



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.

JUNE 2010

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

As many of you know, Arne and I will be in France and the Netherlands the last week in May and the first week in June. As I write this, I'm happily anticipating the trip, reviewing the guide books, making plans. Happy anticipation is a wonderful part of any trip. When the trip is finished, I hope we can look forward to reliving it. Happy memories are the other wonderful part of any trip. It is true that we may miss a lot of life living constantly in the future or in the past, rather than living in the present, but the faculty humans have for stretching time both forward and backward is a gift not to be despised. One of the goals of this trip is to visit the village in the Netherlands where my grandparents lived. My grandmother was raised as a Unitarian and I am anxious to see the church in this village and perhaps find out some about the history of Unitarianism in the Netherlands. I am also looking forward to the wonderful summer ahead that we can all share. We're planning flower communion for the last Sunday in June, when we can all share a little of the glory of our particular gardens in one stunning bouquet. In the same way, we share our lives in one stunning bouquet every Sunday. I hope you are all anticipating a wonderful summer and that we can all share our memories of happy times for many years.

– Andrea Abbott

BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board, meeting in the church dining room on Sunday morning, May 23, appointed Cara Lajewski as assistant treasurer. The Board authorized her to sign checks and to make any necessary changes in the church's financial accounts to enable her to do so.

The Executive Board voted to express its gratitude to Andrea Abbott, student minister, for leading the morning service on Sunday, May 16, when the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams was unable to do so; to Arnold Hook, for his three years of service as a trustee; and to Mary Perkins, for her three years of service with the Nominating Committee.

With the expiration of the term of Arnold Hook, Corresponding Secretary Ellen LaPine agreed to oversee the database listing members and friends of the church.

The Executive Board decided to meet again in the church dining room at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 27.

Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on SATURDAY, JUNE 26. 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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is scheduled to be held immediately after the worship service on Sunday morning, June 6, 2010.

The church bylaws specify that there shall be an annual congregational meeting on the first Sunday in June of each year. However, the Executive Board voted at its meeting on Sunday, May 23, to recommend to the congregation that the 2010 annual congregational meeting be postponed from Sunday, June 6, to Sunday, June 13, because many Executive Board members and committee chairs will be away on Sunday, June 6. The congregation will be asked to vote on this recommendation at the regular starting time of the annual meeting on Sunday, June 6.

The agenda for the annual congregational meeting includes:

- Receiving annual reports from incumbent officers and committee chairs
- Consideration and adoption of the budget for the next fiscal year
- Election of officers

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

President: Janie Garlow

Vice President: Robert Haskell

Treasurer: Chester Perkins

Recording Secretary: Nancy Haskell

Corresponding Secretary: Ellen LaPine

Registrar: Betty Figie

Trustee for Three Years: Beth Sonnacchio

Trustee for Two Years: Sean Tennant

Nominating Committee Member for Three Years: Nancy Hallock

The bylaws provide that active members of the church 18 years or older shall have the power to vote. Any member of the church under 18 years shall have the right of voice, but not the power of voting or eligibility to hold office in the church.

Child care will be available upon request.

All are welcome.

GATHERING OF MEN

The 19th annual Gathering of Men will take place at Unirondack on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 11, 12 and 13. Unirondack is a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center located near the village of Lowville in Lewis County.

Men of all ages and orientations, united by their commitment to the seven basic principles of the Unitarian Universalist tradition, gather each year. And they talk, as honestly as they can, about their lives and their hopes. Some try new things for them, such as journaling or different modes of music, during the weekend.

There are opportunities to attend workshops, to go hiking and canoeing, and to sit by the boathouse and relax. The men share cooking and cleanup chores. Saturday night features a "talent show," followed by a bonfire if weather permits.

The registration fee of \$75 -- \$80 after May 15 -- should be mailed to Mark Butt, 40 Marlboro Road, Delmar, NY 12054.

Anyone with questions is invited to contact Winfield Ihlow or Kurt Schindler.

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, June 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.

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Please join the Central New York Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CNY CUUPS) in celebrating the Summer Solstice at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society in Syracuse at 10:30 a.m. on June 20.

Contact Rachael at rw1647@yahoo.com with any questions.

– Rachael Whitney, CNY CUUPS

WELCOME, MARY

Mary Rollinger, a new member of our Unitarian Universalist family, hails from Western New York State, near Chautauqua. She has friends and some family in the Syracuse area and is delighted to be joining the Central Square First Universalist Church. When asked why she chose this particular church for long-term attendance in the Syracuse area, Mary stated, "This sweet little church and its members felt, at once, welcoming; it was as if I were home."

Mary taught secondary English and served as the school counselor for the Bemus Point Central School District for 34 years, prior to her semi-retirement in 2006. She maintains a part-time private practice in counseling with a specialization in trauma. She is currently the clinical director for the Chautauqua County Emergency Services Stress Management Team.

Some of Mary's interests include: photography, gardening, reading, writing, stargazing, hiking in national and state parks, traveling and flying. Mary has soloed in gliders and is working on obtaining her pilot's license either in helicopter or in single engine airplane. Ironically, Mary's interest in flying developed as a result of her fear of the same. She started flight lessons to understand and process this fear. She tells us that, although she has made progress on that goal, she still has a healthy combination of awe and fear each time she takes to the skies.

On any given early summer morning, you might catch Mary walking along the Onondaga Lake Park trails or the Erie Canal system with her golden retriever, Abe. She is an early bird with a love of animals and nature.

Mary hails from a large family; she is one of ten children and currently has, at last count, 100 nieces and nephews or great nieces and nephews.

Mary's friends describe her as kind, motivated, generous and adventurous.

Though Mary is familiar with the Unitarian Universalist principles and traditions, she is delighted to have finally and officially joined the Central Square First Universalist Church.

FLOWER COMMUNION

Andrea Abbott, student minister, will conduct a Flower Communion service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 27.

According to the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Flower Communion usually takes place in the spring. In this ceremony, members of the congregation are asked beforehand to bring a flower to the Sunday service. Upon entering the sanctuary, each person places his or her flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The flowers are blessed by the minister or congregation during the ceremony, and the sermon usually reflects upon the flowers' symbolism. At the end of the service, each person takes home a flower other than the one that he or she brought.

Reginald Zottoli wrote, "The significance of the Flower Communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community: it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community."

The Flower Communion service was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia.

The service was later brought to the United States by his wife, Maya.

WORKSHOP SERIES CONTINUES

Title: Magic of the Mind - An Introduction to Shamanic Journey

Description: Shamanism is an ancient spiritual system that stresses living in harmony with all of Nature while providing an enhanced ability to provide answers in a troubled world. It teaches us how to explore and connect to Self, Nature and Spirit.

This experiential class will enrich your life with powerful techniques for meditation and journey. Explore the world of spirit, connect with your inner teachers and understand your intuition more fully. Learn to increase your healing power.

Participants are encouraged to bring blankets or yoga mats. The use of audio recording devices will be permitted. For men and women, age 16 and up. All religious and spiritual practices honored.

Date: Tuesdays, May 18 - June 8

Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Duration: 2 hours x 4 weeks

Location: The First Universalist Church of Central Square

Tuition: \$40.00

For more details, you may speak with Ann Peterson.

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES FROM AUSTIN

My Dear Friends,

I am writing this from my son's home in Austin. I always say Austin, not Austin, Texas, because in my mind Austin is unique and very different from other parts of Texas. Molly Ivins, the late syndicated columnist, once said, "Austin is a blue dot in a sea of red." This is one of my biannual treks to visit my grandkiddies and their Mom and Dad. Tate is home from school today with a slight fever, and I have been schooled in rounds of rummy, crazy 8s and mancala, by a 6-year-old, quite fairly, I will add. I know Central New York has been hot but Austin is HOT so it is pleasant to stay indoors.

On the home front at church, we will be having our regular Sunday schedule with a couple of changes for the summer. Andrea has volunteered to deliver one service per month with a guest person in the pulpit filling in. You can count on the usual stimulating sermons on a variety of subjects. The sermons are now being recorded on CDs so if you happen to miss one, you can always borrow the CD. There is some discussion about having audio sermons on the Web site. Stay tuned for more on this.

We are blessed to have two new people sign the membership book last Sunday. I know both will bring new creative energy to our (their) church as they have done so already. Welcome, Mary and Carol-Anne!

The stewardship campaign went very well. We exceeded our goal and most people increased their pledges, which I think speaks to how people are feeling about church.

Chris Lajewski has put new energy into our youth group with the curriculum from the Unitarian Universalist Association's Tapestry of Faith. The Memorial Garden in the back yard of the church had a burst of blooms this spring and is looking for some annuals to add color now that the blooms have wilted. Chris and the youth have installed a bird house near the garden. Check it out!

Thank you for your generosity and service.

Janie

"THANK YOU" FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A special "thanks" to all who have made pledges for next year. So far we have received 24 pledges totaling \$20,955. This includes \$19,470 for the Operating Budget, \$900 for Fair Share and \$585 for the window fund. \$4,255 has already been paid on next year's pledges.

If you haven't made your pledge and need a pledge form, please contact me. There is still time to make your pledge.

– Chet Perkins

UU CIRCLE NEWS

Thanks to everyone who purchased plants through Flower Power. With this warm weather, the plants you purchased should all be happily growing.

All profits from this sale, more than \$165, went directly into the church treasury.

Thanks to everyone for making this fundraiser a success.

– Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer

A JOY TO REPORT

We have a joy! Our daughter, Megan, had her third child, and mom and baby are doing fine. Liam Nathan

Barney was born April 27th, weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. His two sisters have already declared him "cute," and Katie (2 years old) has already tried to "beep" his nose.

– Sheila and Bob Emborski

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.

Funding is 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, June 6.

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

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.

GREEN MINUTE (30 SECONDS THIS MONTH): QUICK TIPS TO SAVE MORE AND WASTE LESS

- Pack Litterless Lunches – Purchase reusable containers for portable sandwiches and snacks.
- Spend Less Time Scrubbing – Make a paste of baking soda and water to quickly remove caked-on food from pots and pans.
- Power Down – Program your TV's remote to turn off other systems such as cable, satellite, DVD or VCR at the same time.
- Skip the Dishwasher's Dry Cycle – Simply allow things to air dry.
- Cover Up – Boil water faster by putting a lid on the pot.
- Seal It In – Lock the windows in your house to improve the seal and prevent leaks of hot or cool air.
- Lights Out! – Pick one family member to turn off lights each time you leave home. Rotate the chore weekly or monthly.

We'd love to hear about any tips you have. Just let one of us know and we'll post them on the bulletin board.
– Social Justice Committee's Green Team

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 Social Justice Committee will take the contributions of food to the Food Bank at St. Michael's Church the next day.

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 dining room.

Remember the Downstairs Scottie as you shop.

RETURN THOSE BOTTLES

You may continue to help the environment and make money for the Social Justice Committee by leaving your returnable bottles at the church.

Nancy Hallock, chair of the Social Justice Committee, is returning deposit bottles and cans for the committee treasury. Please remember to participate in this ongoing fundraiser.

"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 Janie Garlow or Chet Perkins 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" was re-printed twice, but for the last several years the book has been out of print. The fourth printing has just been completed and "Leaning Against the Wind" is once again available.

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

SAINT LAWRENCE DISTRICT NAMES EXECUTIVE

Connie Goodbread has been named the interim district executive for the Saint Lawrence District, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. She will assume these responsibilities beginning Sunday, August 15.

For the past four years Connie has been the education director for the Mid-South District and program consultant for the Florida District. For the past year she has been the interim program consultant for Northern New England – a mostly virtual position.

Connie is also one of the developers of the leadership model used at the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience in the Southwestern Conference and the Southland Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience in the Southland Region. She continues to teach at these Leadership Experiences.

Connie lives in Tampa, Florida, with her husband, Bob.

The Saint Lawrence district executive, the Rev. Thomas Chulak, is taking a sabbatical from May 17 to July 19 traveling eastern Asia before he retires on Saturday, July 31.

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.

CALENDAR

June

- 1 – 6:30-8:30 p.m., Workshop, “Magic of the Mind - An Introduction to Shamanic Journey,” at the church.
- 6 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education. 11:45 a.m., Annual congregational meeting.
- 8 – 6:30-8:30 p.m., Workshop, “Magic of the Mind - An Introduction to Shamanic Journey,” at the church.
- 10 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets.
- 11 – 6 until about 8 p.m., Drum Circle.
- 11, 12 and 13 – The 19th annual Gathering of Men will take place at Unirondack.
- 13 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 10:50 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 for the Downstairs Scottie, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael’s Church.
- 16 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat, Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 20 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. “Spiritual Journey” with Chet Perkins. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.
- 26 – Noon, Deadline to have items for the July newsletter to Bob Haskell.
- 27 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. Flower Communion. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

July

- 4 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday.
- 8 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets.
- 9 – 6 until about 8 p.m., Drum Circle.
- 11 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. “Blessing of the Beasts.” This is the once-a-month Sunday on which everyone is asked by the Social Justice Committee to donate food items for the Downstairs Scottie, which later will be taken to the Food Bank at St. Michael’s Church.
- 18 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams.
- 21 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat, Panera Bread, Route 31, town of Clay.
- 25 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Rita Thornton.

Chanting and meditation

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

SAINT LAWRENCE DISTRICT HAS A NEW PRESIDENT

Karen J. Palmer of Portlandville, Otsego County, is the new president of the Board of Trustees for the Saint Lawrence District, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. She succeeds Ernie Hall. Other Board members are David Munro of Delmar, vice president; Nancy Reed of Canandaigua, secretary; the Rev. Frances Manly of Buffalo; Katie Replogle of Sayre, Pennsylvania; Bill Parke of Buffalo; Tyler Dewey, youth representative; and David Friedman of Rochester, UUA trustee. The district’s Nominating Committee for 2010-2011 includes Karen West of Henderson Harbor, Robb Smith of Wynantskill, the Rev. Lynn Ashley of Voorheesville and Jan Gartner of Pittsford.

The Saint Lawrence District has also announced the selection of Jeff Lamicela as its youth and young adult coordinator. This is a new position, combining many of the responsibilities of the outgoing youth coordinator, Kelly Masters, and the young adult-campus ministry consultant, Elayne Mosher Campoli.

Jeff brings 13 years of experience to the job, including work as a youth advisor and Coming of Age mentor in Syracuse congregations, theme leader at Unirondack and a stint as the district youth coordinator (2002-2005). Most recently he has led UUA Basic Advisor and Leadership Development trainings. He has also coordinated adult sponsors of youth attending the UUA General Assembly. Jeff officially joins the SLD staff on Thursday, July 1.

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.