



# CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

## The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

Our church building is handicapped accessible.

3243 Fulton Street (Route 49, near Route 11)

Post Office Box 429, Central Square, New York 13036-0429

Phone: 315-668-6821 E-mail: [uucentralsquare@gmail.com](mailto:uucentralsquare@gmail.com)

Church Web site: <http://www.centralsquareuu.com>

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
Rita Thornton, Music Coordinator	315-699-4824	Ronna Schindler, RE Chairperson	315-623-7685
Robert Haskell, President	315-635-5294	Winfield Ihlow, Vice President	315-342-5939

JULY 2012

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

July begins with a bang! We celebrate Independence Day with lots of sound and light. Sometimes we announce our loyalties to institutions with a lot of fanfare as well. We recently conducted our annual meeting which reminds us that our denomination is a democratic institution, governed by the membership of our congregation. This principle of governance is integral to our principles. It is the same principle on which our country is founded. But both our church and our country are human institutions. They are maintained by our vigilance and our participation. It is very hard to criticize that which we love. It's a lot like seeing the flaws in those we love, or, harder yet, seeing our own flaws. Nevertheless, the Unitarian-Universalist tradition calls for a critical eye and active participation. In the months to follow we will explore some suggestions for change, such as the wording of our Affirmation of Faith. This can become an opportunity for us to consider our own beliefs as well as the process by which we change. We can become a model for the rest of our society as we strive to explore change within a loving community.

Andrea Abbott

### THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO ADVOCATE "AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW"

The Rev. David Weissbard will focus on human compassion when he speaks at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 1.

David writes, "My sermon for July will explore the human 'Capacity for Compassion'. We are inundated with events and speeches that emphasize the inhumanity of human beings. There is an alternative view which I will advocate in my sermon on July 1."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, JULY 30. Bob would be grateful if everyone would not wait until the last minute to submit articles. His e-mail address is [rhaskell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com). His postal address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332. His telephone number is 315-635-5294.

## SOCIETY BEGINS NEW CHURCH YEAR WITH ANNUAL MEETING

The congregation of the First Universalist Society of Central Square chose officers and adopted a budget for 2012-2013 during its annual meeting held in the sanctuary after the worship service on Sunday morning, June 3.

Those elected or re-elected as officers for one year are Robert Haskell, president; Winfield Ihlow, vice president; Cara Lajewski, treasurer; Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, assistant treasurer; Barbara Kamerance, recording secretary; Ann Peterson, corresponding secretary; and Betty Figie, registrar. The congregation elected Nancy Hallock as trustee for three years. Nancy Haskell still has one year and Mary Jane Garlow two years to serve as trustees. The vote to approve the slate of officers was unanimous.

Those gathered also elected Marcia Moore to serve as a Nominating Committee member for three years. Steven Garlow still has a year and Ellen LaPine two years to serve as committee members. Only Marcia's husband, Charles, opposed her election.

The new budget as presented by Treasurer Cara Lajewski totals \$26,950, a decrease of \$1,150 from the 2011-2012 budget. Most of the decrease is the expected loss of income for use of the church building. There was some discussion concerning repair of sanctuary windows. The vote to approve the budget was unanimous.

Those present approved a Covenant of Right Relations and a Policy on Disruptive Behavior in unanimous votes. The Executive Board previously approved both the covenant and the policy, copies of which were printed earlier in the monthly newsletter and then mailed to members.

Some incumbent officers and all committee chairpersons presented their annual reports during the congregational meeting.

The congregation asked the Spiritual Committee to review the Affirmation of Faith and the placement of the American flag in the sanctuary.

Winfield Ihlow presided as moderator and Nancy Hallock kept the minutes for the meeting.

Paul Riley from the Camden Area Unitarian Universalists played his accordion during the worship service and the social time before the annual meeting. At least two members joined him in the festive time by dancing.

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE, OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Subcommittee met on Sunday morning, June 24, with Janie Garlow, Barbara Kamerance, Ellen LaPine and myself in attendance.

The highway pickup was postponed until July 2 at 5 p.m. because I was late calling the Department of Transportation and the signs were not available on June 24.

Subcommittee members briefly discussed continuing our present endeavors.

We will participate in a community project to Fill-a-Bus that collects school supplies for the Central Square schools, probably in August.

I handed out information on the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation's (NOON) current educational campaign. This is a group that would like our support. Read about its work at [www.HonorTheTwoRow.org](http://www.HonorTheTwoRow.org).

We plan to show a movie on the global problem of access to safe water, maybe as part of a UU Circle potluck luncheon. Marcia Burrell-Ihlow has offered assistance in providing a projector. This means that we can show more films of interest to this committee, congregation and community.

We would like to encourage the use of recycled bags instead of plastic bags for shopping. Two recent articles in the Syracuse Post-Standard describe a "Pennies for Parks" program. If New York State starts charging a fee for plastic bags it is predicted that the fee will cause a decrease in the use of plastic bags by 50 percent, and part of the fee money will go to reinstating money cut from New York State parks. I will pass on details as I investigate the program and hopefully we can support this effort. We will also provide a tutorial on how to easily make a tote from an old T-shirt.

Please contact me with ideas. The next meeting date is to be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Co-chair Nancy Hallock

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

**GREEN MINUTE: CFL VS. LED VS. INCANDESCENT**

Recently I have been doing a bit of research about why my CFL light bulbs in the bathroom are burning out. I've actually thought there might be something wrong with the fixture. It turns out that using a CFL bulb for a room where you are constantly turning on and off the light will drastically reduce the life of the bulb. I'm definitely not going back to energy-wasting incandescents so I'm thinking about LEDs.

I ran across a chart online that gives a really good comparison between the bulbs for lots of the features we're looking for. That Web site is [www.designrecycleinc.com/led%20comp%20chart.html](http://www.designrecycleinc.com/led%20comp%20chart.html). Here are just a few of the comparisons it makes:

	LED	INCANDESCENT	CFL
Lifespan	50,000 hours	1,200 hours	8,000 hours
Annual operating cost (30 incandescent bulbs/ year equivalent)	\$32.85	\$328.59	\$76.65
Contains toxic mercury	No	No	Yes
Carbon dioxide emissions (30 incandescent bulbs/year equivalent)	451 pounds/year	4500 pounds/year	1051 pounds/year
Frequent on/off cycling negative effect	No	No	Yes. Can reduce lifespan drastically
Heat emitted	3.4 BTUs/hour	85 BTUs/hour	30 BTUs/hour
Durability	Very: Can handle jarring and bumping	Not very: Glass and filament can break easily.	Not very: Glass can break easily
Sensitive to humidity	No	Some	Yes
Light output: 450 lumens	4-5 watts	40 watts	9-13 watts

The price of LEDs is still quite high. The Web site [www.eartheasy.com/live\\_led\\_bulbs\\_comparison.html](http://www.eartheasy.com/live_led_bulbs_comparison.html) uses a \$35 LED bulb as comparison and comes up with about the same cost to use an LED bulb as a CFL over the bulb's lifetime since the LED lasts so much longer and costs so much less to use. Also, the good news about LEDs is that their price is coming down.

I've decided to start replacing my CFLs as they burn out with LEDs. I would suggest you snoop around the Internet a bit and go to the Web sites above so you can decide for yourself when the time is right for you to make the transition.

Ellen LaPine, Social Justice Subcommittee, Outreach Committee

**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.

**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.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUN CONTINUES

Summer has arrived, and with it children's religious education classes have ended, but not the fun. I will continue to be available for any child who wishes to spend time in our classroom.

We will continue our regular classes in the fall.

Our new Religious Education Committee will also have its first meeting in the fall.

Until then, chase butterflies, watch for lightning bugs and laugh, A LOT!

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

### CHANGE FOR THE DOWNSTAIRS SCOTTY

The Scotty is changing its location this month. It will now be across Route 11 at St. Michael's in the large brick building. Use the rear entrance. Part of the reason for the move is the need to deal with the increase in the number of people whom the Scotty is serving.

Ann Peterson  
Social Justice Subcommittee

### DRUM CIRCLE

The next Drum Circle will be held on Friday, July 13. We may meet at the home of Kurt Hohmann, our Drum Circle facilitator, so that we can be outdoors. If the meeting is to be held outdoors, complete driving directions will be given.

Ann Peterson

### AGAIN, A GENTLE REMINDER

The Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard, minister emerita, adds her voice to a plea made by Chet Perkins in May.

As head of the Membership Subcommittee, Chet wrote, "We have noticed an absence of name tags in the congregation. Most of our visitors wear them. I am sure it would be helpful to everyone if we all wore name tags."

The Reverend Stoddard repeated that plea on June 24.

### 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, July 18.

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

The women's and men's groups generally 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.

All are invited to attend.

### VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP TO VIEW "THE AMISH"

The Video Discussion Group will view the film "The Amish" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 6.

"The Amish," a presentation of PBS' "American Experience," is an intimate portrait of contemporary Amish faith and life. The film examines how such a closed and communal culture has thrived within one of the most open, individualistic societies on Earth. The film asks, "What does the future hold for a community whose existence is so rooted in the past? And what does our fascination with the Amish say about deep American values?"

The video group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant 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, July 5, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend.

### 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.

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.

### A FAMILIAR FIGURE TO RETURN TO OUR PULPIT

The Rev. Dr. Robert Cleveland, who served as interim minister at our church during 2004-2005, will return to our pulpit at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 22.

The Reverend Cleveland received his bachelor of arts degree from Thomas E. Edison College in Trenton, New Jersey. He earned his master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees in theology from Fordham University in the Bronx. The Reverend Cleveland earned his pastoral certification from Salem Bible School in Brooklyn.

He was involved in children's ministry (1974-78), and later served as an instructor/administrator and then as an assistant pastor at a Christian Fellowship Church and Bible School (1978-86), as a fourth grade teacher (1986-87), as program coordinator for a statewide respite care program and foster care support program and as Protestant chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, New Jersey (1989-92). The Reverend Cleveland attended Fordham as a graduate student from 1993 to 2000. Beginning in 2000, he served as an adjunct assistant professor of religion at LeMoyne College in Syracuse and Nazareth College in Rochester. He also acted as a professional tutor at Onondaga Community College.

After serving as the interim minister in Central Square, the Reverend Cleveland moved to North Carolina and later to Pennsylvania. In North Carolina he served as an adjunct lecturer at High Point University. Upon moving to Philadelphia he taught at Saint Joseph's University.

#### "LEANING AGAINST THE WIND"

Our church has copies of the Rev. Max Coots's book, "Leaning Against the Wind," for sale. All you have to do is give Cara Lajewski or Bob Haskell a check or cash totaling \$13.

From 1958 to 1992 Max Coots delivered more than 1,400 sermons as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton. In 1991 a group of UU church members selected 59 of those sermons that they agreed were some of Max's best.

First published in 1992, "Leaning Against the Wind" recently underwent its fourth printing.

Max preached at our church for years after his retirement at Canton.

#### 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, July 1.

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

#### 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.

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.

## UUs VISIT TENT CITY, REPUDIATE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2012 Justice General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations proved to be an exciting adventure for participants. The gathering took place in Phoenix, Arizona, from June 20 to 24.

Three reports by staff members of UU World follow:

**“Thousands wage peaceful protest at Tent City**

**“Posted by Michelle Bates Deakin on Sunday, June 24**

**“Several thousand gathered outside the Tent City jail complex Saturday night to protest inhumane conditions maintained by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.**

**“The peace vigil was organized by the UUA, and drew nearly 2,000 people, many of whom arrived in buses from the Phoenix Convention Center, site of the UUA Justice General Assembly. People lined the streets in yellow ‘Standing on the Side of Love’ shirts, waving battery-operated candles. A small nearby counter-protest organized by Arpaio supporters drew less than 100 people.**

**“The crowd sang and chanted, ‘Shut it down. Shut it down’. ‘We just got word they can hear us in Tent City’, MC Dulce Juarez told the crowd.**

**“Complaints of cruel and unusual punishment have been lodged against the outdoor complex since Tent City opened in 1993. In the desert heat, temperatures in the tents have reportedly reached into the 130s. Tent City has been condemned by numerous human rights organizations, and given rise to lawsuits charging civil rights violations. The U.S. Department of Justice is suing Arpaio and Maricopa County for civil rights violations, including what it said is the long-standing racial profiling of Latinos.**

**“‘We have to take it down’, UUA President Peter Morales told the crowd. ‘I am so sad this can exist in my country today’. He was joined by religious leaders from other denominations, as well.”**

**“GA repudiates Doctrine of Discovery**

**“Posted by Donald E. Skinner on Sunday, June 24**

**“Assembly voted overwhelmingly Sunday afternoon to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. The doctrine is the premise that European Christian explorers who ‘discovered’ other lands had the authority to claim those lands and subdue, even enslave, peoples who lived there simply because they were not Christian.**

**“Local groups that the UUA is working with in Arizona have said that understanding the doctrine is necessary to truly understand the issue of migration.**

**“The resolution calls on the association and its congregations to review their own ‘contemporary policies, programs, theologies, and structures’ for any evidence of the doctrine. In addition it requires the UUA to call on the U.S. government to fully implement the standards of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”**

**“GA finalizes several bylaw amendments without debate**

**“Posted by Christopher L. Walton on Sunday, June 24**

**“Delegates to the 2012 General Assembly almost unanimously approved several amendments to the Unitarian Universalist Association’s bylaws without debate at Sunday’s plenary. All three amendments required approval by two consecutive General Assemblies and had been endorsed by the 2011 General Assembly.**

**“The first amendment removed ‘associate ministers’, an obsolete category of ministry, from the bylaws, following changes adopted by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.**

**“The second amendment changed the process by which the General Assembly can modify the UUA’s Principles and Purposes (Article II). The modified process would allow the General Assembly to amend proposed changes to Article II under particular conditions. The last time a General Assembly considered a proposal to change Article II, in 2009, delegates had wanted to adopt part but not all of the proposal submitted**

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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.

## PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

It's hard to believe but one month has already passed in the new 2012-2013 year for the congregation. And before too much more time elapses, members of the Executive Board will hold their annual retreat to take an extended look ahead.

I plan to ask Executive Board members to consider a number of items at the retreat. These include a calendar for the new church year, a theme for the new church year, committee appointments, possible plans for the annual stewardship campaign, repair of the sanctuary windows, implementation of policies adopted during the past year (Safety, Covenant of Right Relations, Random Acts of Kindness) and updating of the Society's financial accounts.

Anyone with ideas concerning any of these topics is invited to speak to an Executive Board member during the next week to 10 days.

On another subject, I would be remiss if I did not ask everyone to keep Betty Figie in their thoughts and prayers during her extremely painful illness. Betty, who joined the church on June 10, 1979, was unable to attend any worship services during June. Betty serves as church registrar, a position she has held for a number of years. And she has provided delicious refreshments for the social times after worship services on numerous occasions.

I also must say that it is good to have Chet Perkins back in church after his painful fall at home. I suspect that his recovery has often been difficult not only for him but for his wife Mary as well. Chet and Mary joined the church on April 14, 1960. Chet has held just about every office in the church, including that of treasurer for many years.

Not only have Chet and Betty honored the church with their service over many years but their wisdom has often guided the church in its various activities.

Betty and Chet are only two of the people who have suffered lingering illnesses recently. Rita Thornton missed a recent month as music coordinator. It is good that she is able to be active again.

What seems most surprising – and pleasing – is the quick recovery and return to church made by Judy Tennant after her recent surgery. Who would have thought just a few years ago that such a short time span was possible.

There may be others who have been ill lately, and I have missed them here. For that, I apologize. In light of these illnesses and surgery, my wish for all is good health.

Bob

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## UU's VISIT TENT CITY, REPUDIATE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Continued from Page 6)

by the Commission on Appraisal, but could not modify the commission's text under guidelines in Article XV.

“Finally, delegates approved a small wording change that the Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie, the UUA trustee who introduced the amendment, said had major implications. The amendment changes references to ‘churches and fellowships’ in the bylaws to the more general term ‘congregations’, and cuts ‘local’ from references to ‘local congregations’. Removing ‘local’, Ritchie explained, would open the door to forms of religious affiliation not necessarily tied to physical meeting places in particular places.

“We can gather as intentional religious community with people we do not share a particular geography with’, Ritchie said. ‘The board believes it serves the cause of justice to expand the definition of congregations.’”

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.

## JULY CALENDAR

1 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “Capacity for Compassion.” Random Acts of Kindness. 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 church 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.

4 – Independence Day.

6 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at the Akropolis restaurant. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room to view “The Amish.”

8 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. 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.

13 – 6 until 8’ish p.m., Drum Circle.

14 – 9 a.m., Executive Board retreat at the home of Cara Lajewski.

15 – 9 a.m., Spiritual Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams.

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

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

22 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Robert Cleveland.

29 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Libbie D. Stoddard.

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

First Universalist Church  
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Central Square, NY 13036-0429

