



# CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

## The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Andrea Abbott, Student Minister  | 315-635-7122 |
| Janie Garlow, President          | 315-436-2238 |
| Rita Thornton, Music Coordinator | 315-699-4824 |

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://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.

JANUARY 2011

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

It is sometimes hard to see January as the start of a new year, especially in Central New York. It looks a whole lot like the latter part of the old one and it looks as if it will continue to be like this for all eternity. If there was ever a month in which change and renewal looked like a sure loser, it would be January. Of course, we know this is not true. Every day brings a little more light, possibly a minute more, but for most of us that doesn't seem as dramatic a change as we might wish. For most of us, it looks like a hard-bitten world, a world of frozen hands, feet, hearts and possibilities.

So it often seems in our lives. Yet we know that if we could have the winter I would wish for, a winter of 60- to 70-degree days, sunshine and flowers, the world would be in serious trouble. In this part of the world, nature finds the cold and the dark necessary preparation for spring and new life. So may it be for us, if we use the winters of our lives to prepare for the necessary work of renewal. It may be that we can use this time of silence and stillness to prepare the seeds within ourselves for our own blossoming. Happy New Year.

– Andrea Abbott

### UU CIRCLE POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 9, the UU Circle will host a potluck luncheon right after the worship service. As usual, there will be a sign-up sheet in the East Room on Sunday. So, bring your favorite dish to pass and a smile.

There will be a brief discussion of the amendment to the UU Circle bylaws that was voted in last year. At that time there was a vote that allowed the UU Circle to function with two officers, rather than the previous full slate of officers. This year was our first year operating with a coordinator and a secretary-treasurer. According to the amendment, this arrangement must be voted on annually. What are your thoughts on how this new setup is working? Is it satisfactory or not? We will make this discussion and vote as brief as possible, so that we can get back to the business of socializing and eating.

As a bonus, the Executive Board will sing.

– Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer

Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on THURSDAY, JANUARY 27. His address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332; his telephone number is 635-5294; his e-mail address is [rhaskell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com)

## THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO PREACH ON JANUARY 2

The Rev. David Weissbard has chosen as the topic for his sermon at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 2, "The Quest for the Meaning of Life."

Dave writes: "There are many kinds of UU ministers. Some are centered in the philosophical/theological realm while others are more practically/politically oriented. It is no secret that I am among the latter. But I was asked a while back to deliver a sermon on 'The Meaning of Life'. I will share with you my response to that challenge."

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## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

There was no official meeting this month, but we have discussed a future project. Ann Peterson and I are arranging a meeting with a NOON representative who has experience in public education concerning hydrofracking. She has access to films, etc., and is willing to help us set up a community program. Anyone who would like to be involved should contact one of us.

We are also in the process of insulating the basement windows to save on energy.

P.S.: I have the next Book Club selection: "Nickel and Dimed" by Barbara Ehrenreich. It is a nonfiction account of her experiences trying to live on the minimum wage. It reveals insight, humor and passion among America's working poor. You can sign a book out Sunday.

Bring any magazines you want to share the first Sunday of each month.

The next committee meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 9.

– Nancy Hallock, chairperson, Outreach Committee

## GREEN MINUTE: "RE-GIFTING"

Ever get something for the holidays that you just can't or won't use. Sure, we all have at one time or another. This might be a good opportunity to pass it on to someone else -- a positive spin on "re-gifting," if you will.

Did you get some coffee or tea that you just won't use or don't like? Did you get a gift of food or candy that you just won't eat or that doesn't fit into your New Year's resolution to eat better? Maybe you got some bubble bath and you only take showers. We get lots of specialty food products during the holidays and many toiletries that we may never use. Why not donate them to the Downstairs Scottie box.

Here's another idea. Did you get a Christmas sweater or tie from your long lost cousin that you will never wear? Chances are that you have lots of sweaters in your closet and don't need another one. How about taking the money you get from the return and donating it to your favorite charity. You could even put the money in the Guest at Your Table box for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). But what if you want to return that tie but can only get store credit? No problem. Pick up an item that you can donate to the Downstairs Scottie, such as paper products, toothpaste, deodorant or some other item that you can give to the agency of your choosing.

Did you get towels or blankets or other kinds of linens? Donate your old ones to the local humane society or take that store credit and exchange your item for pet food for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

It can be just as much fun to give after the holidays as it is during the holidays. In that spirit, may the new year bring you opportunities to experience pure joy and, most of all, true peace throughout the year.

– Ellen LaPine, Outreach Committee

## APPLE FEST: SAVE THOSE BOOKS

Last September we set up a table at the local Apple Fest and did a bit of outreach for our church. We think that many people in the community are a bit more familiar with us now, and we plan to have a booth again next September.

We plan to have a book sale at our booth to bring in a little bit of money. So if you have books that are crowding your bookshelves and are thinking of doing a bit of clearing out, please save them for this sale. We are discussing a possible place in the church where you can drop them off and they can be stored until that time. Thanks for your efforts.

– Ann Peterson, Outreach Committee

### **PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS**

**My Dear Friends,**

**Wishing you the happiest of New Years!**

The wheel has turned full circle again. I contemplate about this new year, 2011. I look back on 2010 and what to change? The big picture is always to end the wars and achieve world peace, to eradicate hunger and racism, to work for social justice, to end global warming -- the list goes on.

I think of our seven Unitarian Universalist principles, beautiful principles to embrace. This is a good time to review our principles as we begin the new year, to walk our talk.

The seven UU principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

My personal New Year's resolutions are usually repeats from the year before: more exercise, healthy eating, meditating more, clearing clutter (bringing my Feng Shui training home), saving money, and so forth. Following through with my New Year's resolutions is never promising. I sabotage myself and set myself up for failure. As I grow older, the balance of time is leaning more heavily to the right; I realize the best resolution I can take to heart is TIME; time to be with my family and friends, time to be with my extended family at church, more time with my husband and time for myself. Time is a gift! I promise to take this gift of time, to be in the moment, to be present, to laugh more and to soak up the love that surrounds me. This is my resolution as I begin the new year. When I take this time, my old resolutions will fall into their rightful places unattended.

With warm appreciation, love, PEACE and time,

– Janie

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### **BOARD SPLINTERS**

Meeting in the church dining room on Sunday morning, December 5, the Executive Board voted to accept the bid of \$1,800 by Kevin Ridgeway to repair the church's front doors, with the provision that if extra work were needed the total cost could not exceed \$3,000.

President Janie Garlow also reported that the re-siding of the church's religious education wing had been completed.

Arnold Hook, chairperson of the Administrative Committee, said that he would contact the Jerome Fire Equipment Company about evaluating the church's fire extinguishers and emergency lighting.

The Executive Board voted to express its gratitude to Tyler Gervaise for completing the re-siding of the church's religious education wing and to Ellen LaPine for agreeing to serve as Chalice Lighter Ambassador. It was also agreed to send poinsettias to Diane Gervaise and Rosalyn House and a Christmas card to Margaret and Bruce Meldrin.

The Executive Board will conduct its next regular meeting at 9 a.m. on Sunday, January 2.

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### **MID-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT**

During the first six months of our church year the income was \$14,573 and expenses were \$10,126, leaving a balance of \$4,447.

Several people have paid their full yearly pledge.

The main sources of income were pledges, \$11,137; building usage, \$1,345; and the UU Circle donation, \$500. The main expenses were salaries, \$5,250; insurance, \$1,213; and utilities, \$1,169.

– Chet Perkins, treasurer

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.

## DRUM CIRCLE

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? If you resolved to be more peaceful, more playful and more focused, then maybe joining the Drum Circle on Friday, January 14, is the thing for you. We start drumming at 6 p.m. and have extra instruments available. So, why not start the new year with more rhythm.

– Ann Peterson, Adult Education, Religious Education Committee

### “LIFT YOUR VOICES”

It's a new year, and time to rise and shine and bring your high notes or low notes or any other notes to choir. We will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 9. All are welcome to come and lift your voices to new heights. See you on January 9.

– Rita Thornton, music coordinator

### VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view the first hour of part 3 of the PBS series “God in America” when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 7.

“God in America” explores the tumultuous 400-year history of the intersection of religion and public life in America, from the first European settlements to the 2008 presidential election.

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 436-2238 by Thursday, January 6, if you plan to attend so that she may make a reservation a day ahead.

Everyone is invited to attend.

### 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, January 19.

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.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

2 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meets in the church dining room. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “The Quest for the Meaning of Life.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday.

7 – 5:30 p.m., Supper 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 436-2238 by Thursday, January 6, if you plan to attend. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group will view the first hour of part 3 of the PBS series “God in America” when it meets in the Goettel Room.

9 – 9:30 a.m., Outreach Committee meets. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 11:45 a.m., UU Circle annual potluck luncheon and meeting. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Outreach Committee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scottie, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at Saint Michael's Church.

13 – 8:30 a.m., Spiritual Committee meets in the church dining room.

14 – 6 p.m. until 8:30ish p.m., Monthly Drum Circle.

16 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams.

19 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.

23 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister.

30 – 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Winfield Ihlow.

Chanting and meditation

People who are interested may call Tim Hart at 439-2541.

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