



CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

The First Universalist Church of Central Square

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Andrea Abbott, Student Minister

635-7122

Janie Garlow, President

436-2238

Rita Thornton, Music Coordinator

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 website: <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.

DECEMBER 2009

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPETS

We have entered the season of anticipation, even, for some, of anxiety. We are embarked on Advent, 2009, the last Advent and Christmas of this decade. Are the stores full enough of people to save us from economic ruin? Are people still spending more than what they should, courting their own economic ruin? What will happen in Afghanistan? What actions could lead to peace? Are people capable of peace? How can peace and prosperity be achieved? I read recently that this was the worst decade ever. I find that hard to believe. Every decade brings its own tragedies and its own opportunities. Just as people grappling with depression cannot see joys and possibilities, so too a nation which feels itself beset by problems often cannot see clearly a path that can lead to higher ground. Change inevitably involves dislocation and loss. It is hard to prepare for a better future when we are clinging to the past. Unitarian-Universalists are often accused of being dreamers, impractical, having unrealistically optimistic views of human nature. This was true from our beginnings, when our insistence on the essential worth of all humans countered the idea of original sin. It is easy to point to the evils in the world, harder to see those acts of selflessness and kindness that occur all around us. As we enter the season of celebration, we need to remember that the rituals which many cultures have used to turn the world from darkness to light have involved contradictions and foolishness. Saturnalia was a day in which roles were reversed and slaves became masters. A baby born in a manger was an unlikely king of the world. So let's be foolish. Light the fire within and drive off the dragons that are eating the sun. Get on those camels and ride off after a star. As Emily Dickinson said, "Much madness is Divinest sense." Join in the madness that prepares for a better world to come.

– Andrea Abbott, student minister

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Andrea Abbott, student minister, and Rita Thornton, music coordinator, will conduct a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 24.

Andrea Abbott will also conduct an Ornament Communion during the morning service on Sunday, December 13.

Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on SATURDAY, JANUARY 2. 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

EIGHTH ANNUAL FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will be celebrating our eighth annual Free Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 25, Christmas Day. We will be serving a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings. As always, it is free. We welcome all and anybody looking for a meal, a warm place to huddle against the weather, a smile and friendship offered freely.

This is an opportunity for service, We need servers, cleanup folks, and welcomers (folks who can share a smile and some kind words with people as they dine). Christmas cookies are appreciated. There is no sign-up so there are no expectations. We start serving at noon on Christmas Day, and clean-up starts at 3:30 p.m. We run until 4 p.m. or until all are served. If you have any questions, please call me at 247-0432.

The warmth of your heart is what we seek. Merry Christmas. Thank you.

– Kurt Schindler

“WHY I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS”

The Rev. David Weissbard will be in the pulpit on Sunday, December 6.

The Reverend Weissbard says that he is going to speak on “Why I Believe in Santa Claus.” He adds, “I do, and I believe it is an important belief. It is not exactly the same as what I believed when I was 4, or even 40, but I do believe. As we approach the Christmas season, I believe it is appropriate for us to prepare ourselves so we can give the most to it and get the most out of it. I hope this sermon may be of service to you.”

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Sunday, December 6, is the first Sunday of the month, and thus Random Acts of Kindness Sunday.

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.

Funding is provided by the congregation through a special once-a-month offering. Random Acts of Kindness envelopes will be found on the back of the pew in front of you.

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

The Random Acts of Kindness account is now in the red.

A CHRISTMAS BASKET

There is a basket in the front of the pulpit in which to place gloves, mittens, hats and scarves to be given to the Central Square Lioness organization for its Christmas baskets.

FOOD FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 13, is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone in the church is asked by the Social Justice Committee to donate food items.

Instead of being given to the Downstairs Scotty, this month’s donations will be given to the Lions Club of Central Square for its Christmas baskets.

DRUM CIRCLE

There will be a drum circle led by Kurt Hohmann from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday, December 11.

Kurt has been leading drum circles for several years at Seven Rays and other venues.

There will be extra drums, rattles and other rhythm instruments. No experience is necessary to enjoy drumming, and there is no right or wrong way to drum. Come, meet Kurt and plan on a realizing yet energizing evening.

Anyone with questions should contact Ann Peterson.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The topic for the Adult Religious Education Workshop at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 12, is the Baha’i Faith.

Sabra Reichert, a member of the Baha’i community, will speak about her faith and follow with a question-and-answer session.

So come and learn why Baha’i is a faith that many choose to practice and live by. Baha’i views on the environment, diversity and other topics should be of real interest to UUs. Bring a friend, relative or a neighbor to this presentation.

Anyone with questions should contact Ann Peterson.

THINKING CHRISTMAS

The Social Justice Committee has:
Flavored Fair Trade Coffee
Organic Hot Cocoa Mix
Very Dark Organic Chocolate Bars

All sold at cost and available starting Sunday, December 6, in the Dining Room.
Great for stocking stuffers, hostess gifts or personal indulgences. Enjoy!

GREEN MINUTE: OVERPACKAGING, KILLER CLAMSHELLS AND OTHER WRAPPING NIGHTMARES

Nearly 10 percent of a typical product's price is for packaging. The global packaging market is worth \$429 billion. Nearly one-third of Americans' waste is packaging. Just 43 percent is recycled after use. In 2007, Americans threw away 78.5 million tons of packaging – 520 pounds per person. That's a 71 percent increase from 1960.

This isn't just a bad dream. It's real.

"I shouldn't have to start each Christmas morning with a needle-nose pliers and wire cutters," said Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos as his company started selling products in easy-to-open, "frustration-free packaging" last November. But, a year later, Amazon offers the service for fewer than 100 items.

To fight shoplifting, which costs retailers more than \$11 billion a year, clamshell packages are designed so that "human hands have great difficulty separating the backing and the cover," according to a 2003 patent. Even armed with scissors and a box cutter, it took Consumer Reports testers more than 3 minutes to cut open the Oral-B Sonic Complete Toothbrush Kit. Last year, clamshell-type packages sent more than 5,700 Americans to hospital emergency rooms. Still, to protect their business, manufacturers feel they need to use oversized packaging. For instance, Apple shipped its latest operating system in a box nearly 16 times larger than the DVD case within.

A researcher for Mother Jones Magazine set out to see just how much effort it would take to unpack a toy, and chose the American Idol Barbie Doll. The doll's packaging consisted of 435 square inches of cardboard in the outside box and 385 square inches inside the box. There were also 580 square inches of plastic that did not include the doll or accessories, 45 inches of wire, 30 pieces of tape and 5 rubber bands. There were 55 total pieces of packaging, and it took her 25 minutes to unwrap it using scissors, a box cutter, tweezers, her hands and her teeth! We're sure you've had a similar experience and share the frustration and disgust at the amount of waste in time and resources this represents.

A few companies have made some effort to reduce packaging. For example, Sam's Club began selling milk in a stackable plastic jug with a smaller energy footprint. To Sam's credit, it also cut the price of a gallon of milk by as much as 20 cents. Unfortunately, consumers complained that the milk spilled too easily. Because companies know that psychology plays a big role in what we buy, you also need to be aware of "green shrink." This is when a company reduces the size of its package but doesn't change its appearance to be "more environmentally friendly." It also leaves the price the same as that for the larger package. Some examples are a Dial soap bar, 11 percent smaller; Hellmann's Mayonnaise jar, 6 percent smaller; and a Breyers Ice Cream tub, 14 percent smaller. But the product cost is the same as before the package shrank.

However, there is good news. It's the holiday season and an opportunity for us to help stop this nightmare. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans produce more than 1 million tons of additional garbage per week. It's time to consider how much packaging is around the things we buy and how much we're adding when we wrap our gifts. Thirty-five percent of Americans say that they seek alternatives to excessively packaged goods, and nearly one-half of consumers worldwide say they'd sacrifice convenience for more environmentally sustainable packaging. For example, if every family reused the wrapping from only three gifts, it would save enough paper to cover 50,000 football fields! Try wrapping presents in old cloth or the comics from the newspaper. Make part of your gift a reusable tote, or even wrap it in the tote bag. Seek products that have minimal packaging wherever you can. Buy in bulk if available, and break down the amounts you need into reusable packaging. Make a family challenge of the most creative way to reuse wrapping or packaging for gifts. Like many environmentally sound practices, reducing packaging can actually be a fun, creative challenge for you and your family. If you have some ideas you want to share, let one of us know and we'll put them up on the bulletin board in the dining room.

We wish you a green holiday season and a happy, peaceful new year.

– Social Justice Committee's Green Team

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

The Executive Board would like to send its sincere gratitude to Ann Peterson, Janie Garlow, Chet Perkins, Ellen LaPine and Nancy Hallock for participation in the Adopt-A-Highway pickup conducted along Route 11 on Sunday, October 25. We would also like to thank Nancy and Steve Hallock for pruning suckers from the Project Bloom village trees during that week.

Have you noticed how wonderful the grounds around the church look? We have Eagle Scout candidate Austin Mead (Janie and Steve Garlow's grandson) to thank for the design and installation of our lovely memorial garden on the back lawn. He put many hours into the design, presentation of his design to the Executive Board for approval and the building of the garden. It certainly shows, and we hope he is as proud of his accomplishment as we are of him. We also want to give Betty Figie our heartfelt gratitude for donating the cost of the bench for the garden, plus a bit more for items needed for the garden, in the memory of her husband Len. In addition, we send our thanks to Sean and Austin Tennant, Arne Hook, Andrea Abbott, Chet Perkins, Janie and Steve Garlow and Alec Panos, the Garlows's grandson, for raking the fall leaves and cleaning up the church lawn on Saturday, November 7.

We want to thank everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season. Once again our beautiful church feels even warmer and festive, and is ready for the holiday fellowship we all enjoy.

Finally, but with no less gratitude, we want to thank Bob Haskell for the wonderful job he has done on the newsletter in 2009. It's a hard and at times frustrating job and we want Bob to know how much we rely on and appreciate his efforts.

– The Executive Board

BOARD SPLINTERS

Treasurer Chester Perkins informed the Executive Board at its regular meeting on Sunday morning, November 29, that the church's Operating Account had a balance of \$1,363.20 on November 1, an income of \$1,966.06 and expenses of \$2,286.15 during the month, and a balance of \$1,043.11 on December 1. He also said that the Random Acts of Kindness Account had a negative balance of \$325.56 on November 1, an income of \$135 and no expenses during the month, and a negative balance of \$190.56 on December 1. He said that he felt the church was doing well financially, with income on budget and expenses under budget. He said he planned to make a Fair Share contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and its Saint Lawrence District this month.

The Executive Board also agreed to contribute \$50 to the Friends of Oswego County Hospice in honor of Janice Fay Ludington, a longtime church member, who died on November 20.

Andrea Abbott, student minister, said that she would conduct an Ornament Communion during the worship service on Sunday, December 13, and that she and Rita Thornton, music coordinator, would conduct a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 24.

Ann Peterson, secretary-treasurer of the UU Circle, announced that the Circle would conduct a potluck luncheon and election of officers on Sunday, January 10. She said that the UU Circle would conduct its annual cookie sale on Sunday, December 20. She said that Nancy Hallock would be in charge of the Community Smorgasbord to be held sometime after the first of the year. Rita Thornton, UU Circle president, requested permission to put less emphasis on fund-raising activities and more emphasis on social activities because of a lack of participation in fund-raising activities. Board members expressed their agreement.

Ann Peterson, a member of the Religious Education Committee, reported that she had arranged for Kurt Hohmann to lead a drum circle from 6 to 9 p.m. on December 11, and for Sabra Reichert, a member of the Baha'i community, to speak about her faith at an Adult Religious Education Workshop at 10 a.m. on December 12.

Ellen LaPine, a member of the Social Justice Committee, said that the committee would try to reschedule a meeting with the Rev. Bud Adams after the holidays. A meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 14, to discuss the possibility of presenting a project opposing torture was cancelled because the Reverend Adams, minister of the Baptist Church of Central Square, had to perform a funeral service at that time. Janie Garlow said that the Memorial Garden on the church's back lawn had been completed.

The Executive Board voted to order 10 compact discs containing sermons by the late Rev. Max Coots and then to sell them to church members.

Arnold Hook said he planned to conduct a Dream Workshop on three days in January, rather than on the five days he originally planned.

“WORDS TO LIVE BY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON”

My Dear Friends,

The sun is slowly moving closer to the horizon toward the Tropic of Capricorn as we begin the holidays of Light and giving. 'Tis the Season of Light with a glistening constellation of winter holidays, beginning in November with Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights and the lighting of the first Advent candle on November 30. Then Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights; Bodhi Day, the enlightenment of the Buddha; the Winter Solstice; the Wiccan Yule; Christmas; Kwanzaa; and then New Year's. As we decorate, entertain and enjoy the luminescence of the season, we can also celebrate our own inner light.

This evening I took a few moments to reflect at the twilight of this day. The Reverend Atwood- Adams spoke of having an attitude of gratitude. Not a new thought but something we need to remind ourselves to do in the busyness of our days.

When we were decorating the sanctuary last week, Betty Figie said, “Less is more.” These are words to live by this holiday season, my new mantra. This not only applies to decorating but to gift giving, too! If we lived by these words we would have much less stress in our lives. I know in my heart that I am giving more to my grandchildren when I give them less, less stuff that is. My gift of unconditional love is boundless. This web site has been around for a while but it is still worth viewing: The Story of Stuff with Annie Leonard. It may give you pause as you head to the mall this season.

Soak up the gift of love that surrounds you and delight in the grace that illuminates your life.

May your holidays be filled with love.

– Janie Garlow

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

On Sunday, December 20, we will host a Christmas breakfast for the congregation. Breakfast will start at 9 a.m. and continue until about 10:15 a.m. There will be pancakes, bacon, fruit, muffins, coffee and juice.

This is our holiday gift to all. Please join us.

– Kurt and Ronna Schindler

ANDREA ABBOTT PICKS OUT HER SERMON TOPICS

Andrea Abbott, student minister, has decided on the titles for her next two sermons.

The first title, for the sermon on December 13, is “Are You a Good Receiver.” The second title, for the sermon on December 27, is “Spare Change?”

MID-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT

The income during the first half of the church year, June through November, was \$14,774, with expenses of \$13,730. Our main income was from pledges, building usage and a special donation. The major expenses were salaries, utilities and the furnace loan payment. The loan has now been completely paid off.

If you would like a copy of the treasurer's report, please contact me.

– Chet Perkins

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

I would like to thank all of you who helped to decorate our church and to make it beautiful. Great job, all.

Also on Sunday, January 3, let's get together after the worship service and take down the decorations.

– Rita Thornton

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Cara Lajewski is in charge of the ordering of Christmas poinsettias this year.

A sign-up sheet will be on the main table in the East Room of the church. Cara will also collect the money for the poinsettias.

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, December 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. 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.

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.

DREAM WORKSHOP RETURNS THIS JANUARY

We will hold another dream workshop this January, 2010. The workshop will be held on consecutive Saturdays, January 9, 16 and 23. The workshop on the first two dates, January 9 and 16, will run from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The workshop on January 23 will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop is free and it is open to everyone who wants to attend. You can bring your lunch to eat and we'll have coffee and some refreshments for breaks.

If you are interested in ordering the newly issued second edition of Jeremy Taylor's book, "The Wisdom of Your Dreams" (formerly "Where People Fly and Water Runs Uphill"), I will be happy to do the ordering. The book costs \$14.95. I also have two copies I can share with people.

If you have any questions, you may call me at 635-7122 or e-mail me at ahook@twcny.rr.com. I look forward to seeing you there.

– Arnold Hook

UU CIRCLE TO ELECT OFFICERS

The UU Circle will have a potluck luncheon after the worship service on Sunday, January 10, during which it will elect officers for the year 2010.

If anyone is interested in running for any position, please let me know so we can add your name. Even if you are not interested in being an officer we really could use more people to help us out.

Everyone is always welcome. Join us.

The UU Circle will sponsor a cookie sale at church on Sunday, December 20.

– Rita Thornton, UU Circle president

JANICE FAY LUDINGTON

Janice Fay Ludington passed away on November 20, 2009, at the age of 89. Mrs. Ludington was a Fulton native and the daughter of Elon K. and Gertrude C. Rowlee. A 1941 graduate of Syracuse University, Mrs. Ludington also attended Ithaca College and the State University of New York at Oswego for graduate school. Mrs. Ludington was a speech therapist in the Fulton School System for many years. She was a member of Zeta Phi Eta speech honorary society and the New York State Retired Teachers Association and past president of Friends of the Library in Fulton. She was the oldest living member of the 1909 Shakespeare Society. Mrs. Ludington wrote and directed the official historical pageant for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the City of Fulton. Most recently she would be remembered as the author of the Fulton Patriot's weekly column titled "That Reminds Me."

Mrs. Ludington was a member of the First Universalist Church of Central Square. She was a past president of the church board and was also board secretary for several years, as well as being a lay speaker.

Mrs. Ludington was predeceased by her first husband, Wilber F. Fay, and her brother, Clyde E. Rowlee. Surviving are her husband, Ramsey G. Ludington; three daughters, Trudy Duisenberg (David) of Chico, California, Lynne Suljic of Wasaga Beach, Ontario, Canada, and Faith Timerson (Robert) of Constantia; a son, Gene F. Fay (Sarah), of Fulton; two stepchildren, Marion Ciciarelli (Donald) and Judge Spencer Ludington (Anne), both of Fulton; four sisters, Jane Shaver, Elaine Knight, Judy Howard and Adele Sheldon, all of Fulton; a brother, Kevan Rowlee, of Georgia; grandchildren Hope Shapiro of San Jose, California, Garth Penkala of Chico, California, Tanya Suljic of Los Angeles, California, Ivan Suljic of Burlington, Ontario, Canada, Luke Timerson of San Diego, California, Kathryn Timerson of Wilmington, North Carolina, Morgan Murray and Rachel Fay, both of Fulton; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at Foster Funeral Home, 910 Fay Street, Fulton, with a memorial service immediately following at the funeral home. Contributions may be made to Friends of the Library, 160 South First Street, Fulton, 13069; to Friends of Oswego County Hospice, P.O. Box 102, Oswego, 13126; or to Mt. Adnah Cemetery Association, 706 East Broadway, Fulton, 13069.

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.

FAIR SHARE APPEAL

The Fair Share is the amount of the contribution our congregation is asked to give each fiscal year to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and its Saint Lawrence District (SLD).

These contributions finance programs, services and resources that directly benefit and strengthen our congregation and the Unitarian Universalist movement as a whole.

Fair Share is based upon the number of members a congregation certified for UUA General Assembly the previous February.

This year's combined Fair Share contribution is approximately \$74 per member (\$56 for the UUA, and \$18 for the SLD).

Each year we try to pay our Fair Share in full. Our congregation has a line item in our budget, which covers \$1,000 of our contribution. We are planning to make part of our contribution during December.

We are asking members if they are able to do so to write a check for \$74 payable to the church and to designate "Fair Share" in the memo. This would help us reach our goal. For more information, you may call Chet Perkins at 668-6719.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROGRAM

This year, our church is once again joining Unitarian Universalists around the country – and around the world – in welcoming a Guest at Your Table, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

For more than 30 years, the Guest at Your Table tradition has helped UUs build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for universal human rights. It is a simple and meaningful way to incorporate "faith in action" into your life.

During the holiday season, participants keep a colorful Guest at Your Table box – with photographs of special guests from around the world – in a prominent place in their home, such as the dining room table.

Over the next four to six weeks, participants get to know their special guests by reading aloud to family and friends real-life stories from "Stories of Hope." During Guest at Your Table, you or your family may make daily contributions to your Guest at Your Table box, as if sharing with your special guests. If you have not been given or picked up a Gift at Your Table box, there is one on the pew in the East Room. The boxes are to be returned after Christmas.

Here is one "Story of Hope":

In Faryab Province, in northern Afghanistan, a special workshop is in session. Men and women are sitting together in a classroom to learn more about their rights as Afghans and as human beings.

This is a special group, made up entirely of schoolteachers. Although men sit on one side of the room and women on the other, they take turns standing and speaking before the class. They see each other as colleagues and allies in the work of transforming young lives.

Written in Dari on the blackboard at the front of the room are the words "human rights" and "women's rights." For some, these are new concepts, but for all, the promise of equality, freedom, and dignity is inspiring, especially for the women in the group. They know that many of the girls in their classrooms will struggle to uphold these rights, in particular the right to an education and the right to choose when and whom they marry.

Helping to organize this class of 27 schoolteachers is Abdul Khan, a courageous, young Afghan man who works with one of UUSC's partner organizations in Afghanistan called Barakat. (For security purposes, Abdul Khan's real name has been changed in this story.) In a country where advocates for women's rights are rare – and increasingly threatened – it is all the more remarkable that Khan has dedicated his life to this work. "Women are the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan," he says, "but we can change this fact."

Abdul Khan, 26, is determined to support Afghan women and girls as they work to advance their rights and empower themselves, particularly through education and literacy programs.

"The only way we can make Afghanistan a freer nation is to destroy illiteracy and uproot it forever," he says. This is a challenging goal in a country where just one in ten Afghan women can read and where girls in some areas are forbidden by local Taliban to attend school. Nevertheless, class by class and student by student, Khan and the schoolteachers are making progress.

One teacher in the classroom, Kareema, is encouraged to learn that human rights are not new to Afghanistan.

They already form a part of the national laws, as part of the constitution. They also form part of her religion, Islam. "As a Muslim, I knew about many of the rights and laws in the Qur'an. And now I am learning about other human rights, too. This changes and adds to my ideas, and my life," she says.

As the six-day human-rights workshop draws to a close and the teachers collect their graduation certificates, their real work begins. With support from Khan and his co-workers, the teachers will write new lesson plans for their classrooms based on human rights. Where appropriate, the teachers will introduce discussions about the rights of children and women. Khan explains, "Our teachers are like messengers. They will bring these messages to their students and families, who really need to know their rights."

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 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.

WINTER SOLSTICE PROGRAM

The nights have become long and cold. But have no fear the light is returning and the days will be brighter. Come to the Amboy 4-H Environmental Education Center on Sunday, December 20, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for a program that is open to everyone. Nature Chris Lajewski will help participants experience the cultural and natural history of the winter solstice. Attendees will participate in an out-of-this-world activity, hear the stories of how native cultures coped with long cold nights, and take a half-mile sunless stroll (or snowshoe if weather permits) to welcome the longest night of the year. Afterwards, warm up with a cup of wassail and share thoughts and hopes for the brighter season ahead.

Winter Solstice is a program designed for people of all ages. Adults are asked to accompany their children. There is a \$3 fee per person more than 3 years old or \$12 per family. Registration fees will be collected on the day of the program. Winter Solstice is an indoor/outdoor program, so please come dressed for the weather.

Winter Solstice is designed for individuals and families -- not for organized groups. To arrange for a guided group program, call the Oswego County 4-H Program at 963-7286, extension 401.

Amboy 4-H Environmental Educational Center is located at 748 Route 183, between Routes 13 and 69 near Williamstown. For information about the facility and its programming, call the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County 4-H Office Monday through Friday at 315 963-7286.

CALENDAR

December

- 6 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. His sermon topic is “Why I Believe in Santa Claus.” Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 10 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets at the church.
- 11 – 6 to 9 p.m., Drum Circle. 7 p.m., Video Discussion Group at the Haskell home in Baldwinsville.
- 12 – 10 a.m., Adult Religious Education Workshop. Topic: the Baha’i Faith.
- 13 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. Sermon topic: “Are You a Good Receiver?” Ornament Communion. 11 a.m., Religious education. This is the once a month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Social Justice Committee to donate food items. This month’s donations will be contributed to the Lions Club of Central Square for its Christmas baskets.
- 16 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat, Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 20 – 9 a.m., Christmas Breakfast. 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. 11 a.m., Religious education. UU Circle cookie sale.
- 24 – 7 p.m., Christmas Eve candlelight service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister, and Rita Thornton, music coordinator.
- 25 – Noon to 4 p.m., Eighth annual Free Christmas Day Dinner.
- 27 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. Sermon topic: “Spare Change?” 11 a.m., Religious education.

January

- 3 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meeting. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 9 – 10 a.m., Possible meeting of the Social Justice Committee with the Rev. Bud Adams.
- 10 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 11 a.m., Religious education. 12 noon, UU Circle potluck luncheon and election of officers. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Social Justice Committee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scotty, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael’s Church.
- 17 – 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. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 20 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat, Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 24 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 11 a.m., Religious education.
- 31 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. 11 a.m., Religious education.

Chanting and meditation: People who are interested should call Tim Hart at 439-2541.

If it’s snowing: To find out if church services will be held on a Sunday morning when winter weather is raging, you may call Janie Garlow at 436-2238, or Chet Perkins at 668-6719. The decision will be made by 8:30 a.m. Ann Peterson is making arrangements for cancellations to be broadcast over WSYR television and WSYR radio.

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