



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

NOVEMBER 2011

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

October and the leaves are fast disappearing. Tree branches are bare and the luxuriant growth of summer is gone. Everything shows its inner shape. Strangely, though I love summer and warmth and sun, I've come to appreciate this time of year when everything seems stripped to its essentials. Perhaps this is why Thanksgiving is held at this time. Perhaps, when life is stripped to its essentials, we find out we already have what we need. When we are able to see the shape of our lives, we may find that we are not as attached as we thought we were to much that we once desired. We may find that, as the saying goes, the things that we're grateful for are not things. I give thanks for everyone who has enriched our church this year, old friends and new. Happy Thanksgiving.

– Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO FOCUS ON MESSAGE OF AYN RAND

The Rev. David Weissbard has chosen as his sermon topic "The Virtue\$ and Vice\$ of \$elfishne\$\$" when he speaks from our pulpit at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 6.

He writes, "Many people are not aware of the philosophical underpinnings of the Republican agenda. Apparently all the party leadership is reading the works of Ayn Rand who was popular among conservatives a generation ago. The assumptions she makes about human nature and our place in the world explain a lot about the contemporary political and economic scene which owes more to Ayn Rand than to Jesus of Nazareth. We'll be looking at what attracts some people to her message."

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24. Bob would be grateful if everyone would have articles to him as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute. His address is 29 Grove Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2332; his telephone number is 315-635-5294; his e-mail address is rhaskell@twcny.rr.com.

HARVEST SMORGASBORD

The UU Circle will hold its autumn fundraiser, a Harvest Smorgasbord, in the church dining room from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 5. It's open to the public.

Everyone in the church community is a member of the UU Circle and can help make this event a success. Please think of a dish that you would like to contribute.

We will also need people to set up the dining room before the dinner and people to work in the kitchen and the dining room during and after the dinner. Setup will start at about 3 p.m.

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

Please save this date and plan to sign up for a time slot that works for you.

Thank you in advance for your help.

– Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer

POTLUCK AND RENAISSANCE CHRISTMAS

The UU Circle will hold a potluck after church services on Sunday, December 4.

After the potluck, we will be entertained by a local Renaissance reenactment group. The group has been in existence for more than 30 years. Its members will sing Christmas carols that would have been sung in 1582 and will talk about the origin of the Christmas tree tradition. The group offers a lot of fun and a bit of history.

To really get into the mood for the merriment, you may wish to come dressed in Renaissance garb or practice a bit of the language of the period. In the true spirit of the season, this event will be free and open to the public. There will be time to talk with the gentry and the commoners of the Renaissance realm after the performance. So, Good Gentles, please mark this date on your calendar.

– Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer

ANDREA ABBOTT HONORED

Student Minister Andrea Abbott was honored for her service to the congregation during the worship service on Sunday morning, October 16. Rita Thornton, music coordinator, presided over the ceremony during which she presented Andrea with the following citation Rita had written:

Studies to guide us in leadership
Trusts in a Higher Power
Unitarian Universalism is our heritage
Desires to gain deeper understanding
Endurance that is inspired by hope
Now showing others an alternate perspective
Touches the hearts of everyone

Music that enters our souls
Interesting sermon topics
Nourishes us in time of need
Important person in our church
Striving for a peaceful world
Treasure and Gift we will never forget
Encouragement of spiritual growth
Reverent presence always

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

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach (Social Justice) Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 13. We will choose which safe water charity to support, set a date to present a movie on this issue, and discuss how to raise funds. The committee members will have some information ahead of time, but every one interested in this eco-justice project is welcome to attend. I hope to see you there.

– Nancy Hallock, Outreach Committee chairperson

GREEN MINUTE: TIMELY GREEN RECIPE

Don't waste those yummy squash and pumpkin seeds that are so abundant this time of year; save those delicious and nutritious seeds from ending up in the compost heap by roasting them.

Scoop out the seed mass and rinse the seeds in a strainer under running water. Don't worry about getting all of the pulp off, because soaking them for a while will make it easier to rub the pulp off later. Allow the seeds to soak in a bowl of brine (1/2 tsp salt per cup of water) for a few hours.

Rinse the seeds in a strainer again, rubbing them between your fingers to loosen any remaining pulp. Scatter the seeds on a clean towel to dry for a few hours, or until they are dry to the touch.

Use whatever sounds tasty to you. Just toss with a little honey or oil to add flavor and help your seasonings stick. If you like sweet, try honey, cinnamon and sugar. If you like spicy, try olive oil, cayenne pepper, smoke paprika, salt and pepper. Want it zingy? Use peanut oil, soy sauce, crumbled seaweed, ground ginger and spicy red chili sauce. For the garlic lover, melted butter, thin slices of garlic and coarse sea salt. Experiment, have fun.

Place seeds in a baking dish and roast at 300 degrees for about 10 to 15 minutes, tossing a couple of times while they are roasting. They will be done when they're golden. They'll become crunchier as they cool.

Try sweet seeds as a topping on yogurt or applesauce and savory seeds on soups and salads. When eating the roasted seeds as a snack, you can bite off the pointed tip to crack the shell and enjoy the tasty inner seed meat. Enjoy!!

– Ellen LaPine, Social Justice, Outreach Committee

BOARD SPLINTERS

Conducting their regular monthly meeting in the church dining room on Sunday morning, October 2, Executive Board members voted to express their gratitude to volunteer workers at the UU Circle book sale conducted at the Apple Festival; to Cara Lajewski, for the development of a Web site church calendar; and to Arne Hook, for improvements he had recently made to the church.

Bob Haskell reported that Arne Hook had installed a taller post for the handicapped parking sign facing the bank parking lot and four more emergency lights in the church.

Janie Garlow reported that a fire marshal had recently inspected the church building. She said that he indicated that additional lighting and signage would be necessary, but added that he was pleased with what he saw in place.

Arne Hook reported that two companies had recently inspected the condition of church windows, including the big windows on the west and north sides of the sanctuary. He said that he was awaiting their reports, and would seek other bids for possible repairs.

The Executive Board voted to renew its building insurance policy with Church Mutual that calls for a premium increase with additional coverage. Members also voted to purchase an additional policy that increases church coverage by another \$1 million for all incidents, specifically those not covered by the original policy.

The Executive Board also voted to renew the church's snow removal contract with Tim Miller with a \$30 price increase over last year. He also has agreed to shovel the smaller walks of the church grounds.

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.

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUALITY

The Adult Religious Education Program for 2011-12 will offer two more workshops in its three-part series on "Discovering Your Spirituality." They are:

Workshop 2: " Mandalas and Soul Collages." Led by Gracia Sears of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse. Date and time: November 5, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Location: Dining Room. There is a sign-up sheet.

Workshop 3: " Dreamwork and Spirituality." Led by Arnold Hook. Date and Time: January 7, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Location: Dining Room. There is a sign-up sheet.

If you have questions, please contact Arnold Hook by e-mail at ahook@twcny.rr.com or by telephone at 315-635-7122.

VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will view "The Mormons" when it meets in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 4.

Two PBS series, "American Experience" and "Frontline," join forces to present a documentary series about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Part One focuses on the history of the church.

Again, the group plans to have supper at the Akropolis Restaurant on Route 11 in Central Square at 5:30 p.m. the same day. Please let Janie Garlow know at mjgarlow@aol.com or at 315-436-2238 by Thursday, November 3, if you plan to attend the supper so that she may make a reservation a day ahead.

Everyone is invited to attend.

DRUM CIRCLE

Because our drum circle is held on the second Friday of each month, the next drum circle will be held from 6 until 8'ish on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11.

Our circle attracts drummers from Baldwinsville, Red Creek, Fabius, Liverpool and Syracuse. Usually, we have 19 to 25 drummers in the circle. Often we have dancers and a didgeridoo player.

We always have extra drums and rattles available. Drumming can have many positive effects. It can be calming, it can help you focus, and it really creates a sense of community. If you have not tried drumming before, but are interested, you will find our drum circle to be a warm and welcoming group.

– Ann Peterson

BOOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 20, to discuss "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet." The books are due back to the library on November 12. Please return them to the tote at church. I had to purchase a replacement for a missing book from our last read.

Please bring suggestions for the next book, or vote to wait until after the holidays to resume this project.

– Nancy Hallock

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

We plan to distribute Guest at Your Table boxes during the worship service on November 20.

Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which congregation members take home a box featuring people that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has worked with recently. These people are your "guests," and you are asked to share your blessings with them each meal by putting your spare change in the box. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the Stories of Hope booklet. UUSC uses the funds raised through this program to support its human-rights work in the United States and around the world.

According to the UUSC, "By celebrating Guest at Your Table in your congregation, you are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and 'justice, equity, and compassion in human relations'. Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC's human-rights work."

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

What a wonderful Religious Education and Spirituality program we have. Every time you turn around something exciting is happening. It is that time of year to think of the world around you and ask yourself, "How can I make a difference?" Even the smallest action can make a large impact.

The children are collecting used ink cartridges to raise money for the Heifer Project. We are also collecting old eyeglasses to donate to "Gift of Sight." Got any? Bring them in. Need more information? Please see me.

Here is your assignment this month:

Each day brighten someone's life and share a smile.

Remember smiles are kisses for the soul.

Is your soul smiling?

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

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, November 16.

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.

IF A WORSHIP SERVICE IS IN DOUBT ...

There are various ways to find out if a worship service will be held on a Sunday morning when winter weather is raging.

1. You may call Janie Garlow at 436-2238 or Chester Perkins at 668-6719.

2. You may turn to Channel 10 television, Channel 9 television and WSYR radio. Ann Peterson, an

Outreach Committee member, has made arrangements with those media outlets to broadcast a notice of any cancellation.

3. You may check your e-mail for a message from Bob Haskell.

The decision as to whether a worship service will be conducted will be made by 8:30 a.m.

FILL THE CHURCH WITH MUSIC

Holidays are near, music fills the air. How about filling the church with music everywhere. Instrumental solos are also welcome, and many voices can increase the beauty of the choir. We meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays before the service. Just show up. See you there.

– Rita Thornton, music coordinator

JOY HART DIES

Joy Elizabeth (O'Brien) Hart, age 89, died on September 30, 2011. Born in Niles, OH, on December 2, 1921, Joy was the daughter of the late Ruth Reynolds and John J. O'Brien. She graduated from Hamburg HS in 1939 and from UB in 1942. That same year, she met and married Donald A. Hart. Her spirit lives on in sons Mike (Diane), Jack, Chris, Pete (Jude), Tim (Margaret) and Tony (Kelly) Hart; and in daughters Trish Hart, Meg (Chris) Hart-Smith and Sue (Tommy) Ohol. Joy's love had a profound impact on her 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Joy was predeceased by her husband Don, her infant daughter Wendy Jo, and her brothers Jack and Bob. A celebration of Joy will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2011, at 2 p.m. at the Hamburg UU Church at the corner of Union and Center Streets in Hamburg. In accordance with her wishes, Joy's body was donated to the UB Medical School. Flowers are gratefully declined. Memorials can be made to support Alzheimer's research or to the charity of your choice.

(Published in the Buffalo News on October 4, 2011)

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.

BURRELL MAKES SMART MOVES

By Chelsea Frisbie
Contributing Writer
The Oswegonian

Marcia Burrell, associate professor in the School of Education, has a schedule that would leave most people feeling overwhelmed. She is the co-director of Project SMART, Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and an active member in several different committees at Oswego State.

In April, Burrell won the President's Award in Faculty Service. The award is given to members of the Oswego State faculty who possess determination, dedication and contribute to the community, which ensures the school's excellence.

"From my perspective what makes Burrell so special and deserving of the President's Award for Excellence is her extraordinary breadth of talent," Chief Technology Officer Joseph Moreau said. "She is comfortable and exceptional in so many different arenas."

Burrell shares the credit with everyone that she works with.

"I think that everyone I know in this department, including me, and within the university works really hard," Burrell said.

One of Burrell's main endeavors is Project SMART, similar to an extra credit system for teachers in the K-12 system. Participants receive individual training to become better teachers by finding new strategies and a new approach to teaching, something that Burrell is very passionate about.

In the summer, those same teachers meet at the Project's "Summer Institute" and discuss a variety of different topics including English, music and languages. This year's theme was integrating the arts into the curriculum.

Project SMART and education reform go hand-in-hand, and like most experts in this field, Burrell cannot pinpoint the exact problem with our schools.

"We're not teaching differently than we were 100 years ago," Burrell said. "But our expectations are that their [students] are going to achieve better than they did 100 years ago." Through programs like Project SMART, it is Burrell's hope that public schools will improve.

Prior to receiving this award, Burrell had to ask colleagues for letters of recommendation. Many people supported her, which is a testimony to her love for her work at Oswego State.

"Much harder to put into words is the good effect of Marcia's advice to students. She consistently tells them, 'You can do this, it's important, get busy, fly right, work hard,'" mathematics professor Chris Baltus said.

Burrell's work continues into foreign countries. A few years ago Burrell started a study abroad program for education majors to travel to Benin in West Africa, then to France with Barbara Garii, the Associate Dean of Student Education. Benin may lack financially what countries such as France or even America has, but still manages to create successful students, even teaching calculus in tenth grade.

"I always say to my students when they come back, I say, 'It's not all about resources, even though we need resources, it's about the will of the teacher and the will of the community to educate its people,'" Burrell said.

"What I appreciated most about working with Dr. Burrell was her ability to ask questions and not take anything for granted," Garii said. "As we designed the class together, as we taught together, and as we traveled together, she was always curious and she took advantage of every opportunity to learn more about everything. I look forward to continuing to work with her for years to come."

(Posted on September 15, 2011. The Oswegonian is the State University of New York at Oswego's only independent, not-for-profit, student-run newspaper serving the campus and Oswego community since 1935.)

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

Dear Friends,

When I was a high school student I decided not to learn the spelling or meaning of any more words than those that I already knew. Why should I go to all of that trouble; the words I already knew suited me just fine. What a big mistake that was! It plagued me all during my newspaper career, especially when I was editing stories. Writers of those stories often used words with which I was not familiar. It's no wonder I wore out a number of dictionaries over the years looking up those unfamiliar words.

I point this out because one of the words with which I am not familiar is "polity." It doesn't even sound correct to me when I pronounce it: pol-i-ty. But because "polity" is used quite a bit in our denomination, I went to a Web site of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and found this:

“. . . 'Polity' is a general term for the form of church organization adopted by a religious tradition. Unitarian Universalists operate under a particular form of polity called 'congregational polity,' defined as 'the rights and responsibilities of each properly organized congregation to make its own decisions about its own affairs without recourse to any higher human authority.'

"Congregational polity is encoded in the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, Section 3-1.2:

"Nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed as infringing upon the congregational polity or internal self-government of member societies, including the exclusive right to each society to call and ordain its own minister or ministers, and to control its own property and funds"

"Our current framework of polity is a descendent of a rich and robust heritage The origins of congregational polity lie in the Reformation, with the first intimations that the power for creating ordered communities of faith lay with the people, not with a hierarchy of clerics. These first stirrings are reflected in the earliest gathered communities of Massachusetts So foundational is congregational polity to our faith tradition that the Commission on Appraisal has called it 'our unwritten constitution.'

"Soon after the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America in 1961, the new Unitarian Universalist Association published a Commission report, 'The Free Church in a Changing World.' The authors articulated the key principles of our distinctively democratic form of church government which are foundational for congregational polity:

"• The right of the church to admit members in accordance with its own definition of qualifications;

"• The right of the church to select its own leadership;

"• The right of the church to control its own property; and

"• The right of the church to enter freely and voluntarily into association with other churches.'

"From the beginning, and throughout our denominations' histories, our commitment to congregational polity has brought with it inherent tensions. We come by this naturally from what Earl Holt refers to as a polity that values 'reason and persuasion over authoritarianism and legalism.' How much freedom, and how much discipline? What about rights versus rules? When does the democratic process serve, and when does it hinder? Who has authority? What about power? Autonomous congregations, or a community of congregations?' . . .

"Polity – it's everywhere."

Well, I have taken another small step to overcoming a bad decision I made in high school.

Bob

CHANTING AND MEDITATION

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

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.

LIONESSE CLUB COLLECTING GIFTS

The Central Square Lioness Club is collecting gifts for the Lions Club Christmas baskets again.

It has been the custom of this church to donate knitted mittens, hats and scarves each year. So if you able, grab your knitting needles and have your contributions at the church by Sunday, December 11.

If you cannot complete your knitting by that date, the Lioness Club will be glad to receive your mittens, hats and scarves at any time after that for next year's Christmas gifts.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

4 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at Akropolis. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group to meet in the Goettel Room..

5 – 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. “Mandalas and Soul Collages” workshop led by Gracia Sears in the church dining room. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Harvest Smorgasbord.

6 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Sermon topic: “The Virtue\$ and Vice\$ of \$elfishne\$\$.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which you are asked by the Outreach Committee 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.

11 – 6 until 8'ish p.m., Drum Circle. Veterans Day.

13 – 9 a.m., Outreach (Social Justice) Committee. 9 a.m., Spiritual Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. Membership Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 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.

16 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay.

18 – 5:30 p.m., Supper at Akropolis. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group meets in the Goettel Room.

20 – 9 a.m., Religious Education Committee. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., Book club. Distribution of Guest at Your Table boxes of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

27 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

DOWNSTAIRS SCOTTIE

The Executive Board has designated the second Sunday of each month as the date for the collection of food for the Downstairs Scottie. The Outreach (Social Justice) Committee will later take the contributions of food to the Food Bank at Saint Michael's Church.

The committee will continue to accept non-food items for the Downstairs Scottie 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.

The collection box is in the church dining room.
Remember the Downstairs Scottie as you shop.

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, November 6.

The fund is administered by the student minister and two appointed lay persons.

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