintenance.

Tracy Kinne, recording secretary

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE HAS A BUSY MEETING

The Social Justice Committee met after our highway pickup on Sunday morning, July 10.

Tracy Kinne updated us on the Faith for a Fair New York conference scheduled in late September in Syracuse.

Tracy and Ann Peterson are attending a training session at the Workers' Center in Syracuse on Sunday, July 31, to learn more about the Green Light Campaign to allow non-legal immigrants the right to have a drivers license. In October, they will conduct a public workshop featuring a guest speaker. We'll learn how to show our support for this issue.

We have chosen "The Lynching: The Epic Courtroom Battle that Brought Down the Klan" by Laurence Leamer as our next group read. The book describes the brutal killing of a black youth in 1981 Alabama and the civil suit that exposed the true motives and philosophy of the organization that was soon bankrupted. You must obtain your own copy.

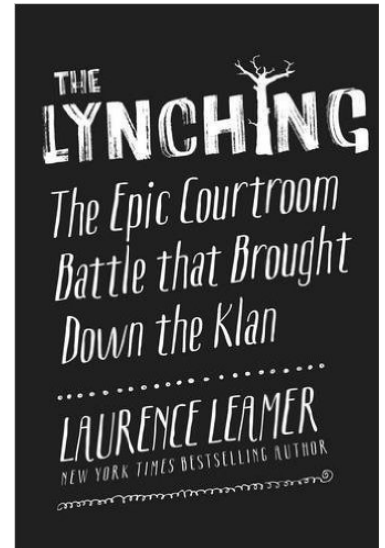
Tracy put a recent piece in the Monday announcements about our table at the Parish Olde Home Days. Tracy, Ellen LaPine and Ronna Schindler have volunteered for this event. Can you help?

A \$250 donation was made to Pure Water for the World in June (in case I didn't tell you yet).

Don't forget that the donation box for the Central Square Downstairs Scotty is a year-round project. Please continue to bring in non-perishable food and toiletries.

The next meeting date has not been officially confirmed. I will let you know, as all are invited.

Nancy Hallock



SPECIAL THANKS TO SOME SPECIAL PEOPLE

Thanks to these people for volunteering to serve as greeters and to host the social time on Sunday mornings: Judy and George Tennant, July 31, and Lucy and Arny Stieber, August 7 (picnic), 14 and 21.

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is encouraged to speak with Winfield Ihlow.

Volunteers are also needed to host the social time on Sunday mornings. Anyone with any questions is encouraged to speak with Judy Tennant.

There is a sign-up sheet in the dining room.

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.

AUGUST PICNIC AT LUCY AND ARMY'S CAMP

The annual church picnic will be held at the camp of Lucy and Arny Stieber on Pleasant Lake immediately after the service on Sunday, August 7. Please bring a dish to pass. All are welcome. We believe that everyone enjoyed past picnics at their camp.

There will be printed directions to the camp at church.



ZEN MEDITATION CLASSES TO BEGIN

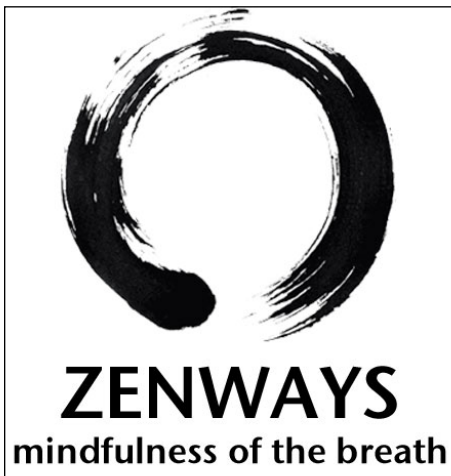
Four weekly classes in meditation, led by the Zen Center of Syracuse, will be offered at our church starting Monday, August 1.

No prior experience in meditation is needed, and people with all levels of experience are welcome.

This is open to the community and we are taking donations as-able from community members to offset the cost to church participants. If we have ten people participating from the congregation the suggested donation would be \$10 per session.

The hourlong classes will begin at 5 p.m. and will be held on August 1, 8, 15 and 22. Participants do not need to attend every class. No equipment is needed. Those interested in attending the

meditation classes are asked to contact Janet at jj13167@gmail.com, so she can let Lauren know how many people will potentially participate.



OCTOBER FUNDRAISER

The UU Circle is planning a fundraiser for Saturday, October 15. It will be a pasta dinner.

We are asking for your help and support for this event. What can you do? We will need help to set up, cook sauces, clear tables, wash dishes, do cleanup and more.

Thank you in advance for your support in this important fundraiser.



Ann Peterson

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF CHURCH TABLE AT PARISH OLDE HOME DAY AUGUST 6

Our church will have a table at the Parish Olde Home Day, at state Routes 69 and 69A, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 6.

We've been asked to lead children's activities at this community-oriented event. Religious Education Director Ronna Schindler has ideas, but volunteers

are needed in three-hour shifts to execute those ideas. We also will hand out brochures about Unitarian Universalism and bookmarks with our principles.

To help, contact Tracy Kinne, at 625-7965 or tracykinne@hotmail.com. Thank you!

CHILD-NAMING SERVICE

The Rev. Andrea Abbott will officiate at a child-naming service at the church late in the morning or early in the afternoon on Saturday, August 6.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JANE MARTIN

The life of Jane Martin, a longtime member of this congregation, will be celebrated at a memorial service at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 13. The Rev. Andrea Abbott will officiate.

Jane died on Friday, September 11, 2015. She lived in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Jane's husband, Hartley Vincent Martin, died on Monday, January 19, 2009. Hartley was also a longtime member of the church. Besides her children, Jane is survived by many grandchildren.



DRUM CIRCLE ASKS FOR SUGGESTIONS

Ginny and Chuck Glahn and I have tried a variety of times for Drum Circle. We welcome suggestions for a time or date that would work for you to come and join us.

Ann Peterson

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.

SJC HELPS PLAN FAITH FOR A FAIR NEW YORK RETREAT

The Social Justice Committee is among a group of mostly clergy helping the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State plan the fourth annual Faith for a Fair New York retreat and conference, which will run Sunday, September 25, through Tuesday, September 27, in Liverpool.

SJC members have attended the past two retreats, and we've found them educational and inspiring. They are geared toward people of faith who take a progressive approach to ending inequality in our state.

This is the first time the retreat has been held in the Syracuse area, and we hope to have future retreats move around the state, returning to Syracuse in several years. Up until now, all have been held in the Albany area.

Several members of our church already have volunteered to help transport participants and speakers who will be arriving by train to their hotel and back to the train station at the end of the retreat. If you can help, please contact Tracy Kinne, 625-7965 or tracykinne@hotmail.com.

We're hoping more church members will be able to attend at least the Sunday speaker and dinner, if not the entire conference. This not only gives us good information, but it increases the visibility of our church and connects us with people across the state who share many of our concerns.

In conjunction with the retreat, many of us convene by phone monthly to share information and ideas. We address mostly economic justice, such as Fight for \$15, but we also have explored the Green Light New York: Driving Together program designed to make drivers licenses available to all drivers, not just those with a Social Security number; Islamophobia; and our most recent call centered on Black Lives Matter.

Many of our allies, including the Workers' Center of Central New York and the Tompkins County Workers' Center, have been involved in the calls and retreats. This year, staff from the local workers' center will be among conference/retreat presenters.

Even if you don't agree with the approach most of the group takes to addressing economic justice, we think you would find something of value joining this gathering of sincere, dedicated people.

Find out more or register at <http://www.labor-religion.org/2016conference/>. Please note that early registration, for a discount, has been extended to August 15. Thank you.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are planning to have an adult religious education program in the near future. Watch the newsletter for a fall announcement.

Ann Peterson

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.

As Unitarian Universalists, we do not have to check our personal background and beliefs at the door: we join together on a journey that honors everywhere we've been before.

GREEN MINUTE: POLYSTYRENE

Polystyrene (PS) is incorrectly but most commonly known as Styrofoam. It is a petroleum-based plastic made from the styrene monomer. PS beads are stretched during an intricate steaming and molding process. The result is a product that is 98% air, very inexpensive to manufacture, and can be used in many applications including cups, insulation, packing peanuts and life rafts. The Social Justice Committee is trying to eliminate the use of PS foam by our church. Here's why.

Americans throw an estimated 25 billion foam cups in the trash each year which are part of the nearly 31 trillion pounds of PS being made globally. PS foam is one of the most pervasive types of trash pollution on Earth. It is classified as a possible human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer. PS is not recyclable in our area and is seldom recycled in other areas. It takes many centuries for PS to degrade in a landfill.

PS foam is often dumped into the environment as litter. It is notorious for breaking into pieces. Wind and rain then transport the pieces to storm drains, bodies of water and all over the adjacent land. Animals ingest the foam, which can choke them and clog their digestive systems. Microorganisms such as plankton consume remnants of the PS foam, which then is brought into the food supply when fish eat plankton, and next when people and other animals eat the fish.



There are 57 chemical byproducts released when PS is combusted. The process of making PS pollutes the air and creates large amounts of solid and liquid waste. Toxic chemicals leach out of PS products into the food they contain, especially when heated in a microwave. These chemicals threaten human health and reproductive systems.

More and more cities are banning these products. However, manufacturers are bringing lawsuits to remove the bans by citing economic consequences. Some restaurant owners have joined the suits, complaining that recyclable containers are more expensive.

As with so many things, real change begins at home. We have many dishes, cups, bowls and silverware both at home and at church. The most environmentally friendly and economical answer to the elimination of the use of PS is to use these items instead of using disposables. However, we understand that there are times when we do need to use disposables. We ask that when people provide disposable cups, bowls, etc. for church use that the products provided be made of recyclable materials and that you consider making this a habit at home as well.

We can do our part in protecting our environment by making this small but substantial change.

Ellen LaPine,
Outreach Committee

Unitarian Universalists are united in shared experience: our open worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; and our expressions of love.

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions.

AUGUST 2016 CALENDAR

1 – 5 p.m., Class in meditation, led by the Zen Center of Syracuse, at our church.

6 – The Rev. Andrea Abbott will officiate at a child-naming service at the church late in the morning or early in the afternoon. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our church will have a table at Parish Olde Home Day.

7 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., There is no formal religious education program through the summer but children are still welcome to go back to the classroom for summer fun each Sunday if they would like. 11:45 a.m., Church picnic will be held at the camp of Lucy and Arny Stieber on Pleasant Lake. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The committee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.

8 – 5 p.m., Class in meditation, led by the Zen Center of Syracuse, at our church.

13 – 11 a.m., The life of Jane Martin will be celebrated at a memorial service at our church.

14 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30

a.m., The Rev. Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Andrea has chosen as a tentative sermon title: “A Tale of Two Lakes and a River or More.” 11:45 a.m., Social time. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

15 – 5 p.m., Class in meditation, led by the Zen Center of Syracuse, at our church.

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

21 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams leads the worship service. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

22 – 5 p.m., Class in meditation, led by the Zen Center of Syracuse, at our church.

28 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Tracy Kinne leads the worship service. She has chosen as her sermon topic “Exploring Fasting.” 11:45 a.m., Social time.

29 – 7 p.m., Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers meets in the Goettel Room.

2016 AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP, MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in the Spiritual Development Group or meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at timhart@a-znet.com or via telephone at 315-676-0332.

Unitarian Universalists are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good.