



# 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.

MAY 2010

### STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPETS

As I write this, the big, breaking news is that the leaves are almost completely out. Some trees are a little slow, reminding me that we all bloom in our own good time, but many have burst out, waving at the world with enthusiasm. Hi!, they say, we are here! Beat the drums and sound the bugles! By the time you read this, the leaves will be old news and it may seem as if they have always been here. But right now, as we pass Earth Day and head for May Day, the world again offers itself to us in innocence. We celebrate life's renewal and the fresh possibilities that stretch before us. We have only begun to enjoy the sun's warmth and have barely taken a bite out of blue skies and gentle breezes. We have a number of events that celebrate our life together. We have an Earth Day project, a Book Club, invitations for membership, invitations to leadership and recognition that we are part of a larger movement. Let us dance together around the Maypole, if only in our imaginations. Let us weave the ribbons of our lives together in the dance of spring.

– Andrea Abbott

### A PLEA FROM THE TREASURER

Please get your pledges in so that we can get started on next year's budget. If you need pledge forms or have any questions, please contact Janie Garlow or Chet Perkins. So far we have received 14 pledges for \$15,610. This includes \$525 for Fair Share and \$535 for the window fund. PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGES IN.

– Chet Perkins

### CANDIDATES SOUGHT

The Nominating Committee is considering candidates for Executive Board membership to be elected at our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 6.

Any church member who would be interested in serving is invited to contact a member of the committee: Marcia Burrell-Ihlow, Winfield Ihlow and Mary Perkins.

Note: Please have items for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on SATURDAY, MAY 29. 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](mailto:rhaskell@twcny.rr.com)

**GREEN MINUTE: RAIN BARRELS**

Did you ever notice how much better your plants grow when they receive rainwater instead of water from your home water system? Nancy Hallock gave me an article a couple of months ago about commercially available rain barrels. You place the barrel under the downspout from your roof and use the collected water for your garden. An old functional idea that is new again in this time of green innovation. My boyfriend and I began thinking about using stuff we already had around the house, so this month I want to share with everyone how to make your own rain barrel. Credit for the design goes to Paul.

The most difficult part is obtaining the barrel. Try posting a request for one on [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org). There are local groups within Freecycle where you can post your request. If you can't find a barrel, you can use a plastic trash can but try to get one that is quite sturdy so the sides don't flex.

You'll need a spigot that you can attach to a hose, washers, caulk and a bit of wide mesh screen. Drill a hole about two to three inches from the bottom of the barrel the width of your spigot. Make the hole as small as possible so you need to push and screw the spigot into the hole. Easy does it; don't force it. Let the spigot make its own threads in the plastic as you screw it in. If your spigot doesn't come with it, you'll want a washer on the front and the back of the hole where you have inserted it. Place caulking around the hole to prevent leaking. Once the caulk is cured, place the screen over the back side of the spigot and fasten. This keeps any debris out of your hose.

If your barrel does not have a top, you can make one out of an old piece of board. It is best to have a top to keep debris out of your barrel. Cut a hole in the top large enough to accommodate your downspout or maybe a funnel. I have the top cut off from a gallon milk jug under my downspout as a funnel channeling the water into the hole.

At this point your barrel is done. You might want to place it on top of two or three blocks to get it off the ground and to let gravity help with the flow of water from your spigot. Attach your hose and you are ready to go. I have a soaker hose attached to mine and it works well.

If you have any green ideas, we'd love to post them on our bulletin board in the church dining room. Just let any one of us know and we'll get it posted.

– Ellen LaPine, Social Justice Committee's Green Team

**DATE CHANGED FOR EARTH DAY PROJECT**

Janie Garlow announces that the date for the Earth Day Project has been changed to Saturday morning, May 8.

Nancy Hallock, chair of the Social Justice Committee, announces that the committee has volunteered to check, prune and mulch 85 trees planted by Project Bloom and now maintained by the Village of Central Square.

Nancy says, "We will divide into pairs. Each will need a wagon or wheelbarrow, pruners, hand rake, trash bags and gloves. If we have enough helpers, some can finish lawn work on the church grounds.

"Maybe child care could be arranged, if needed.

"This is our second year for this community and environmental service project.

"Please sign up to work. Thanks."

**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.

**CHANTING AND MEDITATION**

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

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### DRUM CIRCLE

The Drum Circle will be held on the usual second Friday of the month. In May, that will be Friday, May 14, from 6 until 8'ish p.m. Drums, rattles, etc. are available for you to use. The Circle is open to everyone. So if you want, you can bring a friend or a neighbor. The Circle is also family friendly. Children really enjoy the rhythm and drumming and dancing. There is no right or wrong way to drum, so drop in for a new experience with rhythm.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Reverend Tanya Atwood Adams will lead a workshop on death and dying. We have been fortunate to have heard her inspiring sermons, and now she will share her knowledge in one of her areas of expertise.

If you plan to attend her workshop, please get a copy of the book "The Art of Dying" by Patricia Weenolsen. Because there is more than one book with this title, please be sure that you get the book by this author. You may want to buy it used through Amazon.com or borrow it. The workshop will involve a discussion of the material in this book. Definite dates for the workshop will be announced soon. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who are interested in attending the workshop. The anticipated dates are the last three weeks in May.

### WORLD RELIGIONS SERIES

The Liverpool Library is presenting a World Religions Series.

Jason Lawrence of Syracuse University will lead a discussion on "An Unlikely Marriage: Reconsidering Science and Christian Theology" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 20. After focusing on the typical and well-known approaches of "the scientific community" toward "religion" and of Christians to science, he will present a model in which science and Christian theology can not only co-exist, but mutually benefit from each other.

The workshop at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, will explore "Quests and Pilgrimages in Religion and Culture." Syracuse University's Cordell Waldron will discuss journeys by taking a look at mythological quests, religious pilgrimages and modern vacations.

– Ann B. Peterson, Adult Religious Education

### BOOK CLUB

Nancy Hallock has selected the book, "The Uncommon Reader," for the next Book Club reading. The book can be signed out at church.

### VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

The Video Discussion Group will meet in the Goettel Room at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 30.

Plans call for the showing of these segments from the PBS program, "Bill Moyers Journal":

- "Bank Reform": How did Big Finance grow so powerful that its hijinks nearly brought down the global economy, and what hope is there for real reform with Washington politicians on Wall Street's payroll? Moyers talks with authors Simon Johnson and James Kwak, two of the nation's most respected economic experts and authors of the new book "13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown."

- William K. Black, a senior regulator for the Federal Home Loan Board who cracked down on banking during the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s, talks with Moyers about the latest bank investigations and the fight to reform the nation's financial system.

- "Our Media Future": Commissioner Michael Copps of the Federal Communications Commission talks about recent court decisions on net neutrality and media ownership rules. Copps, one-time professor of history, influential Senate staffer and assistant secretary of Commerce, is an outspoken advocate for an open Internet and a staunch opponent of media conglomeration.

Again, we plan to have supper before the discussion group at the Akropolis Restaurant. Please let Janie Garlow know by Thursday if you plan to attend so that she may make a reservation.

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 6

The annual meeting of the First Universalist Society of Central Square will be held immediately after the Sunday service on June 6, 2010. The agenda 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 by-laws 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.

Respectfully, Janie Garlow, president

### “A CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH” MAY 2

A workshop, “A Conversation about our Church,” will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 2.

This is a change in date and time.

We will discuss our church history, organization, Unitarian Universalist principles, church finances, etc.

If you would like more information about our church, this is a good opportunity to obtain it. There will be plenty of time for questions.

If you would like more information about the workshop, you are invited to contact Ann Peterson or Chet Perkins.

### CHALICE LIGHTER SUNDAY MAY 2

May 2 has been designated as Chalice Lighter Sunday in our district and in our church. This is a day to bring attention to the Chalice Lighter program, to recognize our Chalice Lighters, and to encourage others to join us in helping Unitarian Universalism to grow.

What is a Chalice Lighter?

A Chalice Lighter is an individual (or family) who pledges to make a contribution, twice a year, to a congregation that has been dreaming big and planning reasonably for a specific growth or healthy congregation endeavor.

Chalice Lighters have helped congregations move into buildings of their own, and have helped provide professional leadership. They have helped new congregations get up and running, and they have helped existing congregations realize their dreams. Chalice Lighters helped us make our building handicapped accessible.

Chalice Lighter information is always available at church, or you may contact me if you have any questions at 668-6719 or at [mperkins9@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mperkins9@twcny.rr.com).

– Mary Perkins, Chalice Lighter Ambassador

### 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, May 19.

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

The women’s and men’s groups meet separately. For more information about the women’s group, you may contact Nancy Haskell. For more information about the men’s group, you may contact Chet Perkins.

**“DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH . . .”**

My Dear Friends,

I recently read, “Don’t just go to church, be the church.” I think these are good words to embrace. Our little church in the Square is ours; it is our place of worship. It belongs to me and you. It is our place for communion and prayer . . . to be renewed. It is our place to be with people we care about, people we value as family. We are the stewards and caretakers of this spiritual microcosm. It is forged from the love and dedication of past generations and it holds the hopes and dreams of our children and generations to come. We bring to it our covenant, our services and our pledges. We are blessed with your wisdom, your presence and your service. Thank you for all that you do.

With warm appreciation and blessings,

Janie Garlow

**NEW SEASON TO BEGIN AT UNIRONDAK**

The 2010 season is about to begin at Unirondack. Unirondack is a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center located near the village of Lowville in Lewis County.

The camp offers:

- Summer youth sessions for 9- to 18-year-olds.
- Family camp.
- Canoe adventure trips for teens and families.
- Mind, body and spiritual wellness week for adults.
- Young adult canoe adventure.
- Spring retreats and work weekends.

Dan Gottfried and Darren Cosgrove, Unirondack’s co-directors, invite interested persons to explore the camp’s Web site at <http://www.unirondack.org/> to find out more about the programs. Registration is under way.

Unirondack programs are designed with the belief that camp experiences are a powerful force for promoting growth in the lives of children and adults. Campers interact, discuss, create, and play together, many making friendships that last a lifetime.

The 2010 brochure may be seen at <http://www.unirondack.org/pdfs/2010Brochure.pdf>.

**“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.

**A “MOST AFFORDABLE CONFERENCE”**

Ferry Beach, the Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center on the coast of southern Maine, is sponsoring a Work and Play Week from Sunday, June 20, to Saturday, June 26.

The Rev. Fayre Stephenson, program director, says that the first conference of the season gives participants an opportunity to help get buildings and grounds in shape for the summer. Participants can learn carpentry, landscaping, gardening and sewing skills.

In exchange for working on Ferry Beach projects each morning, participants pay only for meals during the camp’s “most affordable conference.”

Interested persons may register at [fbregs@maine.rr.com](mailto:fbregs@maine.rr.com) or 207-282-4489 or [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org).

**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, May 2.

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

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.

## BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board agreed at its meeting on Sunday, April 25, to meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 23, to make plans for the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 6.

Ann Peterson, UU Circle secretary-treasurer, informed Board members that the Circle had netted \$163.60 from its recent Flower Power Fundraiser and had contributed that amount to the church treasury.

Arnold Hook, Building and Grounds Committee chair, said that he had installed a new CD recorder for use in the church sanctuary. Mary and Chet Perkins, Janie Garlow and Nancy and Bob Haskell contributed money for the purchase of the CD recorder.

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## CALENDAR

### April

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

### May

2 – 8:30 until 10:30 a.m., Workshop, “A Conversation about our Church.” 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. Random Acts of Kindness Sunday. Chalice Lighter Sunday. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

8 – Earth Day Project to check, prune and mulch 85 trees planted by Project Bloom and maintained by the Village of Central Square.

9 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by the Rev. David Weissbard. Membership Sunday. 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.

13 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets.

14 – 6 until about 8 p.m., Drum Circle.

16 – 9:30 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.

17-July 19 – The Rev. Dr. Thomas Chulak, Saint Lawrence District executive, on “sabbatical,” part 2 of 2.

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

23 – 9 a.m., Executive Board meeting. 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service led by Andrea Abbott, student minister. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

30 – 9:30 a.m., Choir rehearsal. 10:30 a.m., Worship service. Sermon by the Rev. Max Coots. 10:50 a.m., Religious education.

### June

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.

10 – 8:30 a.m., Worship Committee meets.

11 – 6 until about 8 p.m., Drum Circle.

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.

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

### Chanting and meditation

People who are interested should call Tim Hart at 315-439-2541.

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.